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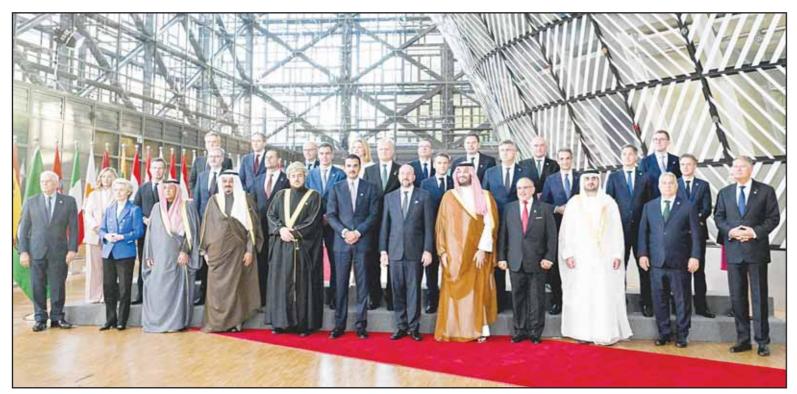
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16 PAGES

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E.U.-G.C.C. URGES IRAQ TO RESOLVE BORDER ISSUES WITH KUWAIT

Summit opportunity to elevate ties: PM



PM Diwan photo

Attendees gather for a historic group photo at the inaugural summit between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union (EU), marking a significant step towards enhanced cooperation and partnership.

Kuwait deported more than half million in three decades

'Humanitarian needs prioritized in deportation process'

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Director of the Deportation Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Jassim Al-Misbah revealed that the department has deported 595,211 individuals, which includes 354,168 men, 230,441 women, and 10,602 families, in the last 33 years.

In an interview, Brigadier Al-Misbah high-

lighted that the department aims to complete deportation procedures for individuals, who are referred from all sectors of the Ministry of Interior, within three days.

He revealed that the department deported 42,000 expatriates last year and 25,000 expatriates of both sexes since the start of 2024, adding that sponsors are responsible for the deportees' flight tickets, which can be processed through two travel offices in the department's building to expedite ticket reservations and departure procedures.

Brigadier Al-Misbah clarified that deportation procedures are finalized using a travel document or passport, after which the individual is fingerprinted, and arrangements for their deportation are made prior to transferring them to Kuwait International Airport under security protocols.

He declared that the new building in Sulaibiya is about 90 percent complete, with plans to soon transfer female deportees there, adding that this building will feature a large hall for visitors, a space for lawyers, a supermarket to meet the needs of inmates, and green

Brigadier Al-Misbah highlighted the great interest shown by the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior in addressing the humanitarian needs of inmates.

Continued on Page 5

Leaders push for ceasefire in Gaza, Lebanon

- Ongoing settler violence condemned
- Iran urged to ensure peaceful nuclear program
- Red Sea security threats up concern
- Call for political solutions in Sudan, Somalia

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, addressed the first GCC-EU Summit held in Brussels on Wednesday, affirming that it constitutes a historic opportunity to elevate higher the level of the relations between the GCC and EU countries.

The summit, he said, mirrors the mutual sincere and serious desire to boost and expand the cooperation between the two sides and seek, together, a comprehensive joint strategy, based on the vision of Their Highnesses leaders of the GCC states.

His Highness the Prime Minister also indicated that this approach, based on mutual understanding, cooperation and respect, aims at strengthening security and stability at the regional and international levels.

The Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister expressed hope that there would be progress in the nego-



His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's representative, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad

'EU-GCC Summit mirrors the mutual sincere and serious desire to boost and expand

cooperation'

tiations of the aspired free trade treaty between the GCC and the EU for sake of reaching a framework agreement for cooperation and "acting to find an alternative formula for sake of investing the abundant potentials of our states and set guidance toward the joint destiny and effective partnership in various sectors.'

He re-affirmed the adherence to joint action to face the challenges and bolster the strategic partnership among the GCC and EU states, expressing hope of the State of Kuwait, as chair of the GCC in the end of 2024, to see full coordination "with our European partners regarding all issues of joint concern."

Continued on Page 5

2.5m cars crowd streets as **Kuwait revamps roadways**

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: As the country prepares for the signing of contracts for 18 new road maintenance projects, a major nationwide road repair workshop is set to begin soon the annual transport and communication statistics bulletin from the Central Statistical Bureau, the total number of registered vehicles on Kuwait's roads had reached 2,522,933 by the end of 2023, marking an increase of 685,561 vehicles over the last decade, compared to the 1,485,926 vehicles registered in

The most significant growth occurred in private cars, with an increase of 542,739 vehicles, rising from 1,485,926 in 2014 to 2,028,665 in

Regarding all types of taxis plying on Kuwait's roads, the report noted a 7 percent increase last year, reaching 14,406 vehicles, up from 13,492 in

The largest growth was in on-call taxis, which increased from 4,646 vehicles in 2022 to 5.049 in 2023, Roaming taxis rose from 8,367 to 8,851 vehicles, while standard taxis saw a slight increase from 479 to 506 vehicles.

Additionally, the report highlighted that 104,700 new driving licenses were

issued in 2023. From 2014 to 2023, a total of 1,130 kilometers of new roads were constructed.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef during a meeting yesterday, which was attended by Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, along with assistant undersecretaries and directors responsible emphasized the need for continuous improvements, including permanently resolving issues such as flying gravel and other road-related problems.

Sheikh Fahad called for the establishment of a 24-hour joint operations center involving all relevant entities to oversee road development across the

Minister Al-Mashaan added that the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport are finalizing 18 contracts in the coming days for comprehensive maintenance of major highways and local roads across all six governorates, in collaboration with international, Gulf, and local companies.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to launch an awareness campaign regarding road updates, with notifications sent through the government's "Sahel" app to ensure road user



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Vehicles navigate Kuwait's roads as the Ministry of Interior implements strict traffic laws and advanced technologies to enhance road safety and reduce injuries.

Newswatch

198 individuals lose citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): The First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Supreme Committee to Investi-

gate the Kuwaiti Citizenship.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the commission decided to strip 198 individuals of the Kuwaiti citizenship, indicating that the decision would be submitted to the Cabinet.

KUWAIT CITY: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Nader Al-Jalal on Thursday visited a number of female students who had suffered a health setback after going to an enter-

tainment park in the country.
The Ministry of Health said in a statement that 18 of the ill students had been admitted at Al-Sabah, Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer hospitals, adding that their condition was stable. (KUNA)

Speeding and phone use fuel Kuwait's road crisis

Traffic violations hit 3.1m

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): Dangerous driving habits are widespread on Kuwait's roads with speeding and phone use are the most common violations, which in turn demands an urgent attention, raising awareness and enforcing law and regulations to ensure public safety.

Accidents resulting from other's mistakes or unexpected road incident occur almost daily, often leading to causalities, injuries, financial losses, frequently caused by reckless behavior, violations, or carelessness.

In response, Ministry of Interior (MoI) is making efforts to tackle these challenges, through strict traffic laws, with and presenting advance technologies the government aims to establish better traffic system, minimize injuries and damages.

Statistics from the Ministry of Interior showed that, between January

1 and June 30, 2024, the total number of speeding violations in Kuwait's six governorates exceeded 1.5 million, with 9,472 distracted-driving viola-

The report, issued by the Ministry's Traffic Planning and Research Department, revealed that more than 93 percent of traffic accident during this period were caused by distracting-driving, while 7 percent were due to other factors, totaling 3,100,638 violations were recorded in the first half of 2024

Director of Traffic Awareness Department at (MoI) Colonel Fahad Al-Issa told KUNA that one of the one of the main causes of distracting-driving is the use of phone, he confirmed in the first half of 2024, over 30,000 violation for phone use while driving were

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Kuwait 'Capital of Arab Culture' title marks a milestone

CAIRO, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwait being chosen as the "Capital of Arab Culture and Media," is a distinction that reflects its rich culture and growing prominence in the media industry, an official said on Thursday.

Hailing his country as a "beacon" of culture, Kuwaiti Information Ministry assistant undersecretary for the media department Saad Al-Azmi told KUNA amid talks in the Egyptian capital that looked into preparations for a planned Kuwaiti gala to mark such a notable distinction, revealing that a series of events and activities are scheduled for early next year.

Continued on Page 5

'Human resources vital to make countries rich'

Boursa general index down 0.33%

> **Real estate** transactions upsurge in third quarter



Essa Dashti chronicles Kuwait's historic bonds with Britain

civil servants: Al-Mousherji KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Sharida Al-Mousherji on Thursday affirmed that the planned night-time work would relieve civil servants of stress and traffic. Specifying the night work hours

Night work to ease stress for

Al-Mousherji, in a statement released by the Civil Service Commission, said the night-time work would stimulate the personnel to work harder and facilitate transactions. He indicated that the competent authorities calculated that around 30 percent of the work force could be shifted to the

The project will cut traffic jams as a lower number of employees would be heading to work during day time. Additionally, some of the citizens and residents seeking to do transactions will have the option to wait until the night shift.

will be determined by each department according to their interest and needs, he said, also indicating that the duration of work hours at night would not exceed four and a half.

He revealed that the phased project would enter the execution phase early next year (2025).

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southerly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear with a chance for fog forming at night.

By Night: Rather hot to mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate southeasterly wind to southerly wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h with a chance for fog

forming over some areas. Station Max Exp Min Rec **Kuwait City**

Kuwait Airport Abdaly Bubyan Failaka Island Salmiyah Ahmadi Jal Aliyah Nuwaisib

Kuwait Amir's Rep meets Spanish, Greek PMs and EU Council President



Amir's Rep meets Spanish PM.

BRUSSELS, Oct 17, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's

representative, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at his residence in Brussels Wednesday Spanish Prime Minister

Pedro Sanchez, on the sidelines of the EU-GCC Summit. The two leaders discussed solid-rock relations between

Kuwait and Spain, ways of cementing these strategic ties,

cooperation in many domains in a manner serving mutual interests, as well as cooperation and coordination over is-

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdul-

lah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary for Financial, Adminis-

trative and Communications Affairs at the Diwan of the

Prime Minister Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled

Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Najeeb

Al-Bader, Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadeq Marafi, and Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium, EU and NATO Nawaf Al-Enezi.

Amir Rep meets Greek PM

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's representative, His Highness

the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad

Al-Sabah, received at his residence in Brussels Wednes-

day Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, on the

The two sides discussed bilateral relations, means of

boosting these strategic ties, cooperation in many fields

that would serve mutual interest, as well as cooperation

and coordination regarding issues on the summit's agenda.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary for Financial, Adminis-

trative and Communications Affairs at the Diwan of the

Prime Minister Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-

Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's office

Bader Al-Tunaib, Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Na-

jeeb Al-Bader and Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe

Amir Rep meets EU Council Pres.

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's representative, His Highness

the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad

Al-Sabah, met with President of the European Council

Charles Michel, on the sidelines of the EU-GCC Summit

His Highness the Prime Minister extended best regards

of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and

their affirmation on the deep-rooted relations between

Kuwait, said His Highness the Prime Minister, was

The two leaders discussed means of boosting Kuwait-

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Ab-

dullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Diwan of the Prime Minister Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Assis-

tant Foreign Minister for GCC Najeeb Al-Bader, Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Sadeq Marafi, and

Kuwait Ambassador to Belgium, EU and NATO Nawaf

Summer season end

brings relief to MEW

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Officials from the Ministry of Elec-

tricity, Water, and Renewable Energy expressed relief fol-

lowing the end of the current summer season, which neces-

48.357 million to import electricity from the Gulf electric-

ity grid over the past four months, securing a total of 2,200

megawatts. This included 500 megawatts in June, July, and

August at a cost of KD 34.954 million, as well as 700 mega-

The sources cautioned against the continued reliance on

They affirmed the urgent need to accelerate the procedures

for offering and implementing electricity production projects

assigned to the Ministry of Electricity and the Partnership

Projects

traditional and renewable energy, totaling 22,100 mega-

watts, included in the Ministry of Electricity's strategy .

However, these projects have not progressed due to budget

constraints, bureaucratic delays, and the instability of the

electricity ministers in their positions for a period sufficient

capacity rather than through permanent appointments, which

negatively impact the decision-making process, and, conse-

quently, the implementation of these important projects. The

The ministry's leadership has often operated in an acting

enough for these projects to be put forward.

There are approximately 11 projects aimed at producing

energy imports from the Gulf Interconnection Network,

which costs the budget millions of dinars each year.

According to informed sources, the ministry spent KD

sitated scheduled power outages.

Projects Authority.

watts in September at KD 13.403 million.

keen on boosting constructive cooperation with the EU in

EU relations, and exchanged views over regional and in-

all fields in a manner that serves common interests.

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-

sues listed on the agenda of the summit.

sidelines of the EU-GCC Summit.

Affairs Sadeq Marafi.

in Brussels on Wednesday.

Kuwait and the European Union.

ternational issues of mutual interest.



Amir's Rep meets EU Council President.



Amir's Rep meets Greek PM.

'Human resources vital to make countries rich'

'Pampered youth, brain drain bad for economy'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently confirmed that Kuwait's economic recovery path slowed down in 2023. According to IMF, the country's GDP declined by 3.6 percent (4.3 percent in the oil sector and one percent in non-oil sectors). A further reduction in oil production under the terms of the OPEC Plus decision is expected to cause the GDP to decline by 3.2 percent in 2024. This makes diversifying sources of income an urgent necessity for the country's economic recovery.

In view of this, the newspaper interviewed several economic experts about the need to diversify revenue streams and pinpoint resources that could be leveraged to propel the local economy away from the oil industry.

Since the real wealth of any nation lies in its youth, these experts emphasized that the human resource is one of the most significant sources of income; provided they are granted freedom of thought and creativity, along with some in-

They said the product from local industries or local trade is the best source of income for countries, because it is permanent and gives the government a real measure of the financial situation; thus, it is easy to treat, unlike natural resources, which are more affected by geopolitical conditions and are difficult to control.

Economic expert Najib Al-Saleh stated "since childhood, I have been hearing in school and the media that the weakof income. It became clear to me later that the richest countries in the world are those that rely on humans as a primary source of income, regardless of their natural resources.

He added that majority of the poor countries have most of the natural resources, yet they do not totally depend on these resources. "Therefore, humans are the basic and only element that can develop income from various sources. They innovate when given the freedom to think and create, in addition to some incentives," he asserted.

He stressed that the real wealth of any country lies in its youth, "but unfortunately, we are destroying our youth by accustoming them to government salaries at the beginning of the university stage -- at the age of 17, and replacing them with whomever we can attract from qualified foreign work-

In my opinion, the problem is the big difference between the treatment of citizens and expatriates as it makes Kuwait an unattractive country for competent workers. Other countries encourage competent workers to settle therein, while Kuwait spoils its youths through poor education and govern-

"Tourism is considered one of the best fields that generate job opportunities, so countries that suffer from a large percentage of unemployed people are interested in employing them in this sector. I do not think Kuwait needs to support tourism due to the low unemployment rate here," Al-Saleh

He said the private sector needs an ambitious generation looking for investment opportunities to improve its standard of living, development projects, opportunities, and fair and honorable competition to grow and develop. "We are in a country where the private sector works for the government and 95 percent of its citizens receive salaries from the gov-

General Manager of Abraj Behbehani Company Alaa Behbehani confirmed that no nation in the world depends on one source of income; because doing so, puts it at risk economically. As a result, nations diversify their sources of

In my view, the best sources of income for nations are products from local industries or local trade as they are stable and provide the government with an accurate assessment of their financial status. It is easy to treat, unlike natural sources, which are more affected by geopolitical conditions and are difficult repeatedly called on the government to diversify sources of income, support local private investment, and encourage the private sector to enter the market more easily and freely

Behbehani pointed out that the Central Bank of Kuwait imposed tax on foreign money transfers, but it is strange that banks and money exchange companies are taking this tax. "The government is still refusing to deduct tax, which is its right to do so; yet the banks are benefiting from the tax, so this must be reconsidered," he added.

'Kuwait Debate' launched

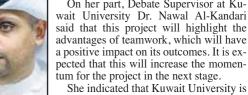
Plan to instill skills in all age groups people

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): Acting Deputy General Director of Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Abdullah Al-Adwani affirmed on Wednesday that the authority launched (Kuwait Debate) project in cooperation with several authorities in Kuwait.

The project aims to unify efforts in organizing activities and competitions in this field in a way that develops critical thinking, analysis and scientific research skills among young people of all age groups, said Al-Adwani in a statement for KÜNÂ. The project includes representatives from the Ministry of

Education, Kuwait University, and the Kuwaiti Debate Club from Civil Society, which means that it will include all targeted group ages of school and university students and even after graduation, stressing on the distinguished

cooperation with these authorities to make this project a success, he noted. On her part, Debate Supervisor at Ku-



Al-Adwani

having its competitions at the level of its 16 colleges, with the best speakers among them being selected to represent the university in the national championship in Kuwait and interna-

tional competitions. In a similar statement, Representative of the Ministry of Education, Bader Al-Shatti told KUNA that this cooperation is considered an implantation of an important principle, which is investing in youth and their knowledge and developing their ways of thinking, which creates a generation capable of giving

and contributing to building their society and country. On the other hand, Kuwait National Debate Team President Fahad Al-Subaie said that the role of a team consisting of young Kuwaitis who have experience in this field relates mainly to technical matters, most notably training students with the highest quality, in addition to integrated work that would produce a distinctive version of this season's competitions.

Al-Subaie praised this step, saying that it would improve youth's dialogue skills and the art of persuasion, stressing that this organized work would motivate his team to exert more effort to achieve maximum success in the next edition of debate championships.

Healthy eating leads to healthier mindset

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Health Promotion Department at the Ministry of Health organized a three-day workshop on promoting healthy behavior concepts with the theme, "Basics of Therapeutic Nutrition and Healthy Eating Practices.

The workshop was held for two days starting Oct 15 to 17 with the aim of encouraging healthy behavior with the participation of specialists in Kuwait and Egypt.

Director of the department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahwa said the workshop highlighted the importance of positive health behaviors that contribute to building a healthy generation that is aware of all the ways to protect health and prevent wrong behaviors causing many serious diseases affecting the quality of life for both the individual and society.

She affirmed the workshop included many lectures with the participation of experts from various departments in the ministry like the Health Promotion and Public Health departments, as well as the World Health Organization (WHO) Office in the country, Kuwait Center for Combating Smoking, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, Public Authority for Disabled Affairs, Addiction Treatment Center and other concerned entities, in addition to family medicine and physical therapy

On the other hand, Therapeutic Nutrition Professor at Helwan University in Egypt Dr. Nihal Omar revealed the lectures covered many topics like the relationship between health and nutrition, reasons for classifying malnutrition, ways to prevent it and its association with metabolic syndrome, which is preva-

She shared valuable information on meal planning, basics of calculating daily calories for an individual, calculating the body mass index, nutritional practices and their impact on health, and correcting misconceptions about nutrition.

Bid to rejuvenate market

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced the addition and modification of several commercial activities in line with international classifications, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative aims to develop the commercial market and improve the economic environment in Kuwait. New activities include consulting and training in digital services, wholesale of space reconnaissance systems, maintenance and repair of reconnaissance systems, wholesale of weapons, operation of shooting clubs, and rental of electric scooters.

In a related development, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajil recently approved the inclusion of minced meat in the ration card at a reduced price without subsidy.

This decision follows the approval of the Committee for Subsidized and Reduced Materials, which comprises the General Authority for Food and Nutrition and other relevant enti-



KUNA photo Representatives from the GCC who took part in the meeting.

Kuwait participates in Doha meeting

Focus on hunt for gov't sector leadership

DOHA, Oct 17, (KUNA): Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Development Affairs at the Civil Service Bureau (CSC) Mohammad Al-Ahmad has stressed the importance of participating in the 22nd meeting of the General-Directors of Public Administration Institutes in

the GCC countries being held in Doha, Qatar. In a statement to KUNA, Al-Ahmad revealed that the 22nd meeting included an "Innovation in Developing Leadership in the Government Sector" forum, attended by the President of the Qatari Civil Service and Government Development Bureau, Abdulaziz Al-Khalifa.

The meeting also discussed Gulf cooperation in public administration and developing national talent, as well as key practices and innovative projects in the region's institutes of public administration and ways to strengthen knowledge exchange among member states through joint programs that support practical training and innovation.

He pointed out that it was agreed that the 23rd meeting of the Committee of Directors General of Public Administration Institutes will be held in Kuwait.

Director of the Training and Career Development Department at the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau (CGB) Institute of Public Administration in Qatar Maha Al-Marri, confirmed in the opening speech that the meeting is a good opportunity to discuss the latest developments and future strategies.

For his part, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Development Affairs at the GCC Secretariat, Khaled Al-Sunaidi, stressed the importance of united efforts in the fields of administrative development and

Starvation, aid cut used as war weapon slammed

GENEVA, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwaiti representative at the United Nations, Counsellor Abdullah Al-Khubaizi, warned of the ramifications of the augmenting humanitarian crises in the region on refugee's basic rights, as he also condemned the use of illegal methods of starvation and blockage of aid as war weapons.

During the 75th refugee agency meeting in Geneva, Al-Khubaizi called on the international community to take a serious stance and guarantee the rights of war victims.

Al-Khubaizi also stressed the need to face challenges undermining regional and international stability and security, especially as the region undergoes recurring crises leaving behind unprecedented number of refugees in blatant disregard of international laws.

He further underlined the importance of reforming the Security Council to enhance response to crises becoming more efficient and comprehensive, stating that the waning of confidence in the UN's efficiency is hurting its integrity.

Counsellor Al-Khubaizi renewed Kuwait's commitment to host countries of refugees, and to sharing responsibilities and burdens, saying that Kuwait is keen on extending a helping hand to all those in need.

Total Kuwaiti aid to UNHCR alone reached USD 500 million over the past 10 years, he added. The Counsellor took the time to reaffirm Kuwait's support to UNHCR's endeavors aiming to help build a better

knowledge exchange.

It is worth noting that the last significant addition to the electricity grid occurred three years ago in April 2021 when 930 megawatts of gas turbines were commissioned at the Subbiya Station.

failure to execute these projects has resulted in loss of millions for the state treasury. Recently, the Electricity Authority announced plans to coordinate with the Gulf Interconnection Network Authority in preparation for the summer season of 2025, indicating that budgets will be allocated for energy imports in the upcoming fiscal year.

663 advts pulled

over 'violations' KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Di-

rector of the Audit and Follow-up Department of Municipal Services at the Capital Municipality Dr. Nasser Al-Rashidi revealed that the de-

partment's inspection team removed 663 violating advertisements and issued 156

citations after inspecting 400 shops in the Capital Governorate in September, reports Al-Jarida daily.
In a press statement, Dr.
Al-Rashidi explained that the

inspection tours conducted

by the Audit and Follow-up

Department of the Capital

Municipality were aimed to

ensure compliance with the

municipality's terms and

The inspectors will continue

their field tours throughout the

Capital Governorate to moni-

tor and deal with violations of

municipal regulations. They

are also working on educating

shop owners about adhering

to the municipality's laws and

regulations to prevent potential

165 wanted persons held:

Officers from the Rescue Sec-

tor at the Interior Ministry ar-

rested 165 individuals wanted

by law for involvement in var-

ious cases over the past week,

A security source confirmed that 48 individuals

were arrested for holding an

expired residency permit,

while others were reported

absconding and some were sentenced to prison for com-

The source added that the

officers also impounded three

vehicles due to traffic viola-

tions and dealt with 1,421 re-

ports within the same period.

mitting different crimes.

reports Al-Anba daily.

conditions.



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Divine guidance's role vital in national renewal efforts'

"IN a world where the conversation has shifted from mere sustainability to the broader concept of renewal, countries across the globe are embracing a fresh approach to develop-ment. This transition reflects an un-derstanding that to thrive in today's dynamic landscape, one must look beyond traditional models and seek innovative solutions," columnist Dr. Turki Al-Azmi wrote for Al-Rai

"As I sat down to contemplate this trend, I was reminded of recent

headlines capturing the state of the world -- news of the US economic downturn and reports of Arab and Muslim countries becoming testing grounds new military technologies.



Dr. Al-Azmi

These stories are symptomatic of the urgent need for renewal in various sectors, especially in energy

"Take, for instance, the energy sector's ongoing transformation.
The shift from conventional energy sources to renewable options like solar and wind power is more than just a trend; it's a necessity.

"A startling article in Al-Rai caught my attention recently, detailing how the Ministry of Electricity is gearing up for summer by establishing two overhead power lines from Al-Wafra station to Sabah Al-Ahmad stations. This infrastructure aims to enhance the Gulf connection and address the pressing electricity shortages.

"While these overhead lines are a cost-effective solution and allow for quicker maintenance, they come with hidden dangers. Scientific studies indicate that these power lines are susceptible to adverse weather conditions, such as strong winds and lightning.

'Moreover, they emit ionizing radiation that poses health risks to nearby populations. Experts recommend maintaining a buffer zone of at least 500 meters between highvoltage lines and residential areas to mitigate these dangers, similar to regulations for radiation-emitting towers, each requiring a specific safe distance.

"The conversation around renewal doesn't end with energy. In education, for instance, there's a significant shift towards adopting the Emirati curriculum. This change emphasizes redefining the teacher's role from mere instruction to embodying a guiding message.

'The aim is to recognize that not every graduate is suited to be a teacher and to incorporate skill development into education -- moving away from rote memorization to fostering critical thinking.

"In the economic arena, the urgent need to diversify income sources away from oil dependency is paramount. We must explore opportunities in our islands and mainland to create free trade zones, attracting global investors through strategic initiatives like establishing international universities. Such steps are crucial in adapting to the rapidly changing

global economy. "Healthcare, too, is undergoing transformation, with a push to develop world-class hospitals that can attract medical tourism and provide natural treatment resorts. These facilities are not just about healing; they symbolize a new approach to health and wellness, one that draws visitors from around the world seeking both modern medicine and natu-

ral therapies. "Management practices are also evolving. The emphasis is on bringing in visionary leaders who can offer fresh perspectives and modern strategic plans tailored to navigate the complexities of today's global market. This innovative mindset is vital for improving facility management and operational efficiency.

"On the social front, there is a pressing need to redefine security in its various forms. Social security must focus on the living conditions of individuals, aiming to foster well-being and prosperity. The latest reports indicate an inflation rate of 3 percent, which necessitates salary adjustments and strict oversight of price increases to ensure that all citizens can thrive.

"Renewal, in its essence, is a reflection of our ability to adapt and grow in response to the changes unfolding around us. It calls for a candid acknowledgment of past mistakes and the development of strategic plans that embrace a fresh vision for our future.

"As I reflect on these themes, I pray that God grants our rulers wise counsel. May we soon witness the emergence of a new government work program designed to address the unique challenges faced by Kuwait and its people.

"This initiative should be executed

by leaders and advisors who possess rich experience, moral integrity, and the wisdom to meet the expectations of Kuwaiti citizens in the days to come. With faith in divine guidance, we look forward to a brighter, more renewed future.

Also:

"In these turbulent times, the overwhelming nature of pressing issues makes it nearly impossible to focus on just one topic. As I sat down to write, I realized that addressing two critical matters was not only necessary but urgent: one, a pressing national concern, and the other, a disturbing issue that resonates both nationally and 'Islamically'," columnist, constitutional expert Dr. Mohammed Al-Moqatei wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"First and foremost is the alarming state of citizenship in Kuwait, which has spiraled beyond imagination. The rampant tampering with citizenship -- through forgery, manipulation, and illicit transactions -- has reached staggering levels, with estimates suggesting that as much as 35 percent to potentially 50 percent of citizenship claims could be fraudulent.

"According to the 1990 census, Kuwait's population stood at 2,141,465, with only 599,610 classified as Kuwaitis. In stark contrast, the data from 1957 to 1990 indicated that there were only 251,126 Kuwaitis, leading to an astonishing increase of 348,483 individuals claiming nationality during that period.

"Fast forward to today, and the number of Kuwaitis has surged to 1,567,000, according to the General Administration of Statistics. This represents an increase of 967,389 people since 1991 -- a growth rate of 5.2 percent, which defies logic.

"The natural annual growth rate, by comparison, is only 2.38 percent. If calculated correctly, the increase in the Kuwaiti population should have only been 446,400, highlighting an alarming discrepancy of 520,989 Kuwaitis added post-liberation.

"This analysis suggests that the actual number of genuine Kuwaitis may not exceed 700,000. Given this sobering reality, I wholeheartedly support the commendable efforts of the Supreme Committee for Nationality Achievement, led by the steadfast Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef.

'Their mission to scrutinize citizenship records and revoke fraudulent nationalities is essential, particularly in response to the directives of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad. Such actions are crucial for purging the nation of the corruption that has seeped into the nationality system through the hands

of politicians and manipulators. On another front, we must confront the undeniable reality of the Zionist entity -- a rogue, criminal, and brutal force that has operated with impunity. This entity has been condemned by the United Nations Security Council on numerous occasions and found guilty by both the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

"A staggering 154 countries in the UN General Assembly have condemned its actions, as have numerous international organizations and leaders. Only a handful of countries -- namely the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, and a reluctant France --continue to support its nefarious actions. It is high time for the international community, along with Islamic and Arab nations, to take a stand against this oppressive force.

"Recent discussions circulating on social media hint at a significant development: a potential alliance between a superpower and three Islamic and Arab nations to establish a regional deterrent force.

This coalition could include fighter aircraft aimed at imposing a no-fly zone over Israel and enforcing a ceasefire, thereby upholding international law and protecting civilians, even if it means risking regional con-

"While some may view this as merely a dream or wishful thinking, it is a call for humanity and a necessary response to the atrocities committed by this rogue entity.

"As global citizens, we must rally together to uphold justice and ensure the preservation of international law, standing firm against the brutal actions that threaten peace and stability in the region.

"The weight of these intertwined issues -- the manipulation of citizenship and the plight against the Zionist entity -- reminds us of the critical need for vigilance, accountability, and unwavering commitment to jus-

"In the face of such challenges, the collective conscience of the world must awaken, pushing us toward a future where integrity, justice, and human dignity prevail.

"By reinstating these principles, we can create a robust framework for sustainable development that benefits all members of society.

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



KFF photo

A photo taken during the conclusion of the workshop.

KFF holds course on handling hazardous materials

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) concluded a brief course on hazardous materials Thursday morning at the Shadadiyah Center for Hazardous Materials for officers from the Kuwait Army's Defense Command

against Weapons of Mass Destruction, says a press release issued by the Kuwait Fire Force.

According to the press release, this course was held through co-operation between the Kuwait Fire

Force and the Kuwait Army with the aim of educating those who handle hazardous materials about the best professional practices for initial handling and the associated

Ex-sports official gets 1-yr jail over misappropriation of funds

Court refuses to release 2 lawyers; 146 held in raids

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Misdemeanors Court, headed by Judge Abdullah Al-Aslawi, sentenced a former sports official to one year in prison and acquitted a former international athlete in a case of neglecting job duties and spending funds from the budget of a government agency on a sports club.

The two defendants, in their capacity as deputy director general of the Competitive Sports Sector and deputy director general of the Financial and Administrative Affairs Sector at the Public Authority for Sports, were charged with causing serious harm to the funds of the authority due to their poor performance at work; specifically their negligence and failure to perform their duties by approving the request of the Marine Sports Club for the authority to financially support its local tournaments -- Jet Ski Championship, Endurance Race, Kuwait Jet Ski Championship and Professional Jet Ski Championship.

This was done even if the authority does not support such tournaments as it is a violation of the regulations in this regard; thereby, harming public funds.

Court refuses to release 2 lawyers: The Criminal Court refused to release two lawyers accused of publishing false news on the social media platform 'TikTok'.

The court decided to continue the detention of these lawyers and postponed ruling on the case until Oct 31.

The Public Prosecution had earlier released the accused on bail on charges of publishing false news about Public Works Minister Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan on the social networking site 'X'. State Security forces arrested them when the minister filed a complaint against them.

In addition, the Criminal Court, headed by Judge Dr. Khaled Al-Omara, refused to release an officer, two soldiers, a secretary and a doctor accused of kidnapping Dr. Imad Youssef Saab, fabricating a drug trafficking case and forging official documents

146 people held in security raids: The Ministry of Interior on Thursday carried out extensive security campaigns in Khaitan, Farwaniya, Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Mutlaa and Mahboula; which resulted in the arrest of 146 people including those who violated the Residency Law and those reported absconding.

The Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the ministry revealed that these campaigns led to the issuance of 1,676 traffic violation citations and arrest of 146

Evening sessions mulled

'No punishment for ex-MP'

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Court of Cassation upheld the ruling of a lower court on the State security case of former MP Abdulrahman Al-Anjari to refrain from pronouncing his punishment for broadcasting false news on his personal account on the 'X' platform.

According to the case files, Al-Anjari denied the accusation when he appeared in court. His lawyer argued that the charge filed against his client is incorrect; hence, the request for his acquittal.

Bid to review 2017 appeals: In an effort to address the backlog of appeals at the Court of Cassation, Chief Justice Dr. Adel Boursli issued a decision yesterday to review appeals filed before 2017 by scheduling them for

additional evening sessions, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The decision No 78/2024, states:

"Based on the authorization from the General Assembly of the Court, convened on Sept 22, which grants the Chief Justice the authority to take necessary actions for the benefit of court operations, we have decided as follows: Article 1: The Court's Director of

Records is tasked with identifying all

Dr Boursli appeals filed before 2017, preparing categorized lists for each type of appeal, and assigning them

to the respective divisions of the court. These appeals must also be entered into the court's digital system. Article 2: The appeal files and their related documents must be organized and prepared in coordination with the Court's

Technical Office, then submitted to the relevant judges and heads of divisions for review. Afterward, the appeals will be scheduled for the additional evening sessions. Article 3: The concerned parties must be notified with a

copy of this decision." This move is part of a broader effort to streamline the resolution of older cases and ensure more efficient handling of



MoD undersecretary with sector's officers and the recruits.

MoD honors recruits of 'financial affairs'

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, honored recruits from the Financial Affairs Sector at the conclusion of their recruitment period, reports Al-Seyassan daliy

In a press release, the Ministry of Defense stated that Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Al-Mishal commended the recruits for their distinguished efforts and dedication throughout their time in the sector, expressing his gratitude and appreciation for their commitment to fulfilling their responsibilities.

The honoring ceremony was attendfor Financial Affairs Hanadi Al-Kandari, along with Colonel Abdullah Al-Reesh, Director of the Budgets and Audit Department for the Financial Affairs Sector.

people - three involved in drug cases, 21 with expired residency, 32 who failed to present valid identification documents, 16 who were reported absconding, 39 who committed various other crimes, five who were in an abnormal state, one wanted by law, seven juveniles and one for the possession of alcoholic beverages.

In addition, five vehicles and motorcycles were impounded, along with 12 vehicles wanted by law for being used in committing crimes.

The ministry confirmed this campaign is part of ongoing efforts to arrest criminals and law violators. including those who violated the Residency Law, in a bid to instill public discipline, maintain peace and order, prevent crimes, and combat negative phenom-

Blood donation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Lieutenant Colonel Mishaal Saeed of the Medical Services Directorate of the National Guard announced that, following directives from the National Guard's senior leadership and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Medical Services Directorate organized a blood donation campaign for National Guard members, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Residents challenge Adailiya power plant



Al-Seyassah photo

The Undersecretary of Educational Facilities honoring workers for the success in their preparation for the school year.

'School preparations achieved full compliance'

MoE's facilities, planning sector honored

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Facilities and Planning Sector at the Ministry of Education Eng. Mohammad Al-Khalidi said the sector completed all the requirements for the start of the new school year within a short period, such as the maintenance works and the provision of air conditioning units in classrooms among many other tasks.

Al-Khalidi pointed out that the entire work was completed through the concerted efforts of the departments and sections; including the sector's engineers, administrators and employees who worked hard to ensure that the condition of schools is better than previous years.

He made the announcement during a ceremony organized by the sector in honor of the outstanding employees -- engineers, supervisors and administrators -- in various departments that contributed to the success of preparations for academic year 2024/2025.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the employees in the sector, stressing all of them exerted tremendous efforts to guarantee the smooth opening of the new academic year. He attributed such success to the team work of the concerned staff.

"Today, any project starts from planning and moves to the contract and specifications stage in the Design and Contracts Department, then the project is implemented through the Project Department. In the end, the building or project is transferred to the engineering affairs departments in the educational districts to follow it up and guarantee its sustainability," he explained.

He added that he noticed the presence of many engineers, including female engineers, and supervisors in work sites even during holidays and official vacations. He said this reflects their dedication and sense of responsibility in ensuring completion of the work assigned to them.

He also confirmed that the goal and vision will be set for the sector through the affiliated departments; so the services it provides to the schools and the ministry in general are im-

He stressed the importance of assessing the performance and satisfaction with the services provided, hoping the preparations for the next academic year will be better than the previous

Meanwhile, Eng Mubtadi Abdullah Al-Nasrallah revealed that he decided to work in the ministry in order to have the chance to serve Kuwait. "The country has not been stingy with me throughout my life. I work in the Project Management Department with the support of its director, Eng Abdullah Fahad Al-Enezi. We inspect schools and listen to the comments of teachers and school administrations to improve the services we provide to them," he added.

He said the inspections are done with the support and guidance of the sector's assistant undersecretary. "The aim is to provide an attractive educational environment for both the students and teachers. In working as one team, coopertion and integration played a major role in the completion of the work within the specified period," he concluded.

Municipal Council discusses grievances

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: During its fourth meeting of the third term yesterday, the Municipal Council's Objections and Complaints Committee, led by Saud Al-Kandari, discussed a complaint submitted by residents of Adailiya about the construction of secondary power plants in Block 3 on Issa Al-Asousi Street.

It also discussed a complaint submitted by a Kuwaiti woman residing in Khaitan, Block 10 on Nasser Al-Jabri Street to halt the demolition work due to a wall connected to her neighbor's plot on the right.

The committee retained on its agenda a complaint filed by a Kuwaiti citizen against his neighbor in Sulaibikhat Block 1 for allegedly constructing a house in a purely commercial manner in violation of the law and building regulations.

In contrast, the committee forwarded a complaint to the executive authority for its opinion on providing a temporary location for the Ministry of Public Works to install sewage treatment units in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

The committee reserved in its agenda the response sent by the executive authority regarding a complaint about the failure to remove obstacles at the Block 1 site designated for the secondary conversion station in Adailiya, as requested by the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.

They also reserved a complaint submitted by a Kuwaiti citizen against the Kuwait Municipality.

Jahra Governor stresses community involvement in development efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi welcomed several residents at the governorate's general office, joined by Saud Al-Hayyan, Director of the Automated Center Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water and Head of the "Hafez for Rationalization" team, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Al-Habashi emphasized Kuwait's forward momentum under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, striving to elevate the country to a globally advanced status. He underscored the vital role of the nation's youth and future generations in this progress.

Al-Habashi highlighted his ongoing communication with various state agencies to address the needs of Jahra Governorate, both in terms of services and technical aspects, aiming to improve services, solve existing issues, and overcome challenges in fieldwork.

He expressed appreciation for the participation of Jahra residents in these meetings, noting that their feedback helps identify areas re-



Al-Seyassah photo Jahra Governor with Saud Al-Hayyan

quiring attention and leads to timely solutions. Al-Habashi assured residents that his door remains open for any complaints or inquiries related to the governorate.

Saud Al-Hayyan provided a comprehensive overview of the Hafez Rationalization Program, explaining its benefits for both citizens and the state in promoting energy conservation across residential, investment, and commercial sectors.

Ministry targets full collection

Social Affairs recovers nearly 50% of unjustly disbursed aid

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, has revealed that the ministry has recovered nearly 50 percent of aid that was disbursed unjustly, reports Al-

The reclaimed amount currently stands at KD 28 million out of a

total KD 58 million in

accumulated debts. Al-Ajmi that these debts are public funds and cannot be written off, and the collection rates are continuously increasing as a result of intensified efforts by the ministry.

One of the major

strides the ministry has made to rectify the situation is implementing an automatic link between the Ministry of Social Affairs and relevant government

This link has allowed for a more efficient inquiry into cases receiving aid and has led

to the suspension of illegal disbursements. Previously, aid continued to be distributed in cases where the recipient had passed away without the ministry's knowledge, largely due to the absence of this automated

According to Al-Ajmi, the delay in completing the automatic link in earlier years was one of the primary reasons for the accumulation of these debts.

Al-Ajmi emphasized that the ministry has taken significant steps to address the shortcomings highlighted in the annual Audit Bureau report, which raised concerns about the mismanagement of aid.

To prevent further debt accumulation, Legal Affairs Department and a specially formed committee regularly review debt balances and implement measures to recover funds.

The ministry prioritizes recovering the debt through amicable means. This includes encouraging individuals to either repay the full amount or set up monthly installment plans if they are government employees. When these efforts fail, the ministry resorts to legal action to reclaim its money.

Al-Ajmi says the collection process is complicated by the fact that new cases of unjustly disbursed aid continue to be un-

The ministry has made strides in linking with many government agencies, but the delay in full linkage with some entities has hampered the recovery process. Al-Ajmi pointed out that efforts are ongoing to complete the linkage with the remaining agencies, and this will be critical in preventing future accumulation of unjust debts.

Kuwait's Namaa Charity delivers urgent aid to Southern Lebanon

BEIRUT, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's Namaa Charity Society, in cooperation with the Rakaaz Association for Development and Education, distributed urgent relief aid to Lebanese refugees affected by the Israeli occupation forces' attacks on towns and villages in southern Lebanon on Tuesday.

The Director of Resource Development and Institutional Communication at the Rakaaz Association for Development and Education, Mohammad Fawaz, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the Rakaaz Association's field teams began distributing essential humanitarian supplies amid the worsening humanitarian crisis caused by the increasing number of refugees who recently sought shelter in schools and shelters affiliated with the Lebanese state.

Fawaz added that Namaa Charity Society focused its urgent aid efforts on the "most affected" groups and areas, providing 100 food baskets in addition to shelter materials, personal hygiene kits, and clean drinking water in response to urgent needs.

He emphasized that this urgent response from Namaa Charity is a continuation of Kuwait's efforts to support its Lebanese brothers and alleviate their humanitarian suffering, as is its tradition in standing by countries affected by wars and disasters

He also stated that Namaa Charity is committed to working and cooperating with humanitarian agencies in Lebanon accredited by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure the swift delivery of relief aid to affected families in southern Lebanon.

Fawaz expressed his gratitude to the State of Kuwait, its government, and its people for their steadfast support of human-



KUNA photo Namaa Charity, affiliated with the So-cial Reform Society, distributes urgent humanitarian aid to the Lebanese displaced as a result of attacks by the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

News in Brief

Needy students' budget cut: The budget for the charity fund for education care for needy students has been reduced to KD 4.6 million for the current 2024/2025 academic year from KD 7 million in the previous year's budget, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to informed sources, the fund currently supports over 13,000 Bedoun students to cover their education expenses in private Arab schools that fall within the lowest category on the educational scale approved by the General Department of Private Education.



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Al-Kandari calls for unified action against pollution

Kuwait highlights green strategy at Arab council

Kuwait deported

Continued from Page 1

He affirmed that Kuwait has always been a pioneer in humanitarian work and takes into account all aspects in this regard.

Below are details of the interview held with Brigadier Jassim Al-Misbah: Question: Can you explain the process followed at the Deportation Department?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: We receive violators from various security sectors, including Public Security, Traffic, Rescue, Residency Affairs, and Criminal Investigations. Each violator undergoes checks to verify their identity with the presented photograph and information. This is followed by recording the personal and other forensic related data, and then undergoing the biometric registration process using the devices set up exclusively for de-

The department also coordinates with the Criminal Execution Prosecution, the General Department of Investigations, and the General Department for Sentences Enforcement regarding violators who have travel ban orders related to specific cases. It contacts the technical office of the Ministry of Justice to expedite the scheduling of court

Q: What are the main tasks per-

formed by the department? **Brigadier Al-Misbah:** Our primary role is to implement both administrative and judicial deportation decisions.

Q: How do you treat the deportees? Brigadier Al-Misbah: The department is keen about treating those awaiting deportation in accordance with the basic principles of human rights and in accordance with the relevant laws of the country and the international and regional treaties to which Kuwait is a party. All detainees are treated with the necessary respect and dignity. They are provided with food and health care until they leave the country. We also have dedicated clinics for both men and women.

Q: Are deportees allowed to meet with their embassy representatives? **Brigadier Al-Misbah:** Yes of

course they can meet with representa-tives of their embassies in Kuwait, and they are also able to communicate with

Q: How long do deportees typically stay in the facility?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: We strive to complete the deportation process as quickly as possible, with an average stay of about 72 hours if a passport or emergency travel document is avail-

able. **Q:** Are there cases that take longer? Brigadier Al-Misbah: Yes, delays can occur due to some embassies' lack of cooperation in issuing travel documents for their citizens, or due to existing travel bans from the Public Prosecution, or the presence of pending court sessions.

Q: What about deportees without

Brigadier Al-Misbah: In this case, we coordinate with the General Department of Correctional Institutions for reaching out to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consular Affairs Sector to coordinate with the relevant embassies and obtain travel documents for deportees. If the nationality of the individual cannot be identified, we consult the Central System for Remedying Status of Illegal Residents to gather any available data so that a travel document can be issued for them.

Q: Are there children staying in the deportation facility with their families? Brigadier Al-Misbah: Yes, sometimes women who are referred for deportation come with their children. We provide the necessary care for these children, including appropriate food, health care and other requirements. They are usually housed with their mothers in designated areas away from the rest of the detainees until their de-

parture with their mothers. Q: Does the deportation process in-

clude the deportee's family?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: The Deportation Department is an executive department that acts on the administrative and judicial deportation orders issued against those who are referred to it by the security authorities. It is not responsible to decide whether the family of the deportee is to be deported with him. However, if an administrative order is issued to deport the deportee's

family, that order is implemented. Q: What humanitarian services do you provide to deportees?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: We provide deportees with sleeping and accommodation arrangements, three daily meals, and necessary health care through the medical clinics that operate around the clock for both men and women.

Q: What is the capacity of the new

building in Sulaibiva Brigadier Al-Misbah: The new facility can accommodate 910 men and

Q: Have there been any changes in the transfer procedures from the deportation center to the airport after the recent escape incident by an inmate who was caught in less than 24 hours?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: Yes, we have implemented stricter procedures to prevent such incidents from recurring. We are considering using monitoring bracelets during the transfer process. We have also employed highly trained and efficient security personnel for this purpose.

Q: How many individuals do you deport on a daily basis? Brigadier Al-Misbah: The num-

bers vary. Last month, we deported 2,897 men and women. Some months the numbers are higher. We are working hard to complete the deportation procedures for the detainees as quickly

Q: What types of cases are received from the various sectors of the minis-

Brigadier Al-Misbah: The deportation department handles both administrative and judicial cases.

Administrative deportation is conducted based on the order of the Ministry of Interior, as outlined in article



Photo by Rezk Tawfig A breathtaking view of the supermoon illuminating the night sky over Kuwait, casting a magical glow on the cityscape and captivating onlookers as they gather to witness this celestial phenomenon

16 of decree No. 17/1959 regarding the Foreigners' Residence Law. This article allows the head of the police and public security departments to issue a written order to deport any foreigner, even if they hold a residence permit, in the following situations:

1. If the foreigner has been sentenced by the court, which recommends deportation in its ruling.

2. If the foreigner lacks apparent means of livelihood.

3. If the head of the police and public security departments determines that deportation is necessary for public interest, security, or morals.

Cases of administrative deportation are referred to the public interest by relevant authorities in the ministry. subject to the approval of the First Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Defense, and the Minister of Interior.

Residents may be deported for various offenses, including theft, drug-related crimes, breach of trust, returning after deportation without documentation, adultery, sodomy, premarital pregnancy, and giving birth under similar circumstances.

The department also processes cases involving expatriates whose residency has expired or who have violated residency laws.

In terms of judicial deportation, individuals referred to the department by the General Department for Sentences Enforcement have been sentenced by a court to deportation after serving their prison terms for crimes punishable by

Q: Do you provide travel tickets or are the travel tickets for deportees borne by their sponsor or the deportee

Brigadier Al-Misbah: If the sponsor or deportee does not provide a ticket, we reserve one at the ministry's expense through the travel companies contracted with the ministry and located in the building of the Deportation Department. Once the ticket is issued. we register a financial claim against the sponsor - either an individual or a company - and a sponsorship ban in placed on the sponsor until the ticket

cost is paid. Q: Can you tell us about the medical clinic in the deportation building?

Brigadier Jassim Al-Misbah: The clinic is located the deportation building and is fully equipped for check-ups and treatment, with all necessary medical supplies. If a patient requires hospitalization, we prepare a report and transfer them promptly for further care.

Q: How does the deportation department ensure the clinic meets the needs of the inmates?

Brigadier Jassim Al-Misbah: The department has made every effort to equip the clinic appropriately. Kuwait has always been a pioneer in humanitarian work by providing top-notch medical services and equipment. I am grateful for these efforts in offering humanitarian services.

Q: How do the staff treat the in-

Brigadier Jassim Al-Misbah: The workers in the deportation department treat inmates with respect and professionalism. I personally oversee procedures followed inside the wards, listen to the needs of the inmates, and work to solve any problem they face.

We provide around-the-clock service for the deportees, taking into account the humanitarian aspects. Our goal is to facilitate the deportation process smoothly, without any problems or obstacles.

Q: Can you describe the living con-

ditions for deportees?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: We ensure that deportees receive three meals a day. We have new bathrooms for both men and women, and there is cold drinking water available for them. The living quarters are regularly cleaned and sanitized, and the wings are airconditioned for the comfort of the de-

Q: Is it true that Minister Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef has been keenly overseeing the deportation process?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: Following his visit to the old building of the deportation department in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef had issued directives to transfer to the new building and ensure the new facility meets all needs for both inmates and staff.

Also, the Director General of the General Department of Correctional Institutions Brigadier Fahad Al-Obaid has been keen about taking into account the humanitarian needs of deportees and expediting their travel procedures to ensure they reach their countries safely.

Q: Are human rights organizations allowed to visit?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: Yes, our doors are open for human rights organizations and lawyers who wish to understand our work mechanisms and meet with inmates.

The department operates as an executive body, and inmates are temporarily detained until legal procedures are finalized.

O: What about visits from families and friends?

Brigadier Al-Misbah: The Deportation Department takes into account

the humanitarian aspects. We allow friends or relatives to visit deportees if they do not have family here. Visits are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays every week, with exceptional cases requiring notification to the department director. Embassy representatives can meet their nationals daily, and visit durations are flexible until the purpose of

the visit is completed. Meanwhile, when the daily recently visited one of the wards housing several inmates, many of them expressed their appreciation for the services provided by the Ministry of Interior and the efficient handling of their deportation procedures

One inmate remarked, "May Allah honor Kuwait.

The inmates also thanked the Deportation Department and its staff for treating them respectfully and meeting their needs during their temporary stay in the wards.

The daily also noticed that the rapport between security officers and inmates was positive.

During the inspection led by Brigadier Al-Misbah, he actively listened to their needs and addressed them with respect and professionalism.

Summit opportunity

Continued from Page 1

The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir to

"We meet today with hopes that our meeting will contribute to building mutual understanding for setting up our relations in a better form," he began the speech, noting that this relationship is necessary to attain mutual interests in the face of rapid global changes with respect of the climatic change, economic jitters, developments in the energy sectors, cyber wars, geopolitical tension and regional conflicts.

Touching on the relations with Iraq, His Highness the Amir Representative affirmed that the State of Kuwait had aided the neighboring country to restore its regional status and attain its people's aspirations.

He called on Baghdad to take tangible measures to tackle pending files namely the demarcation of the marine borders beyond the point 162, in line with international laws and charters, resolve the file of the prisoners and missing and the Kuwaiti properties including the national archive "within the follow-up by the United Nations particularly the Security Council.'

His Highness the Prime Minister urged Iraq to adhere to bilateral agreements related to security, technical aspects of the waterway at Khor Abdullah; as the "agreements could enhance the concept of conserving the environment and organizing navigation, combating terorrism, illegal trade in arms and narcotics and human beings," affirming the necessity to pursue dialogue on the basis of mutial respect and understanding.

Turning to the dangerous escalation in the Middle East, he called for an immediate cessation of the air strikes carried out by the Israeli occupation and spare the region and the world more

azards and jitters. He renewed the State of Kuwait's principled stand in support of the Palestinian people and their just cause aimed at establishing the independent state to the June 4, 1967, borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He applauded the European States' decision earlier this year, recognizing the State of Palestine, and urged other European countries to follow suit.

His Highness the Amir Representative acclaimed Riyadh's establishment of the international coalition to execute the two-state settlement, stressed on the necessity of securing navigation via all vital waterways to preserve security in the Red region and interests of the whole world.

The State of Kuwait, he has stated, affirms its unwavering advocacy of the necessity to resolve strifes through peaceful means, adhere to the principles of the international law, protecting the global order from disarray, while rejecting double standards.

He called for collective action for backing humanitarian and relief efforts in regions witnessing armed conflicts or stricken with catastrophes, renewed the adherence to joint action in the face of challenges and bolstering the partnership between the GCC and the EU. The EU-GCC Summit appealed on

Wednesday to Iraq to solve the pending issues with Kuwait regarding maritime border and others.

On maritime borders between Kuwait and Iraq, the final communique of the summit said that solving the pending issues between the two sides in line with international law contributes positively to regional cooperation and stability.

The communique said it sheds light on the importance of Iraq's abidance by Kuwait's sovereign and territorial integrity as well as the respect of bilateral deals and international treaties, and the relevant UN resolutions mainly JEDDAH, Oct 17, (KUNA): The 35th session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs kicked off Thursday in Jeddah, co-organized by the Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture and the Arab League and attended by Acting Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority Eng. Samira Al-Kandari.

In his opening speech, head of Omani Environment Authority, Dr. Abdullah Al-Amri, praised Arab countries' efforts in various environmental fields and international forums, expressing gratitude to the Kingdom for hosting the meeting, and to the Arab League and its efforts in promoting joint Arab environmental action.
Al-Amri expressed support for the

Kingdom's efforts in hosting the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP16) in the Saudi capital, Rivadh, scheduled to be held next December.

He also stressed support for the efforts and initiatives of Arab countries in combating all forms of environmental pollution, which reflects regional and Arab environmental efforts in international forums.

In his speech, Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture and Chairman of the current session Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli said that the Kingdom adopts a comprehensive vision for environmental systems in ac-



Eng. Samira Al-Kandari, Acting Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority

cordance with its Saudi Vision 2030. Al-Fadhli pointed to Saudi Arabia's launch of national, regional and international initiatives, most notably the "Green Saudi Arabia" and "Green Middle East" initiatives, in addition to the global initiative to reduce land degradation and preserve terrestrial habitats.

For her part, Samira Al-Kandari said that the meeting comes in light of important international environmental developments that have imposed themselves on local and international levels, which confirms the importance of strengthening joint Arab action in the fields of environmental conservation. She pointed to the importance of

adopting green policies that support the shift towards renewable energy and adaptation to climate change, adopting strategies to reduce carbon emissions, in addition to managing natural resources efficiently and enhancing the circular economy to reduce land degradation and combat desertification

She expressed her hope for unifying the Arab position in supporting the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution No. (514) to end plastic pollution, to enhances efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and circular economy.

Al-Kandari referred to Kuwait's low-carbon strategy, which aims to achieve carbon neutrality in the oil and gas sector by 2050, and to the National Strategy for Integrated Waste Management in Kuwait 2040, stressing support for the (Green Middle East) initiative.

In addition to the head of the delegation Al-Kandari, Kuwaiti delegation participating included Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Follow-up of Environmental Activities Eng. Shaima Al-Fadhel, and from International Relations Department at the (Public Environment Authority Talal Al-Ali and Mustafa Al-Zuhair.

The delegation also included the Chargé d'Affaires at the Consulate General of Kuwait in Jeddah, Minister Plenipotentiary Nasser Al-Khaldi, along with Counselor Turki Al-Daihani.

The leaders, during the summit, called for the demarcation of maritime borders between Kuwait and Iraq at 162, stressing the importance of full implementation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi deal regulating maritime navigation at Khor Abdullah which was signed in April 2012, came

into effect on December 5, 2013. They reiterated support to the UNSC Resolution 2017 of 2013 that tasked the UN Secretary General Special Envoy and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) with boosting efforts related to returning all Kuwaitis and third-country nationals back home.

The communique called on Iraq and the UN to do their best to reach a solution to all these issues.

The EU-GCC Summit called for an immediate and complete ceasefire in Gaza Strip and all other parts of the occupied Palestine as well as in Lebanon. In a final communique issued by the

summit on Wednesday, heads of state and government of the EU and GCC countries called for the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2735 They urged all parties to the conflict

in the Middle East to exercise maximum restraint and avoid any further They affirmed support to the efforts of Qatar, Egypt and the United States for lull, urging the release of hostages

as well as prisoners' swap and unim-peded and immediate access of humanitarian aid to civilians. In addition, they called on the parties to honor their pledges in line with international community, including international humanitarian law, and the implementation of the International

tecting civilians and children. They deplored attacks against civilians and civil infrastructure, urging all parties to allow and facilitate delivering humanitarian aid in a fast, safe and

'ourt of Justice's rulings mainly pro-

unimpeded way to Gazans. The leaders in the summit reiterated their unwavering commitment to implementing Palestinians' rights to self-determination through the two state solution to help Palestine and Israel live side by side in peace inside safe borders.

They called for establishing a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders in accordance with international law and the relevant UN resolutions as well as the Arab Peace Imitative, according

to the communique.

They affirmed their readiness to con-

tinue joint action to revive the political process to achieve this goal.

On military operations in the occupied West Bank, the leaders expressed their grave concerns as these attacks caused a large number of victims and destroyed civil infrastructure.

Furthermore, they condemned strongly ongoing violent acts by the Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and the Israeli decisions regarding expanding settlements. They called for an immediate halt

of unilateral measures that undermine opportunities of peace, confiscate territories and displace Palestinians. Moreover, the conferees voiced worry about the perilous escalation in Lebanon, stressing their support to Leb-

anon's people and calling for intensifying regional and international efforts to offer urgent humanitarian aid to Lebanese and mitigate their sufferings They re-affirmed the need of implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1701 and all relevant ones as well as the Taif agreement to restore permanent security and stability

recognized borders. They further emphasized their support to efforts aiming to integrate Leb-

in Lebanon and ensure respecting its

territorial integrity, sovereignty and

stability within the internationally-

anon into the region. On Iran's file, the conferees affirmed the need of abiding by international law, including the UN Charter, based on the respect of sovereignty and regional integrity and non-interference

into domestic affairs

Therefore, they said it is imperative to communicate diplomatically with Iran to continue regional de-esc stressing the need of ensuring the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program and stop firing ballistic missiles and drones.

The statement voiced interest in establishing close dialogue between the EU-GCC states about these issues, urging Iran to continue regional de-escalation to reach a diplomatic solution to Iran's nuclear file.

The EU and GCC urged Iran to implement all commitments related to guarantees in line with the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), it said. The leaders also called on Iran to

end its occupation of the UAE's three islands - Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs - that is a violation of the UAE's sovereignty and the UN

They also expressed concern about threats to security and navigation in the Red Sea, asking Yemeni Houthis to halt attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

They affirmed their support to

comprehensive and peaceful political process led by Yemen and under the patronage of the UN Security Council Resolution 2216 to end the conflict. They called on parties mainly Houthis to cooperate with the UN Special

Envoy Hans Grundberg to Yemen and

return to negotiations for sustainable peace in Yemen. The communique expressed support to Syria's unity, stability and territorial integrity, stressing this is in line with UN Security Council Resolution

2254 and the relevant UN Resolutions. On the devastating conflict in Sudan, the leaders affirmed the need of returning to the political process for a civil rule, and avoiding spreading the conflict to neighbors.

They appealed to Sudan's armed forces to support powers to involve seriously and effectively to the initiatives of solving crises, it noted.

No room for military solution to Sudan's conflict, it said, reiterating backing to powers of permanent peace. On Somalia, the communique affirmed commitment to working closely

to provide a satisfactory and long-term

solution to that country.

On Ukraine, the leaders emphasized their commitment to Ukraine's unity, stability and territorial integrity inside its internationally recognized borders.

The EU-GCC Summit stressed on

Wednesday commitment to upgrading the strategic partnership between both ther levels in line with the 2022-2027 joint action program. In a final communique made by the

summit, the two sides affirmed that this special partnership is based on reciprocal respect and confidence of the peoples of this region and beyond. The partnership will work on boosting security and prosperity region-

ally and internationally, preventing the eruption of conflicts and resolving crises through dialogue and coordination, the communique said.

The EU-GCC states further affirmed

commitment to enhancing trade and investment through making use of opportunities provided by environment improvement, business, investment, digital and green transformation, sustainable energy, communication and others.

Kuwait 'Capital

Continued from Page 1 He went on to say that such diligence and commitment towards these preparations come in line with the "directives" of Information Minister Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, who is intent on organizing the festivities that are set to coincide with national celebrations, in a manner that depicts Kuwait's "lofty status" in the wider Arab region, the official un-

derlined. forthcoming events, Kuwaiti information ministry for the radio department Dr. Yousef Al-Sureva. who is also the chief organizer of the activities, said the program runs the gamut from seminars to forums that will "shine light" on the progress Kuwait has seen in its national media industry.

Speeding and

Continued from Page 1

Artificial Intelligence (AI) cameras have been installed to monitor seatbelt use phone use while driving, there are currently 252 of these cameras spread across the six governorates, aimed at reducing traffic violations and ensuring the safety of both citizens and residents, Colonel Al-Issa added.

He stressed the importance of wearing seatbelts, avoiding speeding, stop using phones while driving, he also urged drivers to ensure that children are seated in the back for their safety and maintaining safety distance to prevent collisions during

الطرق السيارة بالمغرب **Autoroutes du Maroc**

NATIONAL COMPANY OF THE HIGHWAYS OF MOROCCO (ADM)

Construction of the Rabat Casablanca Continental highway OPEN TENDER N° 70 / 24 / S AMENDMENT NOTICE

It is brought to the attention of all companies wishing to participate in the open tender relating to the execution of the works of Construction of the Rabat Casablanca Continental highway, that the table of qualification and classification certificates from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water required is modified as follows:

Sector	Qualification	Rank
B- Road works	B2 - special road earthworks B3 - Road sanitation works and environmental treatment B5 - Untreated seats and surface coatings B6 - Hot treated and coated seats	S
D-construction of structures	D2 - Exceptional reinforced concrete structures D3 - Standard prestressed concrete structures	1

View our notices of calls for tenders and competitions at: www.adm.co.ma. ADM market regulations can be downloaded from the same address.



A ballot-marking machine is seen at an early in-person voting site at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College on Oct 16, in Marshall, NC. (AP)

Electoral battleground N.Carolina starts early in-person voting

ASHEVILLE, NC, Oct 17, (AP): Early in-person voting was set to begin statewide Thursday in the presidential battleground of North Carolina, including in mountainous areas where thousands of potential voters still lack power and clean running water after Hurricane Helene's epic flooding.

More than 400 locations in all 100 counties were expected to open Thursday morning for the 17-day early vote period, State Board of Elections Executive Director Karen Brinson Bell said this week. Only four of 80 sites in the 25 western counties hardest hit by the storm will not open.

"We lost just a few - despite the extensive damage, loss of power, water, internet and phone service, and the washing out of roads throughout the region," said Brinson Bell, who praised emergency management officials, utilities and election workers. "It's an effort all North Carolinians should be proud of."

Helene's arrival three weeks ago in the Southeast decimated remote towns throughout Appalachia and killed at least 246 people, with a little over half of the storm-related deaths in North Carolina. It was the deadliest hurricane to hit the U.S. mainland since Katrina in

Early in-person voting, which continues through Nov. 2, is very popular in North Carolina. More than 3.6 million ballots - 65% of all cast ballots - were cast this way in the 2020 general election. In the 2016 election, 62% of all cast ballots were cast during early in-

person voting.

Brinson Bell said she didn't expect a decrease in the number of voters casting ballots early. Instead, she said, it was possible it could increase as some voters in storm-impacted areas may not want to wait for Election Day.

Early in-person voting also allows someone to register to vote and cast a ballot simultaneously.

Absentee voting in North Carolina began a few weeks ago, with well over 60,000 completed ballots turned in so far, election officials said. People displaced by Helene are being allowed to drop off their absentee ballot at any early voting site in the state. The importance of early voting wasn't lost upon the presidential campaigns of Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

On Thursday, Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz was expected to campaign in Winston-Salem and in Durham, where he was to be joined by former President Bill Clinton.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi and Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Whatley were expected to appear on the "Team Trump Bus Tour" when it resumes Thursday in Rutherford County, which was among the hardest-hit areas.

The North Carolina ballot also includes races for governor, attorney general and several other statewide positions. All U.S. House and General Assembly seats also are up for reelection.

County election boards have received flexibility to modify early voting sites, including locations and their daily hours. In Buncombe County, which includes the region's population center of Asheville, a city devastated by the storm, 10 of the 14 planned early voting sites will be open.

In Watauga County, home to Boone and Appalachian State University, the board adjusted earlyvoting hours to avoid evening travel for voters and poll workers. They also expanded weekend voting options.

Trump woos Latino voters

Harris calls on Republican voters to put 'country first'

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa., Oct 17, (AP): Surrounded by more than 100 former Republican office holders and officials, Democrat Kamala Harris urged GOP voters on Wednesday to put "country first" and abandon Donald Trump.

The Democratic presidential candidate made her case to Republican voters that the patriotic choice was her party in next month's election because Trump is "unstable" and "unhinged" and would eviscerate democratic norms if given a second White House term. "America must heed this warning," said Harris, speaking at a rally near where Gen. George Washington led hundreds of troops across Delaware River to a major victory in the Revolutionary War.

Joined by the former lawmakers and government officials for a rally in the Philadelphia suburbs, Harris said, "Anyone who tramples on our democratic values as Donald Trump has, anyone who has called for the 'termination' of the Constitution of the United States as Donald Trump has, must never again stand behind the seal of the president of the United States.'

The rally was part of Harris' effort to appeal to a swath of Republican voters in battleground states that she believes still can be swayed.

With 20 days to go, Harris is hoping to tear away any Republican or onthe-fence voter by warning that Trump is looking to govern with "unchecked power." She has pledged to nominate a Republican to her Cabinet and create a bipartisan council to advise her on policy matters if elected.

Meanwhile, Trump addressed Latino voters in Miami, Florida. It's a group that historically has leaned Democratic but that Republicans have

Nina Perales, vice president of

litigation for the Mexican American

Legal Defense and Educational Fund, speaks to DACA supporters

after appearing in federal appeals court in New Orleans to defend the

policy on Oct 10. (AP)



Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris greets people at a campaign event at Washington Crossing Historic Park on Oct 16, in Washington Crossing, Pa. (AP)

made inroads with.

Trump is walking a tightrope as he looks to woo Latino voters.

On Wednesday, he defended his call for mass deportation of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, even as he nodded to a need for immigrant labor during a town hall-style event on Univision, the nation's largest Spanishlanguage network.

"We want workers, and we want them to come in, but they have to come in legally, and they have to love our country," the Republican presidential candidate said during the event, scheduled to air Wednesday evening. Trump was answering the question of Jorge Velásquez, a farm worker who said most people doing such jobs are undocumented and suggested, if they're deported, food prices will increase.

Trump then returned to his criticism of Harris for being a critical player in the Biden administration's that presided over an influx of migrants with criminal backgrounds.

The event featured pointed questions for Trump, about his wife Melania's support for abortion rights, noted in her new memoir, and about the Jan. 6, 2021, siege of the U.S. Capitol by his supporters who breached the building in an attempt to stop the certification of the 2020 election results.

"Your own vice president doesn't want to support you now," said Ramiro Gonzalez, of Tampa, Florida, a Republican who said he was no longer registered with the party but wanted to give Trump the chance to win him back. Gonzalez was referring to former Vice President Mike Pence, who has disavowed Trump in light of Jan. 6.

Trump's response: "Hundreds of thousands of people come to Washington. They didn't come because of me. They came because of the election. They thought the election was a rigged election. That's why they came."

"That was a day of love from the standpoint of the millions," Trump told Gonzalez.

Harris was in Bucks County, a voterich stretch of suburban Philadelphia where Democrats have held a narrow advantage in recent presidential elections. Her advisers believe she needs to improve her margins in Philadelphia and surrounding suburbs to win the state's 19 electoral votes.

Harris was joined for her rally by former Reps. Barbara Comstock of Virginia, Jim Greenwood of Pennsylvania, Mickey Edwards of Oklahoma and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois as well as Republican officials from every administration going back to Ronald Reagan.

'No matter your party, no matter who you voted for last time, there is a place for you in this campaign," Harris said. "The coalition we have built has room for everyone who is ready to turn the page on the chaos and instability of Donald Trump.'

Several of the GOP surrogates said that supporting a Democrat felt awkward but was necessary due to Trump's rejection of electoral norms and his support of the rioters who tried to stop the certification of his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden. "You know, Donald Trump may be running as a Republican, but the truth is, he does not share those long held Republican values of supporting democracy, of standing for the rule of law, and a faithfulness to the Constitution as a Republican," Kinzinger said. "That saddens me."

Some conservatives say that should change

US law entitles immigrant children to education

BOSTON, Oct 17, (AP): At a sparsely attended meeting last year, the Saugus Public School Committee approved a new admissions policy, it said, to streamline the process of enrolling stu-

But critics say the policy - including stringent requests for proof of "legal" residency and "criminal and civil penalties" for violators - has another goal: keeping immigrants out of the small school district outside Boston.

The debate over welcoming immigrant children into America's schools extends far beyond the Boston suburbs. Advocates fear it could figure more prominently into a national agenda if Donald Trump wins a second term in the White House.

Conservative politicians in states such as Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee are questioning whether immigrants without legal residency should have the right to a public education, raising the possibility of challenges to another landmark U.S. Supreme Court

For decades, children of families living in the country illegally have had the right to attend public school based on a 1982 Supreme Court decision known as Plyler v. Doe. In a 5-4 vote, justices held it is unconstitutional to deny children an education based on

their immigration status. The new Saugus policy requires new students to share immigration records and says children must be "legal residents whose actual residence is in Saugus," where the share of students who are learning English has nearly tripled to 31% over the last decade. Families must also complete a town census, sign a residency statement and provide occupancy and identity documents.

Civil rights attorneys say the requirements are onerous and violate federal law by disproportionately harming students from immigrant families, who may lack many of the required documents, regardless of whether they're living in the country legally.

The chairman of the Saugus school committee, Vincent Serino, said during the meeting the policy is "tightening up" of existing residency rules and is not intended to keep out immigrants.

But a Nicaraguan woman said it took six months for her to enroll her 8-year-old child because of the document requirements. The woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear her child would face retaliation. said the town wouldn't accept her lease and her complaints to the school were rebuffed.

'10K troops from N.Korea being prepared to join Russian forces'

Ukraine leader heads to EU and NATO to seek backing for his 'victory plan

BRUSSELS, Oct 17, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday his country has intelligence information that 10,000 troops from North Korea are being prepared to join Russian forces fighting against his country, warning that a third nation wading into the hostilities would turn the conflict into a "world war."

Zelenskyy did not go into further details about the claim that came a day after US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said in Seoul that Washington and its allies are alarmed by North Korea's military support for Russia's war in Ukraine but couldn't confirm Ukrainian claims that North Korean soldiers were sent to fight for Moscow.

"We know about 10,000 soldiers of North Korea that they are preparing to send (to) fight against us," Zelenskyy said, calling any North Korean involvement "the first step to a world

The Ukrainian leader's comments raised the stakes for his Western allies as he met with European Union leaders and then NATO defense ministers to discuss his "victory plan" to end the country's devastating war with Russia.

"If we start now and follow the victory plan, we can end this war no later



European Union leaders pose for a group photo with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, front row sixth left, during an EU summit in Brussels on Oct 17. (AP)

than next year," he told the EU leaders. He told reporters the plan aims "to strengthen Ukraine" and pave the way for a diplomatic solution to end the

"This plan doesn't depend on Russian will, only on the will of our partners," he said before addressing leaders at an EU summit.

conflict on Europe's eastern flank.

Zelenskyy was later shuttling across Brussels to meet with NATO defense ministers. The EU is a key supporter of Ukraine, a candidate member of the 27-nation bloc, as it fights Russia's invasion that began more than 2 1/2 years ago.

Zelenskyy outlined the five-point plan to Ukraine's parliament on Wednesday without disclosing confidential elements that have been presented in private to key allies, including the United States.

Major points of the plan include an invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western-supplied longer-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russia, steps that have been met with reluctance by Kyiv's allies so far.

"If we get this sign that we will be in NATO, we will feel that we are not alone," Zelenskyy said.

The Institute for the Study of War

in Washington said that Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking to draw out the war and he believes "that Russian forces can outlast Western support for Ukraine and collapse Ukrainian resistance by winning a war of attrition." NATO Secretary-General Mark

Rutte said Thursday that Kyiv can rest "absolutely assured that 32 allies are united in making sure that collectively, we will do whatever is needed to make sure that Ukraine can prevail, that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin will not get his way.

Rutte reiterated that Ukraine's place is among NATO's ranks, but he would not say when it might join. Zelenskyy insists that a membership invitation is central to his "victory plan" and would provide his country with the ultimate security guarantee to protect it from Russia.

"Ukraine will be a member of NATO in the future," Rutte said. "The question is exactly about the 'when.' I cannot answer that now.'

However, Rutte said, Putin must understand that "we are in this, if necessary, for the long haul. And obviously we want to be in a place where Zelenskyy and Ukraine, from a position of strength, is able to start talks with

America

Bridge collapse kills 3: Three people were killed and four were seriously injured Wednesday when a bridge in Mississippi that was closed nearly a month ago collapsed while a work crew was prepping it for demolition, authorities

The bridge over the Strong River on State Route 149 in Simpson County, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Jackson, had been closed to traffic since Sept. 18 as part of a bridge replacement project, the Mississippi Department of Transportation said in a news release.

Gov. Tate Reeves said in a post on social media late Wednesday that first responders from the county and "other state assets have been on the scene at the tragedy" where they'd confirmed at least three fatalities and multiple injuries.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a social media post late Wednesday that the Federal Highway Administration was "engaging state of ficials concerning" the "premature collapse during demolition of a bridge on State Route 149 in Mississippi.

Simpson County Sheriff Paul Mullins told WLBT-TV three people were killed and four critically injured. (AP)

Biden eulogizes Ethel Kennedy:

US President Joe Biden eulogized the late Ethel Kennedy in deeply personal terms at a memorial service Wednesday, hailing the wife of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy as "a hero in her own right, full of character, full of

integrity and em-

pathy" who helped

him through one of

the darkest periods

Presidents Barack

Obama and Bill

Clinton in speak-

ing at the memorial

former

of his life.

Biden

joined by



service in Washington. All three reflected on Ethel Kennedy's humor and warmth, her work championing social causes and her unflappable resolve in the wake of tragedy. "We're a better nation and a better world because of Ethel Kennedy," Biden said.

Biden became emotional as he recalled the Kennedy family helping him cope more than 50 years ago when his wife, 30-year-old Neilia, and their 13-monthold daughter, Naomi, were killed in a car accident, broadsided by a tractor-trailer while out shopping for a Christmas tree. The couple's two sons, Beau and Hunter, who were just about to turn 4 and 3 at the time, were also in the car and were seriously injured. (AP)

'Officers punched deaf man': Phoenix officers repeatedly punched and shocked a deaf Black man with a Taser nearly two months ago when they responded to a call that the man had committed an assault at a convenience store. according to body camera footage.

The man, Tyron Scott McAlpin, 34, has been charged with felony resisting arrest and aggravated assault stemming from the Aug. 19 encounter with the officers. McAlpin's arrest was first reported late last week by ABC15 Arizona. He has

pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Police say Officer Benjamin Harris suffered a hand injury when hitting McAlpin, while McAlpin bit the hand of Officer Kyle Sue during the struggle, which was recorded on the officers' body cameras. Neither officers' race was revealed in police reports. (AP)

'Beijing ready to work with Britain as a partner'

British Foreign Secretary Lammy to visit China and cooperation in various fields. China is ready to work with the UK BEIJING, Oct 17, (Xinhua): Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth

and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom David Lammy will pay an official visit to China from Oct 18 to 19, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced on Thursday.

The visit comes at the invitation of Wang Yi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, Mao said.

In response to a related query, the spokesperson told a press briefing that both China and the UK are permanent members of the UN Security Council and major economies in the world. The long-term and stable development of bilateral relations is in the common interests of both sides, and is also conducive to the unity of the international community in dealing with global challenges and promoting world peace and development.

This marks the first visit to China by a cabinet minister of the new British government, Mao noted, adding that the two sides will focus on implementing



Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy leaves Downing Street after a cabinet meeting, in London on July 9. (AP)

the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries during the phone talks in August, and have in-depth communication on enhancing strategic mutual trust and strengthening dialogue as a partner, uphold openness and cooperation, promote mutual benefit and

win-win results, and foster the steady and long-term development of China-UK relations, Mao added. Meanwhile, academics have raised concerns that cost-cutting measures by UK universities, amidst a financial crisis, are affecting lecturers and courses that have important "in addressing ra-

The Guardian reported. Since last year, several universities across England have made prominent professors in Black scholarship redundant, eliminating their roles and discontinuing courses in related fields.

cial disparities in higher education,"

Notable institutions, such as the University of Chichester, suspended recruitment for the Masters by Research (MRes) course on African History and the Diaspora, making the program leader, Professor Hakim Adi, redundant. Birmingham City University (BCU) has also shut down its undergraduate Black Studies program.



Leaders of Japan's political parties, (from left to right), Yuichiro Tamaki of the Democratic Party for the People, Keiichi Ishii of the Komeito Party, Yoshihiko Noda of the Constitutional Democratic Party, Shigeru Ishiba of the Liberal Democratic Party, Nobuyuki Baba of the Japan Innovation Party, Tomoko Tamura of the Japanese Communist Party and Taro Yamamoto of the Reiwa Shinsengumi Party attend the debate at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on Oct 12. (AP)

Japan's LDP may struggle to retain majority in poll

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is facing a tough challenge in the upcoming general election, with its majority in jeopardy due to the slush fund scan-

dal, according to a Kyodo News poll.

The projections, based on a telephone survey of 156,000 eligible voters and additional data gathered by Kyodo News, suggest a difficult path ahead for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's LDP, despite his efforts to restore the party's reputation and regain public trust. Nearly 30 percent of respondents in the poll remain undecided on their choice of candidate in the single-seat districts, indicating that the final outcome of the election remains uncertain, the poll results showed.

Before the dissolution of the 465-member lower house, the LDP held 256 seats. Together with its coalition partner, the Komeito party, the ruling coalition controlled 288 seats. To retain its majority, the coalition needs to secure at least 233 seats in the forthcoming election. (Xinhua)



Bereaved family members of the victims of the Halloween crush in 2022 react at the Seoul Western District Court in Seoul, South Korea on Sept 30. (AP)

S.Korea acquits ex-police chief over deadly crowd crush

A South Korean court found the former police chief of the country's capital and two other officers not guilty over a botched response to a Halloween crowd crush that killed nearly 160 people in 2022.

The verdict by the Seoul Western District Court drew

angry responses from grieving relatives and their advocates, who accused the court of refusing to hold high-level officials accountable for an incident that was largely blamed on a lack of disaster planning and an inadequate emergency response.

Kim Kwang-ho, former chief of the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, was the most senior police official among more than 20 police and government officials indicted over

the crush in Itaewon, a popular nightlife district in Seoul. Prosecutors had sought a five-year prison term for Kim.

An investigation led by the National Police Agency found that police and local officials failed to plan effective crowd control measures even though they expected more than 100,000 people to gather for Halloween events in the Itaewon neighborhood. (AP)

An anti-unification, anti-national act: Seoul

North Korea revises constitution to define South Korea as 'hostile state'

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 17, (AP): North Korea confirmed Thursday that its recently revised constitution defining South Korea as "a hostile state" for the first time, two days after it blew up front-line road and rail links that once connected the country with the South.

The back-to-back developments indicate North Korea is intent on escalating animosities against South Korea, increasing the danger of possible clashes at their tense border areas, though it's highly unlikely for the North to launch full-scale attacks in the face of more superior U.S. and South Korea forces.

The official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday that its recent demolition of parts of the northern sections of the inter-Korean road and rail links was "an inevitable and legitimate measure taken in keeping with the requirement of the DPRK constitution which clearly defines the ROK as a hostile state.

DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name, while ROK stands for Republic of Korea, the South's formal

South Korea's Unification Ministry tional reference to South Korea as a hostile state, calling it "an anti-unification, anti-national act." It said the South Korean government will sternly respond to any provocations by North Korea and unwaveringly push for a peaceful Korean unification based on the basic principle of freedom and democracy

North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament met for two days last week to rewrite the constitution but state media hadn't provided many details about the session. Leader Kim Jong Un had earlier called for the constitutional change at that parliamentary meeting to designate South Korea as the country's main enemy, remove the goal of a peaceful Korean unification and define North Korea's sovereign, territorial sphere.

Thursday's KCNA dispatch gave no further details of the new constitution, except the description of South Korea.

"There may still be an internal propaganda review underway about the appropriate way to disclose the constitutional revisions, but this confirmation was expected," said Ankit Panda, an expert with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Kim's order in January to rewrite the constitution caught many foreign experts by surprise because it was seen as eliminating the idea of shared Koreas and breaking away with his predecessors' long-cherished dreams of peacefully achieving a unified Korea on the North's terms. In the past months, North Korea has torn down monuments symbolizing rapprochement with South Korea and abolished state agencies handling inter-Korean

Some experts say Kim likely aims to guard against South Korean cultural influence and bolster his family's dvnastic rule. Others say Kim wants legal room to use his nuclear weapons against South Korea by making it as a foreign enemy state, not a partner for potential unification which shares a sense of national homogeneity. They say Kim may also want to seek direct dealings with the U.S. in future diplomacy on its nuclear program, not via South Korea.

"North Korea has fallen so far behind the South that any social exchange or financial integration might look like paths to unification by absorption," said Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul.

"Pyongyang's rejection of peaceful Korean unification is thus a strategy for regime survival and maintaining domestic control. This not only bodes ill for diplomacy but could also become an ideology motivating military

KCNA, citing North Korea's Defense Ministry, reported that North Korea on Tuesday blew up the 60-me-



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows a demolition of parts of the northern sections of unused road and rail links that once connected the country with the South, seen from North Korea on Oct 15. (AP)

ter (197 feet)-long sections of two pairs of the roads and railway routes one pair on the western portion of the inter-Korean border and the other on the eastern side of the border.

Largely built with South Korean money, the road and rail links were once a major symbol of now-dormant inter-Korean reconciliation movements. In the 2000s, the two Koreas reconnected the road and rail routes for

the first time since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, but their operations were halted later as the rivals bickered over North Korea's nuclear ambitions

and other issues. Last week, North Korea said it would permanently block its border th Korea and build front-line defense structures. South Korean officials said North Korea had been adding anti-tank barriers and laving mines

along the border since earlier this year. Animosities between the Koreas increased in recent days, with North Korea accusing South Korea of flying drones over its capital Pyongyang three times this month and vowing strong military responses if similar incidents happen again. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned that North Korea will face a regime demise if the safety of South Korean citizens is threatened.

Many observers say North Korea won't likely launch a full-blown war because it knows its military is outgunned by the U.S. and South Korean forces, and that North Korea ultimately aims to use its advancing nuclear program as leverage to wrest sanctions relief from the U.S. But they say a miscalculation could still lead to border clashes.

Intense outside attention has been on whether the North Korean constitutional change includes new legal, territorial claims around the Koreas disputed western sea boundary, the site where several deadly skirmishes and bloodsheds happened in the past 25 years.

"South Korea and the United States moves. The recent drone incident raises the possibility of miscalculation and escalation," Panda, the expert, said.

Bangladesh issues arrest warrant for Hasina over protesters deaths

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Oct 17, (AP): A special court in Bangladesh issued arrest warrants on Thursday for former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 45 others, including her close aides, on charges of crimes against humanity during a student-led uprising in July and August that forced her to flee the country, a prosecutor said.

Prosecutor B.M. Sultan Mahmud said the Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal under Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, the country's interim leader, issued the arrest warrants in response to two petitions submitted by the prosecution.

He said the head of the tribunal, Golam Mortuza Majumdar, issued the orders in the presence of other judges.

"The tribunal first accepted our petition that involved Sheikh Hasina alone. Then we moved our second petition against 45 people that involved her close aides and others for the crimes against humanity. It was also accepted by the tribunal," he said by phone.

There was no immediate reaction from Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League party.

Hasina fled the country to India on Aug. 5 after weeks of violent protests over government job quotas in which hundreds of people died. Prosecutors said in the petitions that Hasina, her close aides and security agencies were responsible for killing the protesters and others.

It is not clear if India will respond

to any request from Bangladesh for Hasina's extradition under a mutual treaty. The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Muhammad Tajul Islam, earlier said they would seek help from Interpol, if necessary, to get Hasina back.

Hasina faces more than 100 cases including ones filed on charges of crimes against humanity.

Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain said the government will "try and take necessary steps" to bring Hasina back, the United News of Bangladesh agency reported.

The Yunus-led interim government has promised to try Hasina and others in her administration for alleged crimes involving the uprising against her and has invited the United Nations to help investigate the killings. Hasina also called for investigation as she questioned the killings, saying many deaths may have involved others beyond security agencies.

Authorities say more than 750 people were killed and thousands more hurt during the mass uprising.

The new government has reconstituted the prosecution team and the judges' panel since taking power. Islam, the newly appointed chief prosecutor, was the lead lawyer of a panel that dealt with the cases of the leaders of the right-wing Jamaat-e-Islami party involving charges of crimes against humanity during the country's independence war against Pakistan in



Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro storm the the National Congress building, in Brasilia, Brazil on Jan 8, 2023. (AP)

Dozens accused of coup attempt

Brazil seeks extradition of nationals from Argentina

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 17, (AP): Brazil's Federal Police requested the extradition of dozens of people who had fled the country after being accused of storming top government offices last year, in an alleged bid to forcefully restore former President Jair Bolsonaro to office, two sources familiar with the police request told the Associated Press on Wednesday.

The police sent their request to the Supreme Court's Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who remitted it to the Justice Ministry, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. One of them said the request targets 63 people, most be-

lieved to be in neighboring Argentina. De Moraes oversees the extensive investigation into the Jan. 8 rampage in the capital, Brasilia, and has prohibited suspects and those convicted from leaving the country.

Bolsonaro - who is a target of the investigation himself - and his allies deny wrongdoing and say they are victims of political persecution, echoing former U.S. President Donald J. Trump's characterization of his legal woes. He repeatedly sowed doubt about the reliability of Brazil's voting system, never conceded defeat in the October 2022 presidential election and declined to attend President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's swearing-in.

Africa

Niger aids over 1.39m victims: The Nigerien government has assisted 1,397,665 flood victims this year, delivering approximately 97 percent of its aid plan, announced the National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Food Crises (DNPGCA) on Wednes-

Flooding caused by devastating rainfall has affected 1,447,525 people in Niger as of Wednesday.

The DNPGCA has assisted 190,812

households or 1,397,665 flood victims across eight regions. The 15th and 16th batches of aid supplies are currently being processed by Niger's Food Products Office. (Xinhua)

'Food crisis affects over 30K': More than 30,000 Cape Verdeans are currently facing a food crisis due to climate change and the Ukraine conflict, which have driven up food prices, a sen-

ior official said Wednesday.

At the opening of a conference held in Paris for World Food Day, Cape Verde's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Energy Alexandre Monteiro said that the government has implemented several measures to mitigate the impact on those affected, including subsidies for livestock feed, maize, and wheat, expanding grain storage capacity, and providing support to regulators and importers.

Mali's Goita promotes self: The head of the military junta that seized power in Mali in 2020 promoted himself Wednesday to the rank of army general with special title: Colonel Assimi Goita of the land army, the highest military distinction held only by two former heads of state in the country's history.

The move by Goita is a sign that he has no intention of ceding power to civilians in the landlocked West African country. (AP)



ter Saima Wazed Putul, (left) and sister Sheikh Rehana as she speaks to the media after casting her vote in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Jan 7. (AP)

Business

Main market index rises 0.79%

Boursa general index down 0.33%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Thursday with its general index down 23.68 points, or

0.33%, settling at 7,080.17 points. A total of 324.7 million shares were traded across 17,570 transactions, valued at KD 57.2 million (USD 174.4 million).

The main market index gained 50.94 points, or 0.79%, reaching 6,496.71 points, with 248 million shares traded through 10,865 transactions, worth KD 31 million (USD

Meanwhile, the premier market index dropped 44.61 points, or 0.59%, closing at 7,576.66 points, with 76.6 million shares traded through 6,705 transactions, valued at KD 26.19 million (USD 79.8 million).

11,907.43

4,458.67

38,911.19

7,400.33

30,143.86

85,673.50

The Main 50 index climbed 48.20 points, or 0.75%, reaching 6,445.43 points, with 200.3 million shares traded through 7,857 transactions, worth KD 25.5 million

Exports to Japan decline 39.4%

Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan shrinks 51.7 percent in September

TOKYO, Oct 17, (KUNA): Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 51.7 percent from a year earlier to JPY 37.6 billion (USD 234 million) in September, down for the first time in two months due to weak exports, government data showed on Thursday.

Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 16 years and eight months, as exports still offset imports in value, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report.

Overall Kuwaiti exports to Japan slid 39.4 percent year-on-year to JPY 62.4 billion (USD 396 million) for the first decline in two months. Imports from Japan also fell 1.1 percent to 24.8 billion (USD 155 million), down for the first time in five months.

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 14.5 percent to JPY 628.1 billion (USD 4.2 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region falling 6.8 percent from a year earlier.

Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 94.6 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, shrank 7.1 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan grew 11.7 percent on robust demand for automobiles.

The world's third-biggest economy logged a global trade deficit of JPY 294.3 billion yen (USD 1.9 billion) in September for the third consecutive month, as a weaker yen continued to push up the value of its im-

Exports shrank 1.7 percent from the year before due to sluggish shipments of automobiles and increased mineral fuels imports.

China remained Japan's biggest trade partner, followed by the US. The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal

Real estate transactions upsurge in third quarter

'Market recovery expected in late 2024 & early 2025'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Real estate consultant and **Executive Director of the** Bougar platform Fahad Al-Moumen says the third quarter of this year has been the best in terms of the volume and value of real estate transactions.

In a press statement, he said he is anticipating that the market will continue to recover over the coming months, particularly in the last quarter of 2024 and into the first quarter of 2025.

Al-Moumen revealed that regional conditions and security threats in terms of the possibility of Israel igniting a war in the region could prompt capital to settle in the coun-

He attributed the advantage that the third quarter had to the surge in trading in September, likely due to citizens returning from summer vacations and investors feeling reassured by the start of interest rate reductions by the US Federal Re-

Al-Moumen explained that he expects continued growth in real estate transactions in the residential sector due to several factors. One main factor is the arrival of electricity to various new suburbs of Mutlaa Čity, which will enable many owners of newly completed plots to sell their properties. This development is generating good demand and interest in this promising area. Also, work has begun on finishing houses and offering them for sale in other areas such as South Khaitan and South Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

Another reason for the dominance of residential real estate is the overall volume of transactions.

The regional conditions and security threats in terms of the possibility of Israel igniting a war in the region can lead to capital settling in the country. This situation is likely to increase interest in recreational real estate, particularly in lands and chalets along the coastal strip, such as Sabah Al-Ahmad Sea City, which is categorized as residential real estate.

Regarding investment real estate, Al-Moumen said he anticipates an increase in both the volume and value of transactions following the recent reductions in interest rates, which are expected to continue in upcoming sessions of the Federal Reserve. The completion of new buildings and their introduction to the market will also create opportunities for investors seeking profitable real estate.

Some private housing investors may feel pressured by rental market dynamics, prompting a shift towards investment properties known for their stability.

In terms of commercial real estate, he said he expects modest trading activity to persist, driven by available opportunities for investors. However, commercial real estate often faces challenges, as occupancy rates are typically low, and the value of these properties remains high.

Al-Moumen also predicts continued demand for storage properties, particularly if regulations preventing leasing in investment real estate basements remain in effect.

Brent crude price dips to \$74.22 pb

Kuwaiti oil price declines to \$74.15 per barrel: KPC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price went down by 31 cents to USD 74.15 per barrel (pb) on Wednesday, compared to USD 74.46 pb the previous day, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) an-

nounced on Thursday. Globally, the price of Brent crude decreased by three cents to USD 74.22 per barrel, and the West Texas Intermediate crude also went down 19 cents to USD 70.39 pb.

Kuwait's SME Development Fund launches new monitoring practices KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development

in Kuwait has introduced three new practices aimed at enhancing the monitoring and development of small businesses and entrepreneurs, reports Al-Jarida daily.

These practices will support the Fund's as-

signed roles and align with its new strategy, which will be implemented over 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. The key practices include:

External Audit Services -- The Fund will provide external audit services for both its operating and capital budgets, ensuring transparency and financial accountability.

Internal Incubation Program -- This program is aimed at small projects, offering internal technical support and collaboration with approved business incubators in the private sector.

These incubators will support startups and emerging businesses in their foundational and growth phases, helping them connect with investors and business networks.

Digital Marketing Advertisements -- The Fund will enhance its initiatives by adopting digital marketing strategies to increase the visibility of its programs and services to entrepre-

The Fund's business incubators provide criti-

cal services, including qualification, guidance, administrative, technical, and moral support, which are essential for the success and sustainability of small businesses.

According to Article 27 of the Fund's Law, these incubators are responsible for supporting projects at every stage -- before, during, and after incubation -- by offering training, research, marketing, and economic support in line with global best practices.

These measures aim to create a more robust business environment and increase the success rate of small businesses in Kuwait.

Interest rate cuts and foreign investment drive economic optimism

UAE non-oil growth to remain strong in 2025, driven by reforms & investments

By National Bank of Kuwait

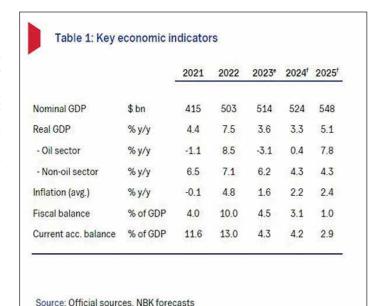
Non-oil growth will remain strong in ■ 2025 at 4%+ supported by interest rate cuts, foreign investment inflows, mega construction projects, proactive government reforms and growth in tourism and trade. Oil GDP will also see large output gains with the unwinding of OPEC+ cuts. The real estate boom has proven durable and should persist into 2025 given strong non-oil growth and inflows of workers and investment, while inflation is set to remain low. The main downside risks to this impressive economic picture are a potential escalation in regional conflict that hits investment and confidence, and slower global growth given the UAE's internationally geared economic model.

Economic growth robust on reforms, investments

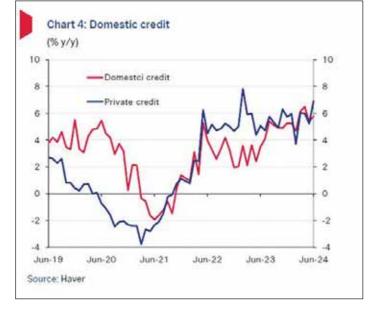
The economic outlook for 2025 is positive, supported by ongoing infrastructure development plans including to raise oil and gas production capacity, a still-buoyant real estate and construction sector and surging tourism. The rollout of various economic initiatives and strategies over the past three years, including foreign ownership and visa reforms, have transformed the UAE into a major recipient of FDI inflows, ranking first among the MENA countries in 2023 according UNCTAD, while doubling the number of registered companies to more than a million since 2020. Moreover, helped by a growing network of trade agreements, external trade grew by 21% in 2021-2023, exceeding the 8.5% yearly growth target of the authorities' 2031 "We the UAE" vision.

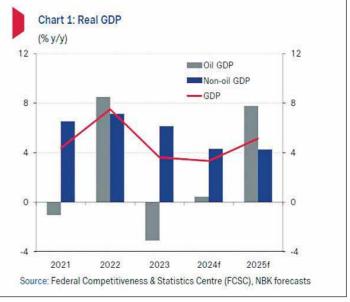
The non-oil economy is expected to see another year of 4%+ growth in 2025. The robust expansion in private credit recorded in 2024 (+6.9% y/y in June) and higher investment inflows, which have partly been channeled through the financial and real estate markets - the Dubai equity market was up 8.5% in Q1-Q3 2024 while Dubai real estate sales rose 30% y/y – are likely to be key drivers of domestic demand in 2025 as well. Looser monetary policy, relatively low inflation and a rising population should also be supportive of consumer activity over the forecast period.

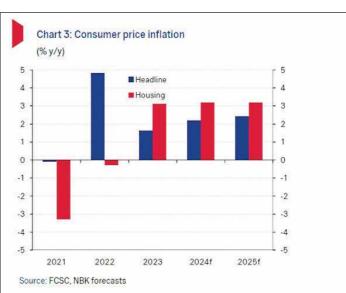
The oil sector is poised to rebound in 2025 (+7.8%) after lackluster growth in 2024 (+0.4%), as OPEC+ commences unwinding its production cuts from December 2024. Output should reach 3.4 mb/d by end-2025. At the rate that state-owned ADNOC and its partners are ramping up \$30 billion of upstream oil and gas projects (MEED estimates), the UAE is likely to reach its 5 mb/d production capacity target one year early, in 2026. In sum, total GDP growth could accelerate to 5.1% in 2025 from an expected 3.3% this year. Robust as this is, however, it is still below the 7.2% annual average growth rate the government requires to achieve vision 2031 target of a doubling in GDP by 2031.

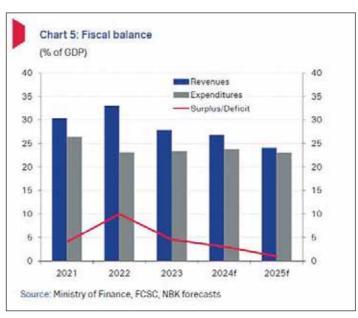












Property market strength endures, inflation contained

Real estate market strength has persisted due to the influx of expatriate workers and foreign investment, given its status as a safe haven for funds. Dubai real estate sales reached AED375 billion (\$102 billion) in Q1-Q3 2024 (+30% y/y), easing from the 62% y/y seen in the same period of 2023. A further easing from these exceptional rates is seen through 2025, while growth in real estate prices for 2025 should also moderate (currently +20% y/y in Dubai; +8% in Abu Dhabi Jan-Sep 2024), helped by increased unit supply. However, interest rate cuts should stimulate demand further, especially luxury apartments given their relatively lower valuations and potential for higher returns. Meanwhile, consumer price inflation is expected to edge slightly higher from 2.2% (average) this year to 2.4% in 2025 - still low against a backdrop of robust economic growth. We see scope for rising supply to cap growth in housing rents following the strong performance witnessed this year (+6.5% y/y Jan-Aug in Dubai), while transportation costs would decline due to lower fuel prices in 2025 given our projection of lower oil prices.

Fiscal surplus to narrow, but external buffers strong

The government's fiscal position remains solid compared to some GCC peers, but continued high outlays and lower oil prices over the forecast period will see the surplus narrow from 3.1% this year to 1% of GDP in 2025. The federal UAE and Dubai budgets earmark higher spending allocations for 2025 (+11.5% budget-on-budget to AED72 billion and +5.8% to AED84 billion, respectively), a sign of intent for the authorities as they proceed with ambitious investment and infrastructure plans. Government debt will continue to fall over the forecast period, from 31% of GDP in 2023, according to the IMF, to 27% of GDP by end-2025. The moderate government debt level, strong net external asset position (ADIA, Mubadala, DIF, EIA assets at \$1.5 trillion, or 280% of GDP), and strong increases in non-oil exports and tourism should preserve the sovereign's high credit rating, recently reaffirmed with a stable outlook by rating agency Fitch at "AA" for Abu Dhabi and "AA-" for the UAE.

Rising geopolitical tensions are a risk to the outlook

The expansionary stance of the local and federal budgets, upcoming interest rate cuts, large construction projects, and the expected rise in oil production provide a solid foundation for the economic outlook. But key downside risks include a potential escalation in regional conflicts, which could deter investment, or a downturn in the global economy. The latter would translate into lower oil prices and could have a larger impact on the UAE's non-oil activity compared to peers given its more internationally-integrated (and exposed)

Gulf Bank rewards 100 winners with KD 1,000 each

Latest AlDanah Millionaire Account draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: As part of its commitment to rewarding customers, Gulf Bank has announced 100 winners in the AlDanah Millionaire Account's latest prize draw, with each winner receiving a KD 1,000 reward. This marks the first time the bank has distributed the quarterly prize of KD 100,000 among 100 winners, rather than awarding the full amount to just one individual.

On this occasion, Mr. Bader Al-Ali, Acting General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, congratulated the 100 winners and wished other AlDanah Millionaire Account holders the best of luck in upcoming draws across all categories.

Mr. Al-Ali noted that customers who did not win this time will still have numerous opportunities to participate in upcoming draws, leading up to the grand prize of KD 2 million, which will be drawn on January 30, 2025. The final date for deposit and participation in the draw is November 30, 2024

He affirmed that the bank will continue to invest generously to provide an exceptional customer experience through its advanced digital capabilities, and by enhancing the skills of its employees - in line with its strategy to establish Gulf Bank as the "Bank of the Fu-

Gulf Bank's Chief Marketing Officer, Mrs. Najla Aleisa, explained, "The bank's decision to distribute the quarterly prize among 100 winners came in response to customer feedback. We are committed to regularly gathering our customers' opinions and suggestions to improve our products and services in line with their needs.

She continued, "For more than 25 years, the Al-Danah Millionaire account has enabled us to build strong customer relationships and achieve significant milestones, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability and supporting impactful community initiatives and events.'

Mrs. Aleisa concluded, "We are excited to keep rewarding our customers for saving with the AlDanah Millionaire account and encourage everyone to continue depositing to increase their chances of winning in the many draws held throughout the year.'

Earlier, Gulf Bank revised the AlDanah Millionaire Account draw schedule twice. The first change increased the grand prize from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million, while the second change involved distributing the quarterly KD 100,000 prize among 100 winners rather than just one.

The revised schedule now includes two major millionaire draws annually: the grand prize draw for KD 2 million and the semi-annual draw for KD 1 million. Additionally, there will be 10 winners in the monthly draws, each receiving KD 1,000, and another draw distributing KD 100,000 among 100 winners, with each receiving KD

The AlDanah account is one of the top savings accounts in Kuwait, offering regular draws with valuable prizes and numerous benefits for account holders. Each month, 10 winners receive KD 1,000. Additionally, there are two quarterly draws of KD 100,000 each, a semi-annual draw with a prize of KD 1 million, and an annual grand prize draw of KD 2 million.

One of the key features of the AlDanah Account is that it is the only account in Kuwait that transfers your



Group photo of Gulf Bank officials, with Bader Al Ali in the middle



Bader Al-Ali

■ Congratulations to the 100 winners, we wish

■ The bank is committed to making generous investments to deliver an exceptional bank-

vanced digital capabilities.

ing experience for customers through its ad-

chances of winning from the previous year to the next,

as part of the bank's loyalty rewards program. To in-

crease the chances of winning, customers are encour-

the best of luck to all other customers in the

upcoming KD 2 million draw on January 30th,

Bader Al-Ali:



Najla Aleisa

Najla Aleisa:

■ The decision to distribute the quarterly prize among 100 winners was made in response to customer feedback.

■ We are excited to keep rewarding our customers for saving with the AlDanah Millionaire account and increasing their chances of win-

aged to maintain a minimum balance of KD 200 or increase their deposit to continuously enhance their chances of winning in the monthly, quarterly, and an-



Ministry of Commerce and Industry official during the

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.

AlDanah Power Your Dreams

Kuwait's largest number of draws!

Congratulations to the 100 lucky winners of KD1,000 each.

- 1. ALI MULA AHMAD ABDULLA ALI 2. AAFTAB MURAD GIRI
- 3. ABD ALHADY JASAM IBRAHEM AL SIRAFE
- 4. ABDELKHALEO HASHEM KHUDHEER 5. ABDULAZIZ FAHAD MAATOUQ ALASLAWI
- 7. ABDULAZIZ SWAYAN RASHED ALAZEMI
- 8. ABDULLA IASEM MOHAMMED ALHAMAR
- 9. ABDULMOHSEN ABDULSAMAD TAOI ALSAFFAR 10. ABDULWAHAB MUSAED ABDULAZIZ ALYASEEN - MINOR
- 11. ABEER MOHAMMED ABDULLAH ALRABAH
- 15. AHMED AWAD AL ASOUSEY
- 16. ALEYAH MOHAMMAD ALI DASHTI 17. ALI ABDULAZIZ ALI SAFAR - MINOR

- 18. ALI ABDULGHAFAR MOHAMMED ITSH 19. ALI ADEL MOHAMMED AL MATROOK
- 20. ALI HASHEM SAYED ALALAWI
- 21. ALI MALEK RAHEEM DASHTI 22. ALI MOHAMAD HAMMOUD
- 24. AMAL RASHED ABDULLA ALSHAMALI
- 25. AMEENAH AHAMED ABDULNABI JAFAR
- 26. ANWAR ABDLHAMID AHMAD HUSSEIN 27. ASIA HUMOUD MARZOUO ALSHAMMARI
- 28. AYOUB YOUSEF ALI KAMAL

- 32. BASEL ABDULMAIEED SUWAYED ALNASSAD 33. DALAL ABDULLAH ABDULLATEEF ALRUJAIB
- 34. DARA FAWZI ABDULRAHMAN ALJODER
- 35. ELSAYED MOHAMED ABD ELRAHMAN ZEINA 36. EMAD DAWOOD JAMAAN ALAWADH
- 37. FAHAD ABDULLAH FAHAD ALANBEEI 38. FALAH ABDULRASOOL ABDULREDA BEHBEHANI
- 39. FARES SADEQ HUSSAIN BOSHEHRI
- 41. FAWZIAH ABDULLA IBRAHIM BUTEEBAN
- 42. FERAS MAHMOUD ABED ODEH
- 43. FOTOUH ABDULAZIZ AHMAD ALRAOUM 44. HALA MAAROUF ALHUSSAIN
- 46. HANAN YOUSEF ABDULLA ALHABEEB
- 50. JESSICA MAHER YAZJI 51. KAID FAKHRUDDIN ABDULQADER

- 54. KHALED HUSSAIN ABDALRASOUL AL FAILAKAWI

- 45. HANADI ABDULLATEEF FARHAN ALDOUKHI
- 49. JASEM HAYDER ABBAS REDHA

- 52. KAIRAV VIIAY KUMAR SHARMA 53. KANEZA AWAD BLOSHI
- - 55. KHALED ABDULNABI AWADH BEHBEHANI
 - 56. KHALED MAHMOUD MOHYI ALDEEN AHMADI
 - 58. LAHOOD DBYAN NAHAITER
 - 59. LAILA SALEH ALI ALDOUSARI
 - 60. LAYLA MOHAMMED HUSSAIN ALSHAMKHANI
 - 61. MALEHA ABDULRAZAQ ALWAZZAN
- - 66. MEJBEL KHALEEL MEFDHI ALENEZI MINOR
- - 67. MOHAMED ABDULAZIZ THAHER ALMUTAIRI MINOR 68. MOHAMED SABRY ABDELKADER ABDELMAGEED
- 69 MOHAMMAD ARDIILI AH ESSA ROLIALIYAN 70. MOHAMMAD ABDULRAHMAN AHMAD MOHAMMAD
- 71. MOHAMMAD ESMAEIL ESMAEILI
- 72. ΜΟΗΔΜΜΔΟ ΗLISSAIN ΔΙ Ι ΔSΗΚΔΝΔΝΙ
- 73. MOHAMMAD SAOUD NAMSHAN ALNAMSHAN
- 75. MOHAMMED FADHEL HABIB ALSARAF
- 76. MOHAMMED REDHA MOHD MOHAMMED 77. MOHD ABBAS ABOUD FADEL ALROUDHAN
- 78. MOSAAD AHMAD MOHAMMAD SHAMSALDEEN
- 79. MUBARAK ABDULLAH FAHAD AL MUTAIRI

- 83. NOUR MERDHI SABAH ALFADGHAM

85. OMAR ELDABE IBRAHIM ALI

- 84. NOURA ABDULLAH FAYEZ ALAIMI
- 87. PRATHEESH PADINHARE VEEDU KARTHANAN
 - 88. RABAB MOHD ISMAEIL KAMAL

86. OSSEILAH MUBARAK SHALHOUB

- 89. ΡΔSHIDAREN ΜΑΗΒΙΙΚ ΜΑΙ ΡΙΙΚWΑΙ Α 90. RIMAH OBAID MOHAMMAD ALDHAFEERI
- 92. SANIA SHOEB MOHAMMED MOHAMMED
- 93. SHAHLA JAMIL DRIS FALAHI 94. SUAD SALEH ALI ALKHATEEB
- 95. TAREQ HLAL HASSAN ALDWAIKHE 96. WAFEEQAH AHMAD HASAN AL SAEED

100. ZANIB ABEDALI MOHAMMAD ALBLOUSH

Don't miss your chance to be a multi-millionaire! The closing date for the AlDanah KD2,000,000 draw is 30th November 2024. There's still time to deposit more and increase your chances of winning. Remember the more you save, the greater the opportunity to win with Gulf Bank,

Kuwait's most rewarding bank.



View the names of all 100 winners e-gulfbank.com/AlDanah · 1805805



Kuwait's first digital bank showcases SELECT Card benefits

Weyay Bank launches interactive pop-up at The Assima Mall

Bank, Kuwait's first digital bank,sets up an engaging pop-up at The Assima Mall from 13 to 22 October to interact directly with visitors, understand their needs, and provide them with worthwhile digital products that are tailored for their needs.

This step comes as part of its commitment to offer customers an elevated digital banking experience, empowering the youth community with innovative financial products within a seamless app interface. The visitors will have the chance to learn about the exclusive benefits of the SELECT Card, the new digital prepaid card, designed exclusively for Weyay allowance customers as well as about the Bank's extensive range of banking solutions, enabling customers to find the potential fit for their needs.

Commenting on the event, Dana Al-Kharafi, Marketing and Engagement Manager at Weyay Bank, said: "Weyay Bank aims to deliver an unparalleled, exceptional experience to



Dana Al-Kharafi

all customers and strives to always exceed their expectations. Our presence at The Assima Mall is an excellent opportunity for students to explore the benefits of the SELECT Card while all visitors can enjoy an entertaining experience through which they get to learn more about



Weyay Bank hosts pop-up at Assima Mall to engage with visitors.

the Bank's latest features and of-

SELECT, the name itself is so bound up with what this exclusive community is all about. All Weyay allowance customers are eligible to be part of the SELECT community and get their SELECT Card as soon as

the first allowance hits their accounts. The SELECT community is entitled for exclusive discounts and benefits ranging from the new iPhone offerfrom steat the best price in the market, starting from KWD 19/monthly. 40% cashback on orders from Jahez and Cari apps, 10% cashback on

Trolley purchases to 5 KD vouchers from Oula Fuel Station every weekend. Throughout the Bank's presence at The Assima Mall, some SELECT partners elaborate on their added value as part of the SELECT experience, giving glimpses of their services like Motery that offers a monthly free car wash, Elate Tea, and GetMojo.

As a fully digital bank, Weyay is

committed to its leading role in providing innovative digital financial solutions to all customers. The Bank stands out by providing a unique banking experience that prioritizes convenience, security, and accessibility. Since its inception in 2021, Weyay Bank has been at the forefront of digital banking innovation, redefining traditional banking norms to provide a hasslefree, 24/7, and a paperless banking experience, tailored specifically for the vouth demographic.

The Weyay app is packed with features designed to streamline financial management for users.ItsDigital Store allows young users to enjoy their fa-

In its pavilion at the 'Beit Alomor' Expo

vorite e-cards for gaming, music, and shopping, whether it's iTunes, Steam, Amazon, PlayStation Plus, or more, all are available within the app.

Users can also conveniently and directly access stespecial promotions and services with best prices. With Saving Pots, users can set personalized savings goals, and those who upgrade to Saving Pot Pro can even earn monthly interests on their savings, enhancing their financial growth. The Budgeting and Tracking feature makes it easy to monitor expenses with just a few taps, providing a clear view of spending habits.

All the details about Weyay Bank's digital products and services are available on www.weyaybank.com or in the Weyay app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

As Weyay Bank continues to redefine the banking landscape in Kuwait, customers are encouraged to stay tuned for forthcoming initiatives to discover how Weyay Bank is shaping the future of the world of finance.



Alfouz account

Alfouz account simplifies entry

ABK announces Nabiha Salah Youssef as Alfouz draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to announce Nabiha Salah Youssef as the winner of Alfouz KD 10,000 weekly draw on Monday 14 October 2024. The draw took place in the presence of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative, ensuring transparency.

From the highly coveted mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for 10 years to its KD 10,000 weekly prize, the Alfouz account has already attracted the attention of the Kuwaiti market.Based on the account's great success, ABK decided to go above and beyond to reward customer loyalty.

By introducing a KD 100,000 quarterly draw, in addition to an exciting KD 20,000 monthly draw, the Alfouz offering has continues to surpass expectations and deliver even more customer satisfaction.

To top it off, ABK has simplified the ability to open the account and win! Customers can enter the draws and get extra entry chances for every KD 10 deposited. The more you save, the higher your chance to be the next Alfouz winner!

ABK encourages everyone to open an Alfouz draw account or increase their balance to participate in the upcoming weekly draw, which is scheduled to take place onMonday21 October 2024.

Open an Alfouz account today and enjoy increased opportunities to win the lifestyle you've been waiting for!

To learn more about the Alfouz account and its range of exciting draws and prizes, please follow the ABK's Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches

Warba showcases various financing solutions of products

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Warba Bank announced its participation in the Beit Alomor Exhibition, which was held from October 7 to 12, 2024. During its participation in this exhibition, the Bank presented various and distinguished financing solutions in addition to the many products that distinguish the Bank and which achieved great success during their display and presentation.

Commenting on the participation in the exhibition, Saud Waleed Al Shabak, Executive Manager of Direct Sales at Warba Bank, said: "It comes as part of the Bank's interest in numerous events and activities, and through these participation the

products and

that it provides to

services

various



ments of society. Al-Shabak explained that

Waleed Al Shabak mor Exhibition is considered one of the successful exhibitions that receives wide public interest, as it

gives the opportunity to buy or own a home of a lifetime or obtain real estate investment opportunities. Al-Shabak pointed out that Warba tinctive group of personal financing and investment solutions that are

Bank provides its clients with a discompatible with the provisions of Islamic Sharia, the most important of which is financing construction materials or furniture, which gives clients the opportunity to design and build their dream home in their own way, in addition to other types of



Beit Alomor exhibition

financing that meet all the different needs of our clients, whether cars, boats, marine equipment or electron-

He also highlighted the salary transfer campaign at Warba Bank for the year 2024. In the event that the salary is transferred, the customer receives a cash gift of up to KD 15,000 in addition to weekly cash withdrawals of KD 1,000 or 25 grams of gold or 35,000 miles from the Oasis Club, with special rates provided on personal finance transactions. Warba Bank also provides the Sunbula Account, which is an investment savings account that allows clients to enter weekly and quarterly draws for cash prizes with a total value of KD 1,500,000.

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





VIRAAZ



Mr. Shamlal Ahamed highlights the significance of jewellery

Malabar Gold & Diamonds prepares for 'Karva Chauth' with exclusive collection

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, is gearing up to welcome the auspicious occasion of Karva Chauth with a vast array of exclusive jewellery designs and exciting offers. The festival celebrates the love and devotion between married couples and is celebrated with great fervour and excitement amongst Indian expats in the country.

Karva Chauth is a cherished Hindu festival celebrated across northern Indian states such as Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Himachal Pradesh. On this day, married women observe a day-long fast as a heartfelt expression of love for their husbands, who, in return, honour their wives with gifts symbolizing gratitude and appreciation. Jewellery, in particular, has long been a favoured token of affection during the festival. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has unveiled its special Festive Edition collection across its UAE showrooms, offering an exquisite selection of gold, diamond, and precious gem jewellery. These timeless pieces make for the perfect, meaningful gift to express love and appreciation on this special occasion.

"Karva Chauth is a cherished cele-

bration in Indian culture, deeply rooted in love, sacrifice, and devotion. With its timeless allure, jewellery becomes the perfect gift for this occasion, representing enduring love and unity while serving as a lifelong reminder of the shared special bond. At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, we take pride in offering an exquisite range of jewellery and added value for customers, making us the ideal choice for Karva Chauth gifting. As our campaign tagline states, 'Malabar - With You in All Your Celebrations,' we are committed to enriching every festivity for our valued customers," said Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds

With the festive season in full swing, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has unveiled exciting offers to enhance the celebrations of their customers. Customers purchasing Diamond or precious gem jewellery worth AED 5,000 will be eligible for a free 1gm gold coin, and purchases worth AED 3,000 will get a 1/2gm gold coin. Customers can also exchange their old 916 gold jewellery for the latest designs without loss. Additionally, the brand will also be setting up Special Buy counters at their showrooms, offering incredible discounts on selected jewellery de-

About Malabar Gold & Diamonds Malabar Gold & Diamonds was established in 1993 and is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomer-

With an annual turnover of \$6.2 billion, the company currently ranks as the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of over 360 outlets spread across 13 countries in addition to multiple offices, design centers, wholesale units and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East, USA, Canada, UK& Australia. The group, owned by more than 4,000 shareholders, has more than 21,000 professionals from over 26 countries working towards its continued success. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favorite jewelry at any time and on any day from the comfort of their homes.

The group also operates MGD – Lifestyle Jewellery, a retail concept offering trendy and light weight jewellery that represents the independent and the modern woman through its designs and collections.

Shri Fidelis Fernandes directs free musical drama

First-ever Goan musical drama 'Kuwaitchi Mati'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: For the first time in Kuwait's history, a Goan individual, Shri Fidelis Fernandes, organized and directed a free musical drama, 'Kuwaitchi Mati', on 4th October 2024. This event brought together some of the biggest names in Goan 'tiatr', captivating the audience with a mix of impressive vocals, compelling acting, and comedy. The drama featured a heartwarming story about Simon Gonsalves, who moves to Kuwait, leaving his family behind

in Goa, and ends on a high note of hope and resilience. The show, which was in the works

for months, included a stellar cast of Goan superstars like Lawry Travasso, Antonette de Maina, Saby de Divar, and comedians Agostinho, Janet, and Ben Evangelisto. The comedic trio particularly delighted the audience with their sharp humor, making the performance even more engaging. The musical aspect of the drama, led by Maestro Shahu Almeida and his

talented orchestra, was a vibrant high-

light of the event.

In a moving moment, Fidelis Fernandes knelt before a statue of Our Lady of Vailankanni, expressing his gratitude and dedicating the performance to Kuwait Goans. He also honored several community figures with 'Excellence Awards' as a gesture of appreciation for their contributions. The event was graced by Chief Guest Lassad Karoui, who praised Fidelis for his dedication to both the company and the Goan community in







Photos during the event.

Features



Obituary

Kuwaiti historian bridging cultures with BEM

Essa Dashti chronicles Kuwait's historic bonds with Britain

By Chaitali B. Roy Special to the Arab Times

When the history of Kuwait's close relationship with Britain is written in future years, one Kuwaiti name will invariably be mentioned: Essa Dashti, BEM. And it is not because this dietician shares his birthday with Queen Victoria, a British monarch he admires. or because he is fond of all things British, but because of his continuous and prolific work documenting nuances and aspects of Kuwait's ties with Britain.

"Essa Dashti, recipient of the British Empire Medal, has worked tirelessly for many years to research and promote the historic relationship between the UK and Kuwait," notes Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to Kuwait. "An expert on the longstanding friendship between the British Royal family and the Al Sabahs, Essa has also published many books and curated exhibitions on the broader cultural and trading relationship between the two nations."

Essa Dashti is a dietician, and although he continues to practice his profession full-time, Kuwait's historical relationship with Britain is a passion. "History was a hobby for me," smiles Essa Dashti. "We had a large library in our house because my parents loved to read.

My father also took us to book fairs regularly to buy books. Then, on family vacations, our first stop was museums. My father, an art teacher, would explain the paintings on display and teach us the small details.'



This interest in history led Essa to collect postage stamps, mainly British stamps used in Kuwait, which sparked further research. Stamps had a language of their own. Their colors, styles, content and images told their own stories. When Essa's father, a stamp collector himself, found out about his son's hobby, he introduced him to the philatelic department of the post office. "The Philatelic Society taught me to collect the right stamps and how to preserve

them. Essa started reading more about stamps. "I came across a Queen Elizabeth coronation stamp in Kuwait and started reading about it. This opened a door for me into Kuwaiti British relations, which interestingly began with the postal service." Essa started focusing on British stamps used in Kuwait and reading stories behind them.

In 2011, he wrote an article titled 'The British Crown on Kuwait's Stamp'. "I wrote about St Edward's crown in this article. The President of the Philatelic Society read the article, liked it and asked me to publish a book.'

In 2012, Essa Dashti published his first book on the diamond jubilee of the late Queen. It centred on a stamp with the coronation bouquet with flowers from different parts of the United Kingdom." Each time Essa visited London, he bought stamps, books, magazines, photographs and a lot of material about Oueen Elizabeth including an original invitation to her coronation intended for Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al Sabah. "I love Queen Elizabeth. She is an icon and the most famous queen of this century.'

One wonders if there is enough documentation of Kuwait's relationship with some of its closest allies for writers like Essa Dashti to write his books. "Not really," he



Essa Dashti



Essa Dashti receiving the British Empire Medal from HE Belinda Lewis, British Ambassador to Kuwait.



Essa Dashti shares insights about his collection on the British monarchy with HRH Prince William during his visit to Kuwait.

shakes his head with regret. "There are few books in the libraries on relations between Kuwait and the United Kingdom. You may find some mention of the 1899 agreement, border issues, commercial and trade cooperation, etc. But I want to learn more about diplomatic relationships, social, artistic, cultural connections, and royal or Amiri visits. These are important topics, but you will find nothing."

Sensing the lacuna, Essa decided to set it right. In the beginning, he was a bit nervous, as he had no precedence to guide him, but what backed him up was his books on British stamps in Kuwait and his faith in his research. In 2012, HH Sheikh Sabah, the

erstwhile Amir, visited Britain. Essa proposed publishing a book on Queen Elizabeth's earlier visit to Kuwait to mark the occasion. He

already had the resource material in his growing collection. "I enjoyed publishing that book. Copies of the books went with Sheikh Sabah to London. The feedback was great. I received wonderful letters of thanks from His Highness, the Amir, and Her Majesty, the Queen. It gave me positive energy to do more and more." Soon, Dashti began publishing prolifically and now has 35 books to his credit.

"When I see University students use my books as a resource for their Master's or PhD dissertations, it makes me happy. When Frank Baker, Mathew Lodge, Micheal Davenport and Belinda Lewis, four British ambassadors I have worked with, and Kuwaiti diplomats say they use my books as resource material, I feel proud." The letters he has received from both governments and heads of state thanking him for his efforts is what he calls his actual compensation.

Relationship

How old is Kuwait's relationship with Britain? Most websites and history books erroneously mention 1899 as the beginning of this relationship, but Essa Dashti says that the roots of this relationship go back to the 18th century. "This year, we are celebrating 125 years of Kuwait-British relationship, which refers to the second agreement signed between Kuwait and Britain in 1899. This agreement is important because it marked the clear outlines of this relationship, but our real relationship goes back 250 years to 1775," he discloses.

In the middle of the 18th century, the Gulf office of the East India Company was in Basra. Post travelled from India to Basra. Problems between the Ottoman Empire and the Persian Empire made Kuwait a safe haven for the East India Company. "In 1775, when it became difficult for the British to work in Basra, they shifted the postal service known as the British Express Desert Line to Kuwait,' he shares.

"Kuwait became the mailing centre and headquarters of the East India Company in 1775, and it remained there for four years until Basra was safe. After this, The East India Company shifted to Kuwait whenever there was unrest in Basra. This happened three times, and by then, the British signed a treaty of cooperation with Kuwait, leading to the first agreement in 1841."

The Treaty of 1841 was signed to prevent piracy in the Gulf waters. When asked about the evolving relationship between Kuwait and Britain, Essa Dashti says, "Our relationship has improved at each phase. It began with the postal service, moved to trust and diplomatic collaboration and then moved into major cooperation.

Why is knowledge of Kuwait's relationship with countries like Britain important? "In 1991, we saw what happened," he explains. "We could not have been liberated in seven months without our allies and good friends. This is our real investment. Future generations must know the value of this investment."

The most important day in Essa's life came in May 2021, when he was invited to meet the British ambassador in her office. He was informed that he would be honored with the coveted British Empire Medal. "I wanted to shout, jump and dance with joy," he laughs. "It was an honor not only for me but for Kuwait. I am the first Kuwaiti to receive this honor and am very proud of it.'



Liam Payne performs during the first day of BBC Radio 1's Biggest Weekend at Singleton Park, in Swansea, Wales, May 26, 2018. (AP)



People gather outside the hotel where former One Direction singer Liam Payne was found dead after he fell from a balcony in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024. (AP)

Singer falls to death

Liam Payne, One Direction member, passes away at 31

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 17, (AP): Former One Direction singer Liam Payne, 31, whose chart-topping British boy band generated a global following of swooning fans, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, local officials said.

Buenos Aires police said in a statement that Payne fell from the third floor of the Casa Sur Hotel in the trendy Palermo neighborhood of Argentina's capital, resulting in "extremely serious injuries." Medics confirmed his death on the spot, the statement said.

Pablo Policicchio, the communications director for the Ruenos Aires Security Ministry, said in a statement to The Associated Press that Payne "had jumped from the

balcony of room.' Police rushed to the hotel in response to an emergency call just after 5 p.m. local time, he said, warning of "aggressive man who could be under the influ-



ence of drugs or alcohol."

The hotel manager can be heard on a 911 call obtained by the AP saying they had "a guest who is overwhelmed with drugs and alcohol ... He's destroying the entire room and, well, we need you to send someone, please." The manager's voice became more anxious as the call went on, noting the room had a balcony.

Investigation

Alberto Crescenti, head of the state emergency medical system, told Argentina's Todo Noticias TV channel that authorities were investigating the circumstances of his death and conducting an au-

Payne had been vocal about struggling with alcoholism, posting a video in July 2023 to his You-Tube channel where he said he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment. Representatives for Payne did not immediately return emails and calls.

Dozens of One Direction fans flocked from across Buenos Aires to the Casa Sur Hotel after the news broke, forming lines that spilled into the cordoned-off street outside the hotel where police stood sentinel. Forensic investigators were seen exiting the hotel, from where Payne's body was removed around three hours after the fall. Young women filming with their cellphones expressed shock and heartbreak as a makeshift memorial with rows of candles and bouquets quickly grew outside the hotel.

"I didn't think he was going to die so young," 21-year-old Isabella Milesi told the AP.

Payne was one of five members of One Direction, which formed when they each auditioned for the British singing competition series "The X Factor" in 2010, two years after Payne's first attempt to get on the show. At 16 the second time around, Payne sang Michael Bublé's version of "Cry Me a River," appearing nervous at the start but warming up with the audience's cheers and applause.

After each singer failed to make it through the competition as solo acts, Simon Cowell and his fellow judges combined Payne, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson into what would become one of the most successful boy bands - even though they lost the competition.

Each member had their own persona, with Payne - who hailed from Wolverhampton, a city in the West Midlands region of England - being known as the responsible one. The band became known for their pop sound and romantic hits "What Makes You Beautiful," "Night Changes" and "Story of My Life." Payne had prominent solos on songs including "Stole My Heart" and "Change Your Ticket," co-writing several of the band's hits. They had six Top 10 hits on the Billboard charts by the time they disbanded in 2016 and a highly loyal fan base, known as "Directioners," many of whom were teen

"I've always loved One Direction since I was little," said 18-yearold Juana Relh, another fan outside Pavne's hotel. "To see that he died and that there will never be another reunion of the boys is unbelievable, it kills me."

Shock

With his meteoric rise to fame, Payne had said that it took some time to adjust to the public eye.

"I don't think you can ever deal with that, it's all a bit crazy for us to see that people get in that sort of state of mind about us and what we do," he said in a 2013 interview with the AP after recounting an experience where a fan was in a state of shock upon meeting him.

After the group's dissolution, Payne - like each of his erstwhile bandmates - pursued a solo career, shifting toward EDM and hiphop. His 2017 single "Strip That Down," featuring Quavo, reached the Billboard Top 10, and stayed on the charts for several months. He put out an album "LP1" in 2019, and his last release - a single called "Teardrops" - was released in March.

Payne had a 7-year-old son, Bear Grey Payne, with his former girlfriend, the musician Cheryl who was known as Cheryl Cole when she performed with Girls Aloud. She was an "X Factor" judge during One Direction's season, although their relationship began years later. Payne was previously engaged to Maya Henry, from August 2020 to early 2022. Henry released a novel earlier this year that she said was based on their relationship.

In addition to his son, he is survived by his parents, Geoff and Karen Payne, and his two older sisters, Ruth and Nicola.

Variety

NEW YORK: The Walt Disney Co. is set to pilot a new pass for guests to get on rides faster at its domestic theme parks, but the cost might be a bit out of reach for many.

Disney said Wednesday that its Lightning Lane Premier Pass is set to debut at Disneyland on Oct. 23 and Disney World on Oct. 30. The pass is for one-time entry to each available Lightning Lane experience at the theme parks, and guests will still need to purchase a separate

admission ticket to enter the parks. The pass is similar to Disney's existing Lightning Lane Single Pass and Lightning Lane Multi Pass in that it lets guests skip the standby line and use the Lightning Lane entrance to join what is typically a shorter line. Many guests like to use such passes to try to save time so that they can attempt to ride more attractions and partake in more park experiences, like shows and charac-

ter meet and greets. One of the perks for guests who purchase the Lightning Lane Premier Pass is that they will not have to choose a specific arrival time for an attraction. This is different from Disney's Lightning Lane Single Pass and Lightning Lane Multi Pass options, which require guests to se-

lect a specific arrival time. At Disneyland in Anaheim, California, the Lightning Lane Premier Pass will cost \$400 per person, per day for visits to both Disneyland and Disney California Adventure through the end of the year as long as the guest also has a valid admission ticket with a Park Hopper benefit. (AP)

NEW YORK: Percival Everett's novel "James," his acclaimed re-working of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," has won a \$50,000 prize that continues Everett's recent wave of literary honors.

On Wednesday night, "James" was awarded the Kirkus Prize for fiction. Everett's novel, which imagines Mark Twain's classic from the perspective of the escaped enslaved man whom Huckleberry Finn befriends, is also a finalist for the National Book Award and the Booker Prize.

In the past three years, Everett has been a runner-up for the Pulitzer Prize and for the National Book Critics Circle prize, won the PEN/
Jean Stein award for the novel "Dr. No" and

received such

lifetime achieve-

ment honors as

the Windham-

and the Hurston/

Wright Legacy

erature

Prize



Everett

Award. His 2001 novel ure" was adapted last year into the Oscar-nominated film "American Fiction.'

Adam Higginbotham's "Challenger," about the 1986 space shuttle tragedy, won the Kirkus Prize for nonfiction; and Kenneth M. Cadow's "Gather," a coming-of-age novel set in rural Vermont, was cited for young readers' literature. Like Everett, Higginbotham and Cadow each will receive \$50,000.

LAS VEGAS: Jake E. Lee, a former guitarist for Ozzy Osbourne, was shot and wounded multiple times in Las Vegas early Tuesday morning. Las Vegas police said in an emailed statement that the victim

was shot around 2:40 a.m. Tuesday and was taken to a hospital for treatment. No arrests have been made, and the police department said its investigation was ongoing into the shooting, which took place in a neighborhood about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of the Strip.

A representative for Lee confirmed the shooting in a statement, adding that Lee was conscious and "is expected to fully recover."

"As the incident is under police investigation, no further comments will be forthcoming. Lee and his family appreciate respecting their privacy at

this time," the statement read. The representative, Amanda Cagan, said the shooting happened as Lee was walking his dog. (AP)

Singer blends tradition and modernity in new album

Becky G says 'Encuentros' is a celebration of culture

MEXICO CITY, Oct 17, (AP): Last year, Mexican American singer Becky G released her first album of regional Mexican music, "Esquinas." Her newest album, "Encuentros," makes it clear that this is not a temporary interest: She's dedicated to exploring the folk music in depth, and by adding modern fusions.

"Obviously, a lot of people can say 'You do it because it's trendy," Becky G said in Spanish during a video interview from Los Angeles before the last Friday release of the album. "I think what I found in myself, when we were creating 'Esquinas,' was something so real to me, something so sincere, something so vulnerable as an artist, that I felt so obsessed with the process. And we didn't want to stop.

She says her fans have told her that when she sings regional Mexican music, they notice her voice takes on a different tone. She says they can hear Rebbeca - her real name - and her true essence beyond the Becky G pop per-



Becky G arrives at the premiere of 'This Is Me... Now: A Love Story' on Feb. 13, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP)

The album starts with "XLAS NUBES," which translates to "By the Clouds," a song that stands out for its acoustic guitar arrangements. Accord-

ing to Becky G, it stemmed from the vision of a person falling through the clouds, as if in a dream.

"Every song has a thread that takes

you on that adventure," she said. "We decided to mix instruments from other genres and a production style in my vocals that makes it feel a little more modern. And that, for me, was a lot of

The album, produced by Adrián Pieragostino, features ranchera, mariachi and contemporary corridos fused with other genres such as bolero, cumbia and Colombian vallenato.

"When I was creating music in the other genres, if it was pop music, if it was reggaeton, we were always playing and mixing genres. So, I decided, 'Why not do it with regional music?"

Still, there are traditional moments on the album, like the accordion-fueled ranchera "Desierto" ("Desert"), where she sings about wanting an ex to run out of water in the desert. Her siblings approved the song, she said, and told her she should include it in her concerts.

"It reminds me a lot of the music I listened to when I was a child. That's the music that my grandmother listened to, that my mom listened to," she said, describing the song as "cortavena" ("cutting veins") music - spiteful songs that are a part of regional Mexican music's cathartic appeal.

"Todo" ("All") features Delilah, a rising artist. "We wanted it to sound like when you're singing near some-one," Becky G said. "It's a very big song, but very quiet. It's a very difficult style to achieve, but I think we did it really well, because it feels so big, it feels like a Disney song. I'm obsessed with her voice, Delilah's voice. I think our voices together is magic.'

The concept of the album started with "Mercedes," featuring Oscar Maydon, where Becky G shines atop regional Mexican instrumentation. For her, it is a perfect song to listen to in the car, hence the Mercedes Benz-referencing title.

Visually, Becky G said she wanted to make her music videos and album artwork appear narrative, reflecting her city, community and culture in Los

"Anyone who sees this, if they live in London, anywhere in the world, they're going to see it, and they're going to understand who Becky G is," she said. That also translates to the album cover, in which she appears posing under the sun, with LA in the

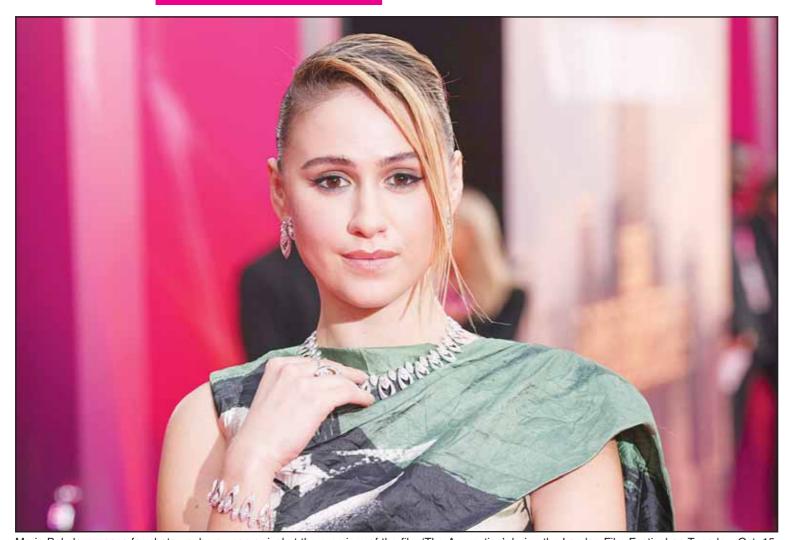
background. She's already thinking about the concept and title of the next album and won't rule out whether it will be called another word that begins with the letter "E."

"I don't want to stop, this is what I love, it's everything to me," she said. "And having these opportunities to continue learning from my art and representing our stories, expressing myself and finding myself as a woman is a very beautiful process."

Becky G is currently on tour in the U.S., performing "Encuentros" songs live, as well as those from "Esquinas' and her pop and reggaeton eras.

"I always say that my shows are how I like my tacos," she said, "with a little bit of everything.'

Film



Maria Bakalova poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'The Apprentice' during the London Film Festival on Tuesday, Oct. 15,

Variety

NEWARK, N.J.: The ex-husband of "Real Housewives of New Jersey" cast member Dina Manzo was sentenced Tuesday to seven years in prison for hiring a reputed mobster to assault her boyfriend in exchange for the defendant hosting a lavish wedding reception for the

Thomas Manzo, 59, of Franklin Lakes, will also have to serve three years of supervised release once he's freed under the sentence imposed by US



Manzo

District Judge Susan Wigenton. A federal jury in June convicted him of conspiracy, falsifying and concealing documents, and committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering

According to federal prosecutors, Manzo hired John Perna, whom they described as a soldier in the Lucchese Crime Family, to commit the July 2015 attack in which the boyfriend was beaten with a weapon. Perna's wedding reception was held the following month at a restaurant in Paterson that Thomas Manzo partly owned, prosecutors said.

Perna pleaded guilty in December 2020 to committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity and received a 2½-year sentence. He was freed in August 2023. Dina Manzo's boyfriend is now her husband. (AP)

NEW YORK: Lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs asked a New York judge Tuesday to force prosecutors to disclose the names of his accusers in his sex trafficking case.

Manhattan federal court judge that the hip-hop music maker needs to know the identities of his alleged victims so he can prepare adequately for trial.

Last week, a May 5 trial date was set for Combs. He has pleaded not guilty. A spokesperson for prosecutors

declined comment.

Combs, 54, remains incarcerated without bail after his Sept. 16 federal sex trafficking arrest. His lawyers have asked a federal appeals court to let him be freed to home detention so he can more easily meet with lawyers and prepare for trial.

So far, judges have concluded he is a danger to the community and cannot be freed. (AP)

'The Apprentice' has a theory

How did Trump become Trump?

LOS ANGELES, Oct 17, (AP): Decades before he hosted "The Apprentice," Donald Trump was ... an ap-

His mentor: Roy Cohn, the ruthless attorney who was a prominent New York power broker in the '70s and '80s after famously serving as a top aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

The Trump-Cohn connection is well known. But in "The Apprentice," his provocative if not quite shocking, entertaining if not quite illuminating, impeccably acted and inherently controversial film, Ali Abbasi takes it farther.

It's this relationship, posits the Danish Iranian director, that essentially made a young real estate heir - inexperienced but wildly ambitious - into the man who would become the 45th U.S. president, smashing the norms of American politics along the

Speaking of unlikely paths: The mere route of "The Apprentice" to the big screen is fodder for its own movie.

Written by Gabriel Sherman and starring an ingeniously cast trio of Sebastian Stan as Trump, Jeremy Strong as Cohn and Maria Bakalova as Ivana Trump, the film failed to get picked up at Cannes in May. That was surely due at least in part to a cease and desist letter from Trump lawyers.

Trump's campaign spokesman called the movie "pure fiction" (the filmmakers call their script "factbased"). One of the film's investors - Trump supporter Dan Snyder, former owner of the Washington Commanders - saw it and wanted out. It was only weeks ago that Briarcliff Entertainment announced it would open "The Apprentice" – less than four weeks before the US election.

So, what kind of movie do we have

Contrary to some descriptions, Abbasi says his film isn't a biopic at all, but a look at a relationship - and at a system that's about winning at any

He's also not, he says, trying to be political – an admirable goal but perhaps an impossible one. In any case, it's hard to imagine anybody coming to this film to make their mind up about Donald Trump. While it's hardly a hit job - the early Trump scenes are somewhat sympathetic his supporters, should they come at all, will likely not be fans of many



Maria Bakalova, (left), and Sebastian Stan in a scene from the film The Apprentice.' (AP)

later scenes, most dramatically a rape scene with wife Ivana. Trump is also shown having scalp-reduction surgery to combat baldness, among many other things.

Relationship

But the core of the film is his relationship with Cohn, whom a young Trump, son of Queens developer Fred Trump, meets in the '70s. "Anybody who's anybody comes here," he tells an uninterested date in an exclusive Manhattan club. "They say I'm the youngest person ever admitted."

He's invited to Cohn's table. Trump hopes the brash attorney will help his family fight a federal case alleging they discriminate against Black tenants. Cohn eventually agrees. Soon, he's also paying the bill for Trump's much-needed upgrade to expensive Brioni suits. He invites Trump to one of his wild parties, attended by notables like Andy Warhol, where, "if you're indicted, you're invited."

Most importantly, Cohn imparts to Trump his three most important rules. First, "Attack, attack, attack." Then: "Admit nothing, deny everything." And finally: "No matter what happens, you claim victory and never admit defeat.'

The younger Trump is portrayed here as a bit of a charmer – there are even comparisons to Robert Redford with lovingly tended hair, aching to succeed and please his exacting father. Stan, on a roll after the recent "A Different Man" about a wholly different kind of transformation, gives a nuanced performance that manages to capture Trumpian qualities but not to mimic. Although familiar mannerisms and speech patterns emerge as Trump ages, this is no "Saturday Night Live" skit.

As for Strong, who better to play Cohn than the exquisitely tortured Kendall Roy of "Succession"? Strong, famous for losing himself in roles, seems to have heard the word "reptilian" and, through sheer force of will and talent, found a way to actually resemble a snake.

Trump proves an eager learner, and Cohn's help proves instrumental in achieving the younger man's vision: placing a luxury hotel right on 42nd Street, a sleazy area he aims to revitalize. With some Cohn-esque pressure on city officials, the gleaming Grand Hyatt opens in 1980.

That's three years after Trump marries Ivana, the Czech-born model he meets at the club and doggedly woos. Bakalova, who earned an Oscar nod for "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm," is terrific, both warm-hearted and fiery in her famous blonde updo.

Their failing marriage makes for the film's most shocking scene. Ivana tries to spice up their sex life, but her husband says he's no longer attracted to her – he even hates the fake breasts he made her acquire. She insults him back, and he forces himself upon her violently. (Ivana Trump, who died in 2022, accused Trump of rape in a sworn statement in the '90s but later said she didn't mean it literally.)

Ivana has turned cold and bitter by the time she informs Cohn, now dying of AIDS, that a bejeweled gift Trump just gave him is a mere cheap imitation. "Donald has no shame,"

Soon, the mentor is gone. And 30 years after the film ends, Trump will become president. This film's biggest lack is the connective tissue – we don't ever really understand, alas, how young Trump became President

But we do at least see the power of Cohn's lessons. As Trump sits down at the end with the writer he's hired to co-author his 1987 "Trump: The Art of the Deal," he recites for him his three most important rules.

Guess what they are? "The Apprentice," a Briarcliff Entertainment release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association for sexual content, some graphic nudity, language, sexual assault, and drug use. Running time: 120 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Music

'It's just pure, positive'

Iglesias' 'OMG' becomes perfect anthem for Mets

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): It's a pop hit like many others: An ascending chorus, an addictive hook, a warm rhythm. But "OMG," performed by New York Mets infielder Jose Iglesias, has become the perfect anthem for the team's unlikely playoff run.

Since its release on streaming platforms in late June, "OMG" has become a hit for a Mets team with a fun-loving vibe, embraced on and off the field. The largely Spanishlanguage "OMG" is ubiquitous at Citi Field, while also raking in well over 2 million on-demand audio and video streams in the US through Oct. 10, according to the music data and analytics company Luminate. On YouTube, the official music video has nearly 4.5 million views.

As the Mets head back to home turf Wednesday in the National League Championship Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, "OMG" may continue to soar: On Friday, superstar Pitbull shared a remix of the song alongside Colombian singer Silvestre Dangond.

Here's how a baseball player whose career seemed to be nearing its end hit a home run with the song.

The song is contemporary Latin pop, incorporating elements of reggaetón and tropical music - pop sounds heard all over Latin America and the US, says music journalist and critic Gary Suarez, author of the Cabbages newsletter.

Celebration

"As a song, it is just pure, positive pop music," he says. "It is a celebration of good things over adversity, which feels very right for a

baseball song. A sample lyric: "No tengo nada pero soy feliz," or "I have nothing

but I'm happy. Its bilingual chorus, too, allows "OMG" to appeal to a broad audience. "Oh my god! Dame salúd y prosperidad," the 34-year-old Cuban-born Iglesias sings. It translates to "Oh my god! Give me health and prosperity."

For some communities, a song like this is a long time coming. "There are so many Dominican, Puerto Rican, Cuban people playing baseball right now. And the Mets, of course, are no exception. And so, I think there was a certain amount of a need for a song like this to come from and reflect this world," Suarez says

As for the Pitbull remix, Suarez points out that the song was written near Miami, Pitbull's stomping grounds.

"He is a ubiquitous pop star that lends greater appeal to this, especially in a time when the Mets are in the National League Championship Series," he says. "It doesn't hurt to have some star power behind it. And maybe that helps to have a longer lifespan beyond, you know, the end of the Mets season."

While Pitbull is known to be a Marlins fan (even once recording the theme song "Marlins Time to Represent"), he told The Associated Press in a statement that, as a Cuban American, he related to Iglesias "because of our shared culture.' The song "is about being an un-

derdog and positivity making it the perfect fit," Pitbull said.

Iglesias broke into the big leagues with the Boston Red Sox as a 21-year-old in May 2011, won AL Rookie of the Year in 2013 and was an All-Star with Detroit in 2015. The Mets are his seventh team in 12 major league seasons, and he's earned nearly \$40 million in salary.

But by 2023, his future in MLB was cloudy at best, and he spent the entire season in the minor leagues. That's when he started to release Latin pop songs under the moniker Candelita ("little candle"), starting with "Tambor" and "Cantinero." Earlier this year, he released a collaboration with Cuban singer Lenier, "No Voy a Volver," as well as a few other solo tracks: "Te Lo Advertí" and "Perdóname Padre."

Nothing, though, has hit like "OMG." Iglesias wrote and recorded it last offseason at home on a ranch outside Miami, while also preparing to join the Mets on a minor league contract.

He began the season in Triple-A, but injuries opened a spot for him in Queens. When he played his first game with New York on May 31, "OMG" was his walk-up song. He quickly emerged as a sparkplug for the Mets, earning more playing time, and his song became a rallying cry for the team.

Downloads

Iglesias performed "OMG" live for the first time after the Mets beat the Houston Astros at Citi Field in late June, and it has since become an anthem for not only the team, but Mets fans, too.

"OMG" debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Latin Digital Song Sales in July, selling over 1,000 downloads in its first week. The official music video features dancing employees - an Amazon worker, a mechanic, a cook - and ends in an

outdoor party.
"It's hard to say how I feel," Iglesias said after that ballpark performance. "That was a big deal. Singing in front of great fans and seeing my teammates running up there is just a dream come true.

Now, the song plays after every Mets homer at Citi Field and after every win. After home runs, smiling players pose in the dugout for group photos holding an "OMG" sign in blue and orange - team colors, of course.

The song also plays in the Mets clubhouse, where they've enjoyed three champagne celebrations in the past three weeks, first for clinching a playoff spot and then twice for advancing.

Music is inextricable from the ballpark experience, between players' walk-up songs to eighth-inning singalongs to the likes of "Piano Man" or "Mr. Brightside" at Citi Field. So, it shouldn't come as much of a surprise that some ballplayers get in the studio.



New York Mets second baseman Jose Iglesias celebrates on the field after the Mets beat the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 4 of the National League baseball playoff series, Oct. 9, 2024, in New York. (AP)

ARAB TIMES, FRIDAY-SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18-19, 2024



In this photo provided by Johns Hopkins Medicine, Dr. Dorry Segev, (right), performs the first US transplant of a kidney from a deceased donor who had HIV into a recipient living with HIV, in Baltimore, in March 2016. (AP)

New move to shorten organ wait-list

Kidney transplants safe between people with HIV

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): People with HIV can safely receive donated kidneys from deceased donors with the virus, according to a large study that comes as the US government moves to expand the practice. That could shorten the wait for organs for

all, regardless of HIV status. The new study, published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, looked at 198 kidney transplants performed across the US Researchers found similar results whether the donated organ came from a person with or without the AIDS

Last month, the Department of

Health and Human Services proposed a rule change that would allow these types of kidney and liver transplants outside of research studies. A final rule would apply to both living and deceased donors. If approved, it could take effect in the coming year.

Participants in the study were HIV positive, had kidney failure and agreed to receive an organ from either an HIV-positive deceased donor or an HIV-negative deceased donor, whichever kidney became available

Researchers followed the organ recipients for up to four years. They compared the half who received kidneys from HIV-positive donors to those whose kidneys came from donors without HIV.

Both groups had similar high rates of overall survival and low rates of organ rejection. Virus levels rose for 13 patients in the HIV donor group and for four in the other group, mostly tied to patients failing to take HIV medications consistently, and in all cases returned to very low or undetectable

"This demonstrates the safety and the fantastic outcomes that we're seeing from these transplants," said study co-author Dr. Dorry Segev of NYU Langone Health.

In 2010, surgeons in South Africa provided the first evidence that using HIV-positive donor organs was safe in people with HIV. But the practice wasn't allowed in the United States until 2013 when the government lifted a ban and allowed research studies, at the urging of Segev. At first, the studies were with deceased donors. Then in 2019, Segev and others at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore performed the world's first kidney transplant from a living donor with HIV to an HIV-positive recipient.

All told, 500 transplants of kidneys and livers from HIV-positive donors have been done in the U.S.

Japan raises bird flu alert to highest level

Lebanon sees first cholera case since 2023

BEIRUT, Oct 17, (Agencies): The Lebanese Ministry of Health announced, Wednesday, the detection of the first confirmed cholera case.

This marks Lebanon's first official announcement of a cholera outbreak since June of last year.

The Lebanese Ministry of Health stated in a press release that the confirmed recorded case was of a Lebanese woman in the Akkar region, north of the country. It was confirmed through laboratory tests.

The ministry explained that the woman experienced symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, and severe dehydration. She was admitted to hospital and received the necessary treatment.

The Ministry of Health added that the patient was under observation, and further samples were taken from her surroundings to try identify the source of the infection.

Marburg: Rwanda has launched the of Health of the country. world's first clinical trial for a treatment of Marburg virus disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) an-

The initiative, in partnership with the WHO, is testing the safety and efficacy of two treatments: Remdesivir, a drug currently used to treat COVID-19, and MBP091, a specialized antibody developed to fight Marburg virus disease, WHO Regional Director for Africa

nounced late Tuesday.

Matshidiso Moeti said on X. The health initiative is part of a process that began two years ago, where 17 African countries, including Rwanda, were identified by the WHO as willing to conduct clinical trials.

Currently, no treatment or vaccine is available for Marburg virus disease.

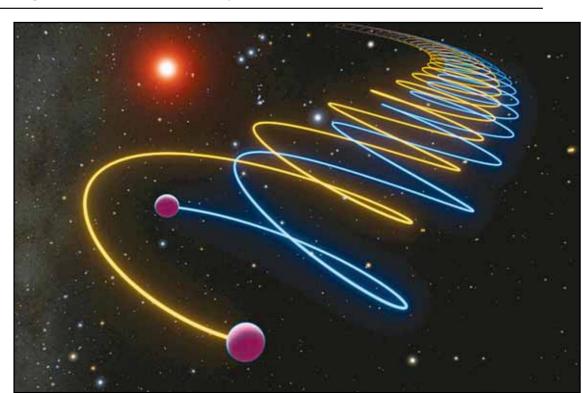
As of Tuesday, 62 confirmed cases and 15 deaths have been reported, while 30 individuals have recovered, according to the latest data from the Ministry

Bird flu: Japan's Ministry of the Environment has raised the nationwide bird flu alert to the highest level after detecting highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds in two towns in Hokkaido Prefecture of northern Japan.

The decision followed the detection of the virus in two separate instances in Hokkaido. On September 30, the virus was found in the carcass of a falcon in Otobe Town and on October 8, the virus was detected in droppings from wild ducks in Betsukai Town. Authorities are calling for heightened monitoring

of wild birds across the country.

The ministry said that while bird flu generally does not pose a threat to humans unless there is excessive contact with infected birds, they are urging the public to avoid touching bird carcasses and to report any findings to local authorities.



This illustration provided by Caltech depicts the orbits of brown dwarf twins, Gliese 229Ba and Gliese 229Bb, with a separation only 16 times larger than the distance between Earth and the Moon. The pair of stars orbits a cool M-dwarf star every 250 years. (AP)

Circulatory issues

'Excessive standing' increases heart risk

SYDNEY, Oct 17, (Xinhua): Spending more time standing rather than sitting does not improve cardiovascular health and is linked to a higher risk of circulatory issues, Australian research has found.

In a study published on Thursday, researchers from the University of Sydney analyzed data from research-grade wrist devices that were worn by 83,013 adults in Britain and found that there were no health benefits to standing more compared to sitting.

They found that, over the long term, standing more did not reduce a person's chances of suffering a cardiovascular health incidence -- such as heart failure, coronary heart disease and stroke -- and could increase the risk of circulatory issues related to standing such as varicose veins and deep vein throm-

However, the research found that sitting for over 10 hours a day increased the risk of cardiovascular disease and circulatory dis-

"The key takeaway is that standing for too long will not offset an otherwise sedentary lifestyle and could be risky for some people in terms of circulatory health. We found that standing more does not improve cardiovascular health over the long term and increases the risk of circulatory issues," said Matthew Ahmadi, lead author of the study from the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Sydney.

The researchers recommended that people who were regularly seated or standing for long periods schedule regular movement throughout the day.

Previous research published by Ahmadi and his co-author. Emmanuel Stamatakis, in July found that six minutes of vigorous exercise or 30 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise per day could help lower the risk of heart disease even in people who were highly sedentary for over 11 hours per day.



Taiwanese motorcycle and scooter riders wait at a stop light in Taipei on June 25, 1997.(AP)

New study links helmet use to reduced motorcycle fatalities

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): A new study compiling decades of fatal motorcycle crashes is being released by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which is pushing for stricter state road safety laws.

The study suggests that 20,000 motorcyclists who died in crashes in the US since the mid-1970s would have survived if stronger helmet laws had been in place, according to the nonprofit group that seeks to reduce the harm from motor vehicle crashes

The organization said that 22,058 motorcyclists' lives could have been saved if every state had required all riders to wear helmets from 1976 to 2022. The figure represents 11% of all rider fatalities over those years.

of Columbia that have such laws in place.

The IIHS said that more than 6,000 motorcyclists were killed in both 2021 and 2022, the most recent years for which such data is available. The organization says that the death toll could be cut by as much as 10% if more states enacted all-rider helmet

"We understand that requiring helmets for all riders everywhere would be unpopular with some motorcyclists, but this could save hundreds of lives each year," said Eric Teoh, IIHS director of statistical services and the author of the paper. "Those aren't just numbers. They're friends, parents and chil-

Brown dwarf discovered 30 years ago is actually twins

A celestial object discovered decades ago is actually twins orbiting each other, a new study confirms.

Scientists have puzzled over the object known as Gliese 229B, the first known brown dwarf discovered 30 years ago. Brown dwarfs are sometimes called failed stars be-

cause they're lighter than stars, but heavier than gas giant planets.

This object appeared too dim for its mass. Astronomers collected light and chemical clues using the Very Large Telescope in Chile and observed it's a duo circling close to each other.

"It resolves a glaring discrepancy," said Kevin Luhman, an astronomer at Pennsylvania State University who was not involved with the research.

The twins orbit a small star about 18 light-years away. A light-year is 5.8 trillion miles. (AP)

More rain and drought forecast

What the potential arrival of La Niña means for winter weather conditions

NEW YORK, Oct 17, (AP): The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center says there is a 60% chance that a weak La Nina event will develop this autumn and could last until March

La Nina is part of a natural climate cycle that can cause extreme weather across the planet - and its effects vary from place to place.

Although there is no guarantee how this La Nina will play out, there are some general trends. Experts say northern parts of South America could see more rain than usual. Southern regions of the US and parts of Mexico could be drier than average. The northern tier of the US and southern Canada could be wetter than average.

La Nina is the cool phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation, a naturally occurring global climate pattern that involves changes in wind and ocean temperatures in the Pacific and can cause extreme weather across the planet.

El Nino is the warm phase and happens when trade winds that typically blow across the Pacific toward Asia

weaken, allowing warm ocean waters to pile up along the western edge of South America. But during La Nina, the trade winds intensify and cold water from the depths of the sea rises up, resulting in cooler than average ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific.

These cold ocean temperatures and changes in the atmosphere affect the position of the jet stream - a narrow band of fast moving air flowing from west to east around the planet - by bumping it northward. The jet stream sits over the ocean and can tap into its moisture, influence the path storms take and boost precipitation

Just recently Earth experienced a "triple-dip" La Nina event from 2020 to 2023. "We had three back to back winters where we had La Nina conditions, which was unusual because the only other case of that happening was back in 1973 to 1976," said Michelle L'Heurex, a climate scientist at NOAA, L'Heurex said that La Nina's tend to last longer and be more recurrent than El Nino events.

"It's unusual although it's not un-

precedented," said Ben Cook, climate scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies affiliated with Columbia University, about the forecast for a possible La Nina this year.

Cook noted that the frequency Nina events can be stressful for regions that have been dealing with drought lately, such as East Africa. "If we're moving into another La Nina event, it means kind of a continuation of those really bad conditions.

The influence La Nina has on the weather varies based on location and the season, said L'Heurex. Parts of South America, such as eastern Argentina, can be drier than average while Colombia, Venezuela and northern parts of Brazil can be wetter than normal

"It depends exactly where you are. Part of that is because there's a monsoon cycle, wet and dry season, that goes through Central America and South America, so La Nina is basically modifying the intensity and placement of those monsoon cycles," explained L'Heurex.



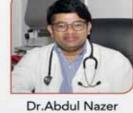
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Arsenal, Barcelona rebound from setbacks

Bayern Munich, Man City win again in women's Champs League

LONDON, Oct 17, (AP): Bayern Munich and Manchester City extended their winning starts in the Women's Champions League group stage, while Arsenal and Barcelona rebounded from early-season setbacks with big victories.

One day after Arsenal's coach Jonas Eidevall resigned, the team took just one minute to score in a 4-1 win over Norwegian team Vålerenga. United States defender Emily Fox's goal after exactly 60 seconds set Arsenal on its way for interim manager Renée Slegers.

Arsenal lost 5-2 in Munich one week ago and Bayern impressed again, winning a rain-soaked game 2-0 at Juventus.

The statement win last week was Man City beating Barcelona, but the two-time defending champion was back in dominant form in a 9-0 drubbing of Sweden's Hammarby.

Man City rallied from an uneasy spell either side of halftime at St. Pölten to win 3-2 in Austria, sealed by an 80th-minute header by Mary Fowler.

Arsenal's start to October had been about as bad as it gets. Winless in two home games in the English Women's Super League, including a 2-1 loss to city rival Chelsea; a 5-2 beating by Bayern; then losing the coach who helped it reach the Champions League semifinals two seasons ago.

But after Fox's quick finish, Arsenal added a second in the 29th by Caitlin Foord after Vålerenga goalkeeper Tove Enblom's save diverted the ball to the Australia forward at the back post.

The Norwegians cut the lead in the 35th when Arsenal's Spanish defender Laia Cadina was robbed of the ball and Olaug Tvedten finished with a well-placed shot.

Arsenal endured tense moments in the second half until Spain forward Mariona ensured the win in the 85th, taking an unselfish pass from Stina Blackstenius. Alessia Russo capped the scoring in stoppage time.

Bayern forward Pernille Harder again scored late to add to her 13-minute hat trick last week against Ar-

The Denmark veteran pounced on a loose ball in the goalmouth after a corner in the 73rd. It was a near-copy of how Bayern opened the scoring in the 17th when a scramble in the goalmouth led to Linda Dallman's volleyed shot.

Bayern's two wins in Group C have bookended its first loss in the German league in almost two years, 2-0 against two-time European champion Wolfsburg on Saturday.

The most spectacular goal of the four games Wednesday came within five minutes of Man City's game in Austria.

Australia defender Alanna Kennedy fired in a

powerful 25-yard (meter) shot that went in off the inside of the post. Man City then struck the woodwork twice in a five-minute spell as it looked to take

Then St. Pölten leveled in the 40th, from another loose ball following a corner, that Melanie Brunnthaler reacted fastest to with a close-range shot.

St. Pölten relied on a series of saves by goalkeeper Carina Schlüter before taking the lead in the 53rd, when Czech midfielder Kamila Dubcová received the ball with her back to goal and spun to volley a rising left-foot shot.

Four minutes later Man City was level when Aoba Fujino met a looping cross toward the far post with a first-time shot.

Barcelona was imperious one week after being caught cold in the first half in Manchester. Swedish champion Hammarby, which beat St. Pölten 2-0 last week, caught the backlash.

Caroline Graham Hansen started the flood of goals in the 10th, and the Norway forward was joined by Claudia Pina scoring twice among seven players on the scoresheet. Alexia Putellas got the third with a neatly guided header.

It was not even Barcelona's biggest win this season at the Johan Cruyff Stadium. Granada was beaten 10-1 in a domestic league game last month.



Hammarby's Cathinka Tandberg, centre left and Barcelona's Patri Guijarro challenge for the ball during the women's Champions League Group D soccer match between Barcelona and Hammarby at the Estadi Johan Cruyff in Barcelona. (AP)

Liberty takes 2-1 lead over Lynx



New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) shoots against Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier, left, guard Kayla McBride (21) and forward Alanna Smith (8) during the second half of Game 3 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series in Minneapolis. (AP)

Ionescu's 3-pointer gives New York win

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 17, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu watched Breanna Stewart carry the New York Liberty all game, until it was time to win it.

Then the ball was hers.

"In the timeout, (coach) Sandy (Brondello) was like, 'You're going to shoot the shot,'" Ionescu said.

The star guard made it, a 3-pointer from 28 feet with a second remaining that gave the Liberty an 80-77 victory over the Minnesota Lynx on Wednesday night and moved them a win away from an elusive first WNBA title.

New York leads the finals 2-1 - the first time it has ever been ahead in the championship round - and can win the series Friday night in Minnesota.

"We know we're one game away from winning the championship, and I think that they are going to give us their best shot," said Stewart, who won two titles with Seattle. "They are going to give everything they have got, and you know what, so are we. The turnaround is quick but we

are going to continue to be ready.

Ionescu said she had to watch replay of her shot after the game to see exactly what happened.

"I didn't even really remember it. I had to go look at the video really quickly to see like how far I was," she said. "I feel like I was able to get a little separation in range and get a really good shot to go."

With the game tied at 77, Ionescu had the ball and dribbled around be-

discrimination by Paris Saint-Germain

years ago, following a complaint that

the club's scouts illegally profiled po-

Press the investigation was reopened

in May. The case is related to events

which happened several years ago and

was the subject of an initial investiga-

The office said it received a new

complaint "for discrimination on the

grounds of origin, and computerised

storage of data revealing racial or eth-

tion that was ended in August 2022.

Prosecutors told The Associated

tential recruits based on their origins.



New York Liberty forward Nyara Sabally, left, fights for a loose ball with Minnesota Lynx forward Alanna Smith during the first half in Game 3 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series in Minneapolis. (AP)

fore pulling up a few steps behind the arc and hitting from 28 feet to break the tie.

"It's pretty special. It was never in doubt. Obviously Stewie got us back in there, willed us in there, but I thought the right time, this is Sabrina," Brondello said. "She just made a big shot. She's a great shooter and she just needed a little bit of separation."

Stewart scored 22 of the team's 45 points in the second half and finished with 30 points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots.

"We don't win this game without Stewie," Ionescu said. "There's nothing I can say. That shot's nice, but what she was able to do for us tonight willed us back into the game."

Minnesota didn't get a real shot to

"Great player made a good shot," Minnesota guard Kayla McBride said. "I guarded her for 40 minutes""

The Liberty erased a 15-point deficit to move one victory from winning their first title.

"There's a lot of things that we didn't do right tonight and have a kind of quick memory," Stewart said. "I think that we're happy we got this win but the job's not done."

The Liberty have appeared in the finals five times before, including last season, and lost each one.

Trailing 73-69 with 2:26 left in the fourth quarter, the Liberty scored eight straight points, including the first five by Jonquel Jones. Ionescu, who had a relatively quiet game, then hit another 3-pointer after a Lynx

miss to make it 77-73 with 55.5 left.

Bridget Carleton got the Lynx within 77-75 with a layup 21 seconds later. On New York's next possession, Ionescu had a 3-pointer go halfway through the basket before popping out and Minnesota got the rebound.

Napheesa Collier was then fouled with 16 seconds left and hit both free throws to tie it setting up the exciting finish.

Collier finished with 22 points and McBride 19 for Minnesota.

"Our defense gave us a chance to win the game, period, and our offense is going to help our defense," Minnesota coach Cheryl Reeve said. "If you told me that we would have got the amount of stops that we did and we were playing off that, and we wouldn't have scored 80, that would be surprising to me."

The Lynx flipped the script of the first two games, building a double-digit lead in the first half. Minnesota, which only led for just over three minutes in the first two contests, was up 60-50 with 2:28 left in the third quarter before the Liberty closed to 62-61 by the end of the period. Stewart scored the final five points, including a three-point play with 19 seconds left.

She then scored the first eight points for New York in the fourth quarter, tying the game at 69 with another three-point play with 6:18 left.

Carleton hit two free throws to break the tie 12 seconds later. Neither team would score again until Courtney Williams hit a baseline pullup with 2:26 left to give the Lynx a four-point advantage.

Qi becomes China's 1st men's trap winner at ISSF W. Cup Final

NEW DELHI, Oct 17, (Xinhua): Olympic silver medalist Qi Ying won China's fifth gold medal at the ISSF World Cup Final in the men's trap with 47 hits, as the season-ending tournament concluded on Thursday.

Qi, who made all of his first 35 targets, led the field throughout the final, claiming his first World Cup Final gold in the same place where he had debuted at the prestigious tournament as a double trap shooter in 2017.

The victory also made him China's

first-ever World Cup Final winner in the men's trap event. Vivaan Kapoor took the silver three hits behind on home soil and N Tolga Tuncer of Turkey finished third.

"Clinching my maiden World Cup Final title is just a beginning for me. I hope to get better and better in future training and competitions," said 27-year-old Qi, who made history at Paris 2024 by winning China's first Olympic medal in the men's trap.

He picked out the Olympics and the World Cup Final as his special memories in 2024. "I had a relatively stable performance in the first half of the year but didn't make it to the final in major competitions. Experience from the Olympics and this World Cup Final will help improve my training and mentality." Italy became the biggest winner on the last competition day with one gold and three silver medals, as Tammaro Cassandro and Gabriele Rossetti had a one-two finish in the men's skeet with just one hit separating them, 57 to 56.

Cassandro described the feeling of winning his maiden World Cup Final title as "amazing." "I finished fourth at the Olympic Games. I take one gold medal competing against my friend Gabriele Rossetti, I'm happy for the competition," said the 31-year-old.

Rossetti had a strong start in the final, staying perfect after the first 30 targets and led the competition for the

majority of time until Cassandro tied it at 51-51, and then 53-53 ahead of the final series, which saw Rossetti miss his last target and the chance to force a shoot-off. Olympic bronze medalist Anant Jeet Singh Naruka of India added a World Cup Final bronze to his collection.

Despite having to settle for a silver, 29-year-old Rossetti was happy to wrap up the year with a podium finish.

"It's very nice. This is my third World Cup Final medal. It's the last competition of the year after I got the gold medal at the Olympic Games. I come here just to enjoy, to do my best," he said.

"It's a very nice season but I want to go back home, work a lot against and stay ready for the next season," he continued, adding that "a part of my plan is on LA." Rossetti's Olympicwinning partner Diana Bacosi also claimed a silver in the women's skeet, two hits behind American shooter Samantha Simonton's 56 hits. Lucie Anastassiou of France took the bronze.

Erica Sessa (39 hits) added another silver for Italy in the women's trap, which saw Alessandra Perilli of San Marino (45 hits) secure the title one series in advance. It was the second World Cup Final gold for the 36-year-old, whose previous one came in 2015.

"I was fully prepared for the Olympic Games, but did not manage to get into the final, and I need this victory to get ready for the new Olympic cycle," said Perilli, who finished 15th at the Paris Olympics after becoming San Marino's first-ever Olympic medalist in Tokyo.

The bronze went to Safiye Temizdemir of Turkey.

After three days of competitions, China topped the medal tally with five gold and three bronze medals. Italy sat second with one gold, three silvers and one bronze, followed by Germany with one gold and two silvers.

Ball makes long-awaited return

CHICAGO, Oct 17, (AP): When the moment finally arrived, after multiple knee surgeries and one grueling rehab, Lonzo Ball raised his right arm and blew a kiss to the cheering crowd.

Fans rose to their feet as the announcement echoed through the arena: "Checking in for the Chicago Bulls! No. 2! Lonzo Ball!"

It was a moment nearly three years in

the making.

Ball made his long-awaited return, scoring 10 points in 15 minutes in the Bulls' 125-123 preseason victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night. The point guard also had an assist, a steal and a block in his first appearance since Jan. 14, 2022.

"It felt a lot better playing than watching, I'll say that much," he said. "I can't even really put into words how I felt out there."

there."

Ball, who turns 27 on Oct. 27, underwent a cartilage and meniscus transplant in his left knee last year after several procedures failed to fix his injury. He thought he "was moving great" and the knee gave him no trouble "at all."

Ball got a rousing ovation when he subbed in for Josh Giddey following a timeout midway through the first quarter. It didn't take Ball long to make an impact. He nailed an open 3-pointer from the left corner off a feed from a driving Nikola Vucevic with 5:25 left in the period, drawing another big roar from the crowd.

"Just blessed, man," Ball said. "There were a lot of people that helped me get here, not just myself. Just to see the crowd and all the love I get from the city, man, you cannot replicate that in any type of way. And it's real."

Several players expressed their support and respect for Ball in the team's postgame meeting. Coby White presented the game ball and LaVine handed Ball a jersey that appeared to be signed by the team.

The Bulls have one more exhibition against Cleveland on Friday before opening the season at New Orleans on Oct. 23. Ball said he will "for sure" play against the Cavaliers. He will start the season on a minutes restriction and won't play games on back-to-back days.

The Bulls had Ball on a 16-minute limit against Minnesota. They planned to have him get two roughly four-minute stints per half. But after playing nearly six minutes in the third quarter,

he sat the rest of the way.
"I just give him a lot of credit," coach



Chicago Bulls guard Lonzo Ball walks on the court as he warms up before an NBA preseason basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Chicago. (AP)

Billy Donovan said. "It was probably a lot, coming back being out for 2 1/2 years. You're playing your first game. I know it's not the regular season yet, but still, for him to get out in an NBA game - I know he's put a lot of work in to get himself ready for this moment."

The Bulls are still trying to get a handle on how much activity leads to soreness for Ball, let alone how the knee will respond to playing in a game. Chicago also has a crowd in the backcourt, with Coby White coming off a breakthrough season and Giddey in the mix following a trade from Oklahoma City.

Ball's tenure in Chicago got off to a good start following a sign-and-trade deal with New Orleans prior to the 2021-22 season. He averaged 13 points and 5.1 assists while shooting 42.3% on 3-pointers over 35 games before being derailed. The Bulls initially thought Ball had a minor meniscus injury. But it turned out to be much more severe.

Ball had a cartilage transplant in March 2023, his third operation on the knee in a little more than a year. He revealed on his podcast last May that the surgery was more extensive.

Ball said he got a new meniscus to go with the cartilage transplant. He also underwent a bone allograft, where the replacement bone comes from another person. Ball said the issues dated to when he tore his meniscus in 2018 as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers.

PARIS, Oct 17, (AP): The Paris prosecutor's office is investigating alleged

French law prohibits the collection of personal data that shows the racial of personal data that

PSG has previously acknowledged that forms with illegal content were used from 2013-18. But it declined responsibility for implementing the policy after the Mediapart news website reported that scouts were asked by PSG to mention the origin of possible recruits according to four categories: "Francais" (French), "Maghrebin" (North African), "Antillais" (West Indian), and "Afrique noire" (Black

or ethnic origins of individuals.

The previous investigation was started following a complaint by

France's League of Human Rights after PSG said an internal investigation found "no proven case of discrimination."

The French Football Federation ethics council also looked into the matter and the league's disciplinary commission later fined PSG 100,000 euros (\$109,000).

The league also handed a 10,000euro suspended fine to former PSG academy director Bertrand Reuzeau. Marc Westerloppe and Pierre Reynaud, who were in charge of PSG's recruiting, received suspended fines of 5,000 euros.

Mediapart and French TV program

"Envoyé Special" said a young black player was overlooked by PSG because of his color. Following an investigation based on the "Football Leaks" documents, Mediapart said 17-year-old midfielder Yann Gboho, who plays for France Under-18s, was disregarded by PSG when he was 13, and the club management decided to cover up "those implicated in the scandal."

In a separate racism case in 2011,

the country's soccer scene was rocked by revelations from Mediapart that then-national coach Laurent Blanc and others discussed informal quotas limiting black and Arab youth players' involvement in the national squad.

KFH renews strategic partnership with Kuwait Sea Sport Club

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has renewed its strategic partnership with the Kuwait Sea Sport Club (KSSC) to support Kuwait's national jet ski team in their participation in the World Championship held in the United States from October 7 to 13 of this year.

Kuwait national jet ski team achieved remarkable results in the championship, which took place in the state of Arizona, securing a total of six medals: two gold, one silver, and three bronze. Member of KFH's Strategic Partnership initiative, Mohammed Burbayea, won two gold medals, further strengthening his record in the Guinness World Records with a total of 28 medals.

On this occasion, KFH Executive Manager Media and Government Relations, Mohammed Alfaris expressed KFH's pride in its distinguished strategic partnership with KSSC, which is part of its corporate social responsibility efforts. He emphasized the bank's commitment to supporting youth and sports in general, motivating Kuwaiti youth to achieve more and succeed in international sporting arenas.

He pointed out that KFH has extended its support to KSSC each year, pointing out that KFH is the only institution in the banking sector that consistently provides support and attention to the team every year. This reflects the bank's interest in both team and individual sports activities, fostering the development of talents and skills in sports.

Alfaris added: "KFH continues



Mohammed Alfaris and Khalid Al-Foudary exchange partnership.



Mohammed Alfaris signed a partnership agreement with Mohammed Burbayea.

to support youth and sports as part of its sustainability strategy, which highlights its leadership in social responsibility and its continuous collaboration with talented Kuwaiti youth to help them achieve the highest levels of success and showcase their capabilities in various fields."

Meanwhile, Secretary General of



Mohammed Alfaris and Khalid Al-Foudary with the Baytak Initiatives Jet Ski Team.

Kuwait Sea Sport Club, Khalid Al-Foudary, expressed the club's gratitude and appreciation for KFH's support of the jet ski team, noting that this support is not surprising from a bank that has been directly associated with promoting this sport. Mohammed Burbayea, a member of KFH's Strategic Partnership initiative, praised KFH's consistent support over the years, highlighting its significant role in sponsoring and supporting the Kuwaiti youth and sports which further demonstrate KFH's leadership and excellence in social responsibility

Sign up and compete for chance to win over KD 10,000 in weekly, grand cash prizes

New season of Dawri Zain fantasy football kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The latest season of the Zain Fantasy League competition—the first fantasy football game for the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain) — has kicked off, offering new weekly cash prizes and grand prizes at the end of the season, with a total prize pool exceeding KD 10,000. The competition kicks off with matchday seven on Friday, October 18.

As a leader in digital innovation, Zain continues to create new ways for fans to engage with the sport they love. Through this competition, the company gives users the opportunity to build their dream team and compete with family and friends to earn points, climb the leaderboard, and win cash prizes.

With this game, Zain brings the thrills of Kuwaiti football to the digital space. Fantasy Football is one of the most popular online games in European and international football leagues, and the company has brought this thrilling and highly competitive experience to local fans with a platform that is exclusively dedicated to the Kuwaiti Premier League.

The Zain Fantasy League offers a thrilling experience for users to pick their own lineup, compete with other players, and collect the most points to achieve the fantasy league title. Users must buy 15 players from the available KD 100m budget to form their team, and all prices and points



Dawri Zain Fantasy flyer

scored reflect the actual performance in Dawri Zain.

The game is highly competitive and relies on each user's intuition and how much they know about the league and players. It is available on the web at dawrizain.com, and on smartphones via the Dawri Zain app

for iOS on the App Store and for Android on the Play Store.

To fuel excitement, Zain offers valuable cash prizes with a total prize pool exceeding KD 10,000. This includes new weekly prizes to encourage more fans to participate

and win. Starting from matchday



Dawri Zain logo

seven, the first-place winner in each round will receive a cash prize of KD 200, applicable only to the first phase of the league.

After the end of the first phase, the points will reset, and the total points for the second and third phases will be used to determine the grand prize winners: KD 5,000 for first place, KD 3,500 for second place, and KD 1,500 for third place.

This season follows the success of the first two editions of the competition, which saw thousands of fans and followers of Dawri Zain compete. Winners are presented with their prizes in a special awards ceremony organized by Zain at the end of each season to honor outstanding players and athletes.

The announcement comes under the umbrella of Zain's strategic partnership with the Kuwait Football Associationfor the 2022-2026 seasons, which includes the Kuwait Premier League (Dawri Zain) and First Division League. Zain also extends its support to H.H. the Amir's Cup and H.H. the Crown Prince's Cup.

New Zealand leads by 134 BENGALURU, India, Oct 17, (AP): New Zealand built

From right: Salem Al-Mutawa, Mohammed Al-Baz, Mohammed Burbayea,

Fahd Al-Rayes, Yousef Al-Khalfan during their coronation.

India bowled out for

a 'record' low total

BENGALURU, India, Oct 17, (AP): New Zealand built a 134-run lead after bowling out India for 46, its lowest total in a home test on Thursday.

The Black Caps reached 180-3 when bad light stopped play at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Opener Devon Conway led the way with 91 runs off 105 balls. Rachin Ravindra (22) and Daryl Mitchell (14) were unbeaten at stumps on day two of the first test.

This was after fast bowler Matt Henry grabbed 5-15 to blow away India for just 46. Young pacer William O'Rourke took 4-22. Pacer Tim Southee took the other wicket, the first to fall, when he bowled capital Rohit Sharma.

India had five ducks in its innings - including star Virat Kohli - equalling its second most zeros in a test innings. That was all under dark skies with the stadium lights on. But as soon as India was all out in 32 overs, the sun came out and the pitch flattened.

New Zealand overhauled India's total in a jiffy as Conway and skipper Tom Latham (15) put on 67 runs for the first wicket.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav trapped Latham before the Kiwis went to tea at 82-1.

In the final session, the visitors drove home their advantage with Conway scoring 50 off 54 balls. He put on 75 runs for the second wicket with Will Young, who scored 33

Young attacked India's spinners and he hit five boundaries before being out caught off Ravindra Jadeja.

All three India spinners were among the wickets when Ravichandran Ashwin

bowled Conway short of his century.

New Zealand was down to 153-4 after losing two wickets in 16 deliveries but

Ravindra and Mitchell defied India's desperate search for a comeback.

Earlier, India collapsed to its third lowest test score, after 36 all out against

Australia in Adelaide in 2020 and 42 all out against England at Lord's in 1974.

For New Zealand, Henry became the third fastest bowler to 100 test wickets, in

26 innings, one short of Richard Hadlee's record of 25.

After the first day was washed out, India was a stunning 34-6 by lunch.

Sharma, who won the toss and decided to bat, was out for 2 in the seventh over.

Kohli, caught by Glenn Phillips off the bowling of O'Rourke, was out two overs

Kohli, caught by Glenn Phillips off the bowling of O'Rourke, was out two overs later at 9-2.

Sarfaraz Khan also left the field without scoring in the next over, at 10-3.

After another rain delay at 13-3, India lost three more wickets before lunch.

Post lunch, Henry dismissed Ravichandran Ashwin on the first ball. Then Rishabh Pant, top-scoring with 20 runs, was out caught, again off Henry. Henry completed his fiver for the fourth-best haul for a New Zealand pacer in India, to reduce the home side to 40-9.



New Zealand's Devon Conway, right, plays a shot during the day two of the first cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

Madrid faces Celta ahead of first 'El Clasico' of the season

Big names back for Barca against improving Sevilla

MADRID, Oct 17, (Xinhua): La Liga returns to action after the international break this weekend with league leader Barcelona at home to Sevilla, while Real Madrid travels to play Celta a week before the two sides go head-to-head in the first 'Clasico' of the season.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick should have Dani Olmo back after his hamstring injury, while Lamine Yamal should be available after withdrawing from the Spain squad with a muscle strain.

Midfielder Gavi could also get the go ahead to play a year after his knee injury, but Andreas Christensen, Ronald Araujo, Marc Bernal, Marc Andre Ter Stegen and Ferran Torres all remain sidelined with various problems for Sunday's game against a Sevilla side whose poor start to the season has improved with two wins and a draw in its last three matches.

Celta Vigo is without star player Iago Aspas and midfielder Ilaix Moriba to receive Real Madrid after they were both controversially sent off in Las Palmas before the break.

Aspas' loss is a huge blow to Celta, with the talismanic striker and captain in fine form so far this season.

Real Madrid should have Eder Militao back in the side, while Dani Carvajal and David Alaba are longterm absentees, although there is a doubt over Thibaut Courtois who is recovering from a groin strain.

The round of matches starts on Friday night when Alaves and Valladolid look to end poor runs of form. Alaves has lost its last three games, (although two of those were against Barca and Real Madrid), while Val-



Spain's Fabian Ruiz, centre, is chased by Serbia's Sasa Zdjelar during the UEFA Nations League Group 4 soccer match between Spain and Serbia at the Nuevo El Arcangel stadium in Cordoba, Spain. (AP)

ladolid is in the relegation zone and without a win since the first day of the season.

Athletic Club has winger Nico Williams fit again to receive Espanyol after a back injury forced him out of Spain duty, but Saturday's match looks to be too soon for Oihan Sancet, who tweaked a hamstring in his side's last game.

Defender Aitor Paredes is suspended, so Unai Nunez will partner Dani Vivian in the heart of the Basque side's defense.

Osasuna is at home to Betis in what looks to be a close game between two evenly matched sides, with Ante Budimir on form for the home side, while Geo Lo Celso has been starring for Betis.

A 96th minute penalty saw Girona win its last home game, against Athletic Club Bilbao and it now entertain a Real Sociedad boosted by a well-deserved draw at home to At-

letico before the break.

The problem for Real Sociedad is that its internationals, Mikel Oyarzabal and Martin Zubimendi both played key roles in Spain's recent

matches and won't be fully fresh.

Mallorca and Rayo Vallecano
end Saturday with what promises to
be another even match between the
sides seventh and eighth in the clas-

sification.

Atletico Madrid has been criticized for their play in recent matches, with Diego Simeone under fire for his over-defensive tactics, de-

spite the club's summer spending. Atletico should have too much when it entertains Leganes, who is welldrilled in defense, but lack the firepower to hurt Simeone's side.

Villarreal has been one of the successes at the start of the campaign and its attack of Ayoze Perez, Yeremy Pino, Alex Baena and Arnaut Danjuma, should have too much for a Getafe side that has the dubious honor of being the team that has the ball in play the least amount of time in La Liga.

The round of matches finishes on Monday as new Las Palmas coach Diego Martinez looks for the club's first league win of the season away to a Valencia side also in desperate need of points.

Barcelona soccer team will wear special edition shirts with a logo of pop rock band Coldplay on their fronts for the upcoming clasico against Real Madrid.

Hansi Flick's team will wear the shirts when it visits Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Oct. 26. Barcelona women's team will also wear them for a Spanish league game against Eibar on Nov. 2.

The club is also launching versions of the shirts for sale in limited editions. The proceeds will be donated to a project by UNHCR/ACNUR and the Barça Foundation to help fight the impact of climate change in refugee camps in Uganda.

Barcelona has put the names of popular music artists on its shirt for clasicos in recent seasons since teaming up with music streaming service Spotify, which sponsors both the team's shirts and the Camp Nou stadium. Those artists include The Rolling Stones, Rosalía and Drake.



A file photo of Kuwait Club celebrating at the end of Zain Premier League.

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Zain Premier League returns

Al-Salmiya seeks upset as Kuwait Club looks to extend winning streak

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: The Zain Premier League returns today after an 18-day break due to Kuwait's participation in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Today's action kicks off with a single match between Al-Tadamon and Al-Fahaheel at the Friendship and Peace Stadium at 5:40 pm. Tomorrow, two key matches will take place. The first sees Qadsia face Al-Nasr at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium at 5:40 pm., followed by the round's highlight, a showdown between league leader Kuwait Club and Al-Salmiya at Thamer Stadium at 8:00 pm.

The round concludes on Sunday with two matches. Al-Arabi meets Al-Yarmouk at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:40 pm, while Kazma takes on Khaitan at the Friendship and Peace Stadium at 8:00 pm.

Kuwait Club currently leads the standings with a perfect 18 points from six matches, followed by Al-Arabi with 15 points, Al-Salmiya with 11, Al-Fahaheel with 10, and Al-Qadsia and Al-Tadamon both with 7 points. Khaitan holds 5 points, while Kazma and Al-Nasr have 4 points each. Al-Yarmouk is last with 3 points

In today's match, Al-Fahaheel looks to secure a second consecutive win after defeating Kazma 4-0 in the previous round, while Al-Tadamon aims to bounce back from a 3-1 loss to Al-Qadsia.

The highly anticipated Kuwait Club vs. Al-Salmiya clash is expected to be a key match, with Kuwait Club hoping to extend its winning streak and solidify its lead before heading to the UAE to face Shabab Al-Ahli in the AFC Champions League 2. Al-Salmiya, on the other hand, is eager to get back to winning form after consecutive draws and aims to hand Kuwait Club its first loss of the season.

Meanwhile, Al-Qadsia will be chasing a third win, building on its 3-1 comeback victory over Al-Tadamon, but it faces a challenging test against Al-Nasr, now under the leadership of new Tunisian coach Jamil Bin Qasim, who replaced Dahir Al-Adwani following his resignation after the fifth round.

Khan drives Pakistan into strong position against scratchy England

Host eyes a long-awaited home test win

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 17, (AP): Pakistan rode Sajid Khan's brilliance with bat and ball against a scratchy England in the second test on Thursday and eyed a longawaited home test win.

England, set a massive 297-run target for victory on a tricky pitch, wobbled to 36-2 at stumps on day three as spin-heavy Pakistan exploited the recycled pitch and nullified the tourists' aggression.

Khan dismissed first-innings century-maker Ben Duckett for 0 off his third ball. Left-arm spinner Noman Ali then had Zak Crawley stumped with a brilliant ball that stranded the right-hander out of his crease.

Ollie Pope was unbeaten on 21 and Joe Root not out on 12, and England needed

Pakistan hasn't won its last 11 tests at home since March 2021 and lost its last four home tests, including the first against England at the same venue last week. England won by an innings and 47 runs, so Pakistan deployed an all-spin attack and dried out the same pitch.

Khan dug in for 22 invaluable runs in the second innings and helped swell Pakistan's lead to 296 before the home team was bowled out for 221 late in the final session on Thursday.

Off-spinner Shoaib Bashir (4-66), effective against the left-handers, and Jack Leach (3-67) took the bulk of the wickets and Brydon Carse grabbed 2-29 with

the slips in the final session. But Khan showed plenty of grit and shared a 65-run ninth-wicket stand with Salman Ali Agha, who profited from dropped catches on 4 and 6, and scored 63 off 89 balls.

Carse was twice on the receiving end in the space of three balls when, first, Jamie Smith dropped a regulation catch of Agha, and then Joe Root, fielding close in the slips cordon with his helmet on, couldn't grasp an edge to his right.

England was batting at the start of the day and resumed on 239-6 before finishing its first innings on 291, trailing Pakistan by 75.

Carse holed out in the deep in an attempt to hit Khan big on the leg side.
Ali (3-101) picked up his 50th test wicket when Smith (21) couldn't clear the fielder at long-off.

Khan then clean bowled Matthew Potts, who walked across his stumps but the ball zipped between the batter's legs and knocked back the stumps

Leach hit run-a-ball 25 and added 29 runs for the last wicket with Bashir before Khan folded up the innings when Bashir's extravagant swipe against the off-spinner hit the toe-end of his bat and flew to short mid-wicket.

Bashir sliced through the Pakistan top order in the first session. Left-handers Saim Ayub and captain Shan Masood were caught close to the wicket and Abdullah Shafique feathered a catch down the leg-side to the off-spinner.

Kamran Ghulam (26), who made a dream debut hundred in the first innings after he replaced out-of-form Babar Azam at No. 4, and Saud Shakeel (31) were prised out by leg before wicket decisions while attempting sweep shots against Leach. Although England kept on coming hard at Pakistan's batters, Agha's two let-offs beside Khan's determined batting allowed Pakistan to set up a challenging



Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha plays a shot during the third day of the second test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Multan, Pakistan. (AP)

'I want to return'

Pogba ready to give up money to play for Juve again

MILAN, Oct 17, (AP): Paul Pogba says he's ready to give up money to play for Juventus again. The Serie A club may not want him, though, or need him.

Pogba recently had his four-year ban for doping reduced to 18 months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, meaning the France World Cup winner will be free to resume his career in March 2025.

Juventus has not been overly enthusiastic about welcoming him back but Pogba says that is the only club he is thinking about playing for. "I am ready to even give up money so that I can still play for Juve," he said in an interview with Italian sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport. "I want to return."

Juventus sporting director Cristiano Giuntoli and new coach Thiago Motta are dubious about whether Pogba can return to the top level after being out for so long since testing positive for

testosterone in August last year. But the 31-year-old Pogba, who said he "felt like a caged lion" for the past year, has been training hard on his own

and is ready to prove them wrong.

Editor-in-Chief

"I am a Juve player now. That is all I have in my mind today," he said. "I don't have to talk. What I do on the pitch will do my talking and then Thiago Motta will judge with his own eyes, based on what he sees.

"Talk is nice, but I want to play and I want to be the best one at Juve and in the France team.

But not only has Juventus changed coach since Pogba was banned, it has also changed strategy.



The Paris FC soccer club banner is seen outside the Charlety stadium in Paris, France. Prosecutors reopen investigation into PSG over alleged discrimination in recruiting. (AP) **– See Page 14**

It has brought in fresh new faces, including bright talents who progressed through its youth team, and got rid of the - costly - old guard with the offseason departures of Federico Chiesa, Wojciech Szczęsny, Alex Sandro and

Pogba, who was the most expensive soccer player in history when he joined Manchester United from Juventus for 105 million euros (\$113 million) in 2016, returned to the Bianconeri as a free agent in 2022.

He signed a contract worth eight million euros (\$8.7 million) a year - plus two million (\$2.2 million) in bonuses - but injuries limited him to just eight Serie A appearances in his second spell at the club before his ban.

The judges who cut Pogba's ban acknowledged the lack of intent but suggested the 2018 World Cup winner should have taken more care about his treatment in Florida. "What I did wrong was not looking at what a professional gave me. I repeat, a professional," Pogba said. "Like a lot of soccer players, I have a cook, a trainer and a personal physiotherapist.



Al-Nasr and Al-Salmiya battle for handball league top spot

By Khaled Al-Enezi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 17: Al-Nasr (4 points) will go head-to-head with Al-Salmiya (4 points) at 6:00 pm on Saturday in the marquee clash of the third round of the Kuwait Handball League "Merge." The day's action kicks off at 4:30 pm with Khaitan (2 points) tak-

ing on Al-Sahel and wraps up at 7:30

pm. when Al-Arabi (4 points) faces Al-

Sulaibikhat (2 points). The third round will continue on Sunday and Monday, with matchups featuring Al-Qurain vs. Kazma, Al-Fahaheel vs. Kuwait Club, Al-Tadamon vs. Burgan, and Al-Yarmouk vs. Al-

Qadsiya. In the conclusion of the second round, Kuwait Club defeated Al-Qadsiya 28-21, and Kazma triumphed over Al-Tadamon 37-14.

Heading into the third round, Kazma leads the standings with 4 points, edging out Al-Salmiya by goal differ ence in second place. Kuwait Club holds third, followed by Al-Nasr in fourth and Al-Arabi in fifth. Khaitan is in sixth place with 2 points, ahead of Al-Fahaĥeel in seventh, Burgan in eighth, and Al-Sulaibikhat in ninth. Al-Qurain, Al-Qadsiya, Al-Yarmouk, Al-Sahel, and Al-Tadamon sit at the bottom of the table without any points,

having lost their first two games. The showdown between Al-Nasr and Al-Salmiya is tomorrow's highlight, with both teams sharing the same point tally. A win would secure the top spot for either side, while a loss would end their joint leadership. Both teams are expected to put in their best effort to secure the crucial points.

Al-Salmiya, coached by Yaqoub Al-Moussawi, has been impressive so far, finishing second in the Arab Championship and winning their first two rounds against Al-Sulaibikhat and Al-Sahel. Its key players include Tunisian Mohamed Al-Soussi and German Valentin Spohn. Al-Nasr, under Bosnian coach Dever, recently defeated last season's league runner-up Al-Qadsiya, and followed that with a victory over Al-Yarmouk. The team boasts Egyptian professional Mahmoud Noman and Algerian Al-Hajj Saduq.

The second week of the preliminary round of wrapped up on Wednesday with victories for Kazma and Kuwait Club in two key matches.

Kazma dominated its first match, securing a commanding 37-14 win over Al-Tadamon marking its second secutive victory this season.

In the highlight of the week, Kuwait Club defeated Qadsia 28-21 in a fastpaced clash. Kuwait Club led 13-11 at halftime and maintained their momentum in the second half, handing Qadsia its second loss of the season.

Other results from the week include Burgan's 28-25 win over Al-Fahaheel, Al-Nasr's 31-25 victory over Al-Yarmouk, Al-Salmiya's 30-22 triumph over Al-Sahel, and Al-Sulaibikhat's 31-25 win against Al-Qurain.

Best of the Rest

Morocco begins stadium construction: Morocco began construction of what would likely be the world's largest football stadium, with a capacity of 115,000 seats, in preparation for hosting the 2030 World Cup along with Portugal and Spain.

The stadium, named Hassan II, is being built in the city of Ben Slimane near Casablanca, with construction to be completed in 2028.

The stadium structure will be set under a grand tented roof that emerges as a dramatic intervention in the forested landscape, with five levels along the main stands to receive 12,000 VIPs, in addition to the Royal box. A striking roof canopy made from a unique aluminum lattice will cover

the stadium, supporting the geometry of the roof and the bowl is a ring of 32 stairways, creating monumental gateways that feature lush gardens positioned on raised platforms, each 28 meters above the ground.

The gardens create an extraordinary spatial experience, an oasis of greenery under the translucent roof canopy, further enhanced by a series of botanical gardens at ground level beneath the outer edges of the canopy. The traditional Moroccan social gathering known as a "moussem" in-

spired the design of the stadium. (KUNA)

France's richest family eyes Paris FC: France's richest family, the Arnaults of luxury empire LVMH, announced the planned purchase of second-division soccer club Paris FC on Thursday and ambitions to establish

It's a major shakeup for soccer in France, putting vast wealth behind a potential challenger in the French capital to the dominant Ligue 1 team of recent years, Qatar-funded Paris Saint-Germain.

A statement from the Arnault family's holding company, Agache, said it will become the club's majority shareholder. Energy drink giant Red Bull will come aboard with a minority stake.

The statement didn't give a monetary figure for the deal, which remains subject to completing legal and other paperwork. But the billionaire family's company intends to provide the club "with the necessary resources" and wants "to permanently establish the men's and women's teams among

the elite of French football. More broadly, the takeover of the club with a distinctive blue-and-white Eiffel Tower logo could help the French capital build on the sporting momentum of the Paris Olympics and put an end to its place as something of an oddball in the European soccer landscape.

Despite being a powerhouse of fashion, finance, luxury and entertainment, Paris trails London, Madrid and other cities by having just one topflight soccer team: The hegemonic PSG. (AP)

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