



Soccer Pages 14-16



Opinion

Usufruct possession should not be harmed

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

EVERY economic expert affirms that a government's ability to create jobs through concrete, realistic, and sustainable plans is the primary indicator of its success. If governments fail in this regard, they will eventually accumulate a deficit, which can lead to a rise in the unemployment rate.

This represents a major turning point for countries if they do not figure out how to reduce the unemployment rate and deal with the issues stemming from inadequate plans.

In Kuwait, officials have yet to recognize the risks associated with major economic transformations occurring worldwide, particularly regarding oil.

This is because the global oil market is expected

to be exposed to huge changes in the near future that could limit the returns from black gold, on which we depend for 90 percent of our revenues. This could lead to a financial deficit in the future, which will raise concerns for both Kuwaiti citizens and the state.

Therefore, when the state allocated land for public economic use, whether for industrial, agricultural, or service projects, it aimed to create a sustainable economic pillar for the future.

It also realized long ago that the value of any land lies in the facilities built upon it, particularly those belonging to institutions that contribute to food and industrial security.

Such facilities not only generate income for the state through fees and taxes in the future, but also enhance the gross domestic product.

The context for this discussion is the current talks about the amendments to the usufruct law for built properties, specifically regarding restrictions on inheritance and sale.

This indicates a shortsighted approach to the potential benefits from these facilities, which risk becoming

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com



Arab solidarity highlighted at Egypt embassy ceremony to mark 51st anniversary of Oct 6 War — Details Page 2 —

STEALTH SECURITY CAMPAIGNS ONGOING ACROSS ALL GOVERNORATES Kuwait deports 21,190 violators in 2024

11,970 individuals successfully legalize residency

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: A total of 21,190 expatriates who violated Residency and Labor laws have been deported since the beginning of 2024; while 11,970 have legalized their status.

This is the result of the intensified security campaigns being carried out

by the Residency Affairs Investigation General Department in the Nationality and Residency Affairs Sector at the Interior Ministry as per the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah to combat visa forgery and other manipulations.

In a press statement Monday, the ministry confirmed the continuation of security efforts to combat organized crimes committed by visa forgers and employers who facilitate procedures for obtaining visas in exchange for money.

The ministry also revealed that 11,970 violators have rectified their status; indicating the corresponding fines have been collected and the legal procedures fol-

lowed in this regard.

It added that the department conducted search, investigation and inspection of fictitious companies, leading to the registration of 59 criminal cases, including forgery of official documents and facilitating visa procedures in exchange for money. It confirmed the arrest of the owners and representatives of companies proven to have forged official documents and tampered with the manpower needs assessment – all of whom were referred to the concerned authorities for the necessary legal action.

Continued on Page 5

Food economy on agenda

Kuwait's finance minister joins WBG, IMF meetings

WASHINGTON, Oct 21. (KUNA): Representatives of public and private sectors, international organizations, civil society establishment as well as academic media from all over the globe, are all heading to Washington between October 21-26 to take part in the annual World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings.

Taking a seat at the meetings will be Kuwait's Minister of Finance, State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs and Acting Oil Minister Eng. Noura Al-Fassam, alongside a high-level delegation from Kuwait's banking sector.

This year's edition will delve into critical issues of food economy dynamics, expediting pace of gender equity, mechanisms of achieving sustainable development and complications facing global markets.

The meetings are expected to examine addressing challenges directly including solutions to increasing finance, and encouraging investments in private sectors, gear up readying up to face future crises.

International debts are taking the helm of the meetings' agenda where finance ministers, central bank governors are gathering to discuss state of global economy, which is facing serious crises due to accumulating debts causing living crisis over past 10 years.



Al-Fassam



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

The iconic Kuwait Towers stand tall amidst the moderate weather, symbolizing the nation's ambitious development blueprint, which includes 55 policies and 35 initiatives aimed at fostering growth in the 2023-2024 plan.

International economic zone on horizon

Kuwait charts future with 55 development initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21. (KUNA): Kuwait's development blueprint embraces 55 policies reflecting an ambitious development program that the Gulf country seeks to put in place by carrying out 35 development policies in the 2023-2024 plan, based on 130 supportive enterprises.

The programs and projects mainly include the building of an international economic zone, while

policies target independent and regulatory governance for running the zone, according to the annual plan follow-up report issued by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD).

The privatization program, which is a core part of Kuwait Vision 2035, aimed at overhauling legislative and development frameworks to boost

Kuwaiti citizens' ownership of would-be-privatized businesses, showed the report.

Relevant data indicated that this policy is directly linked to the North Shuaiba Power Station project whose completion rate has now hit 51 percent.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait inks deals to bolster global aviation cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21. (KUNA): Kuwait on Monday signed aviation agreements with four countries in a bid to ratchet up global cooperation in the crucial sector, which includes boosting bilateral commercial flight operations.

The deals signed with Canada, Singapore, Botswana and Zimbabwe, amid the ICAO Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2024) conference in the Malaysian capital, aim to propel aviation ties between

Continued on Page 5

Iraq and Kuwait strengthen ties in war on terror, maritime talks

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: "The State of Kuwait was and is still one of the coalition countries, and it has contributed to the war on terrorism," says Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi.

In a press statement, Al-Safi affirmed that Iraq and the entire region succeeded in combating terrorism due to such efforts. He said Kuwait also provided logistical support in many operations to eliminate terrorism.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait launches initiative against superbugs

MoH moves to combat antibiotic resistance

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi says

the widespread use of antibiotics is exacerbating the alarming spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

At the opening of the Sixth Conference of Medical Laboratories, titled "Develop-

ments in Clinical Microbiology and Quality Control", Dr. Al-Awadhi explained that the ministry has taken decisive action

Continued on Page 5

Education cancels unsanctioned trips

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: In response to an incident where several female students required hospitalization due to a health issue during a recreational trip, the Ministry of Education has announced a precautionary suspension of all unscheduled school trips that received approvals during October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a circular addressed to school principals, the Ministry emphasized that this decision is made out of concern for the safety of students and will remain in effect until further notice.

Continued on Page 5



KUNA photo
Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi addresses attendees at the Sixth Medical Lab Conference, highlighting the urgent need to combat antibiotic resistance.

2 Mandatory transfers of Ahmadi schools teachers trigger protest

10 NBK joins Annual Meetings of IMF and the WBG in Washington, D.C.

10 Gulf Bank collaborates with kuwait technical college to empower youth and enhance job skills



12 Britain's Verulamium Museum: A trove of rare Roman antiquities

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:33 Asr 14:46
 Sunrise... 05:53 Maghrib .. 17:12
 Zohr 11:33 Isha 18:29

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Rather hot and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.

By Night: Mild to rather cold and partly cloudy with light to moderate northerly wind, with

Weather

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Wind	Humidity
Jahra	33	22	12-35 km/h	with a chance of scattered light rain.
Failaka Island	31	18		
Salmiyah	31	23		
Ahmadi	31	17		
Jal Aliyah	31	19		
Nuwaisib	30	20		
Kuwait City	31	18		
Kuwait Airport	32	22		
Abdaly	32	19		
Bubyan	31	17		



Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout with military personnel from Kuwait and Egypt at the ceremony to mark anniversary of October 6 War.



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and the Arab Times Ahmed Al-Jarallah with the US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.



Photos by Rizk Taufiq /Samer Shaqir
 Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and the Arab Times Ahmed Al-Jarallah is awarded for his services to the field of journalism.

Arab solidarity highlighted at Egypt embassy ceremony to mark 51st anniversary of Oct 6 War

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Air Defense Force Commander Major General Khaled Saad stressed that full participation in the October War was an expression of true Arab solidarity, which made the October victory a historical epic that everyone remembers.

Saad made the statement when he delivered a speech on behalf of Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain at a ceremony hosted by the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait to commemorate the 51st anniversary of the October 6 War.

He asserted "we cannot talk about

the October victory without mentioning the role of Arab solidarity, which had a profound impact in terms of achieving this great victory. The month of October carries the memory of the greatest victories in modern history that restored pride and honor to the Arab nation and the Egyptian people when the Egyptian Army regained the Sinai Peninsula."

He recalled the position of the State of Kuwait, its government and people in support of Egypt, which came from the fixed principle of standing by the Arab right; "as Kuwaiti soldiers participated in this war valiantly alongside their Egyptian brothers on the banks of the Suez Canal, while Egyptian planes were

pounding the Bar-Lev Line."

He pointed out that the Kuwaiti government urgently sent the Jahra Force to the Syrian front, where it was formed from several military ranks; while the Kuwaiti Yarmouk Brigade participated on the Egyptian front with an armored brigade and advanced artillery. "They continued fighting until the ceasefire," he disclosed.

On the other hand, Military Attaché at the embassy Colonel Mustafa Al-Dallal stated this anniversary is the best evidence of the strength of Arab solidarity. He stressed that the State of Kuwait was and still is the best example of Arab solidarity.

Al-Dallal added the role of the State of Kuwait was not limited

to material support; as "it was the first Arab country to send its armed forces to the battlefield and watered the land of Sinai with the blood of its heroic martyrs. It used its diplomatic media platforms to denounce the occupier, believing in the unity of the Arab ranks and peace in the Arab region."

The ceremony included the honoring of the families of the martyrs of the Kuwaiti Army who participated in the Suez Canal War and the October War in 1973.

In addition, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah was also honored at the ceremony for his media role, along with a number of other media professionals.

Mandatory transfers of Ahmadi schools teachers trigger protest

Tensions rise as MoE warns salary suspension

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The decision to involuntarily transfer 55 female teachers from Ahmadi has sparked widespread protests, especially after 70 percent of them received notices stating that their salaries would be suspended due to their noncompliance with the transfer.

According to educational sources, a number of parents and teachers gathered at the Ahmadi Educational Zone yesterday morning to protest against the decisions to transfer the teachers out of the educational zone against their will. This suggests that the suspension of teachers' salaries reportedly followed their refusal to comply with the transfers, after they were notified about it through the Sahel app.

The director of the Ahmadi Educational Zone was reportedly present to work on withdrawing the transfer decisions, but efforts were rejected by the educational affairs sector, which escalated tensions and resentment among parents and teachers.

The sources explained that the decision has triggered a wave of complaints that have reached the office of the Minister of Education. Many affected teachers confirmed that the transfer decision was sudden without any prior warning or clear planning from the administration, which negatively impacted their professional and personal stability. This is particularly concerning for those who care for disabled individuals, as they require special arrangements before the start of the school year, not a month and a half into the year.

This crisis highlights a lack of coordination between schools and educational administrations in distributing teachers. The current approach appears disorganized and does not reflect the actual workload. Educational affairs sector is supposed to develop a clear distribution plan for teachers based on the needs of schools to prevent such critical issues arising from random assignments.

The sources urged the Ministry of Education to resolve this crisis and strike a necessary balance between the needs of schools and the rights of teachers across all educational regions and levels in light of the lack of coordination and clear plans for distributing educational cadres.

Iran-Kuwait relations based on shared interests: envoy

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Ambassador of Iran to Kuwait Mohammad Totonji says the bilateral relations between the two countries are based on proximity and shared interests in several domains, and have always been balanced.

In a press release issued yesterday prior to the visit of the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Ambassador Totonji said, "Kuwait holds a prominent place in Iran's foreign policy".

He stated that, in light of recent events in the region and the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, coordination and consultation among the regional nations is essential. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's visit to Kuwait falls within this framework and as a continuation of the diplomatic consultations with countries of the region regarding the sensitive security situations in the region.

Ambassador Totonji indicated that the minister, during his visit, will meet with senior officials and statesmen to discuss the latest developments in the region and explore ways to improve relations between the two neighboring countries.

'Register personal data of special people with KFF for emergencies'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: In a proactive effort to enhance safety measures for individuals with special needs, Hawalli Governor Ali Al-Asfar emphasized the importance of registering their data with the Kuwait Fire Force, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative aims to ensure that firefighters can efficiently access vital information during emergencies, including the degree of disability and appropriate response strategies.

By gathering this data, the goal is to manage accidents in a civilized manner, minimizing damage and ensuring the safety of those involved.

Governor Al-Asfar made these remarks during his sponsorship of an awareness titled "Safety from Fires and Accidents and Ways to Prevent Them," held at the Intellectual Education Rehabilitation School.

He stressed the necessity of following safety protocols and fostering cooperation among all stakeholders to protect the rights of individuals with special needs while improving their living conditions.

The event featured a visual presenta-

tion by Lieutenant Colonel Hamed Al-Marshad, an officer from the Awareness and Guidance Department of the General Fire Force.

He provided a comprehensive overview of security and safety guidelines, along with effective methods for responding quickly to emergencies. Governor Al-Asfar's call to action highlights the critical need for awareness and preparedness, ensuring a safer environment for all members of the community.

Meanwhile, a delegation of students from the Ministry of Education, who won the Arab Reading Challenge initiative at the national level in Kuwait, left for Dubai to participate in the coronation ceremony for the eighth season of the Arab Reading Challenge (2023-2024) and witness the launch of the ninth season (2024-2025), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The delegation's participation follows an invitation from Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Secretary-General of the Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, extended to Kuwait's top winning students, their supervisors, companions, and the general coordinator.

They will attend the closing ceremony and accompanying events from October 20 to October 25, 2024.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Education announced that the Arab Reading Challenge champions will be crowned at the season's closing ceremony, which will take place the day after tomorrow,



Al-Asfar



KUNA photo
 The Minister of Foreign Affairs receives a written message, delivered by the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout, addressed to His Highness the Amir from the Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi.

Amir gets Egypt invite to attend forum

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received an invitation on Sunday from Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi to attend the opening of the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12), which will be hosted by Cairo from November 4 to 8, 2024.

The forum, titled "Everything Starts

from Home," will focus on urban development, achieving sustainable development goals, and sharing successful experiences and expertise in these areas.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya received the invitation during his meeting with Egyptian Ambassador to the country, Osama Shaltout.



KUNA photo
 The Kuwait Medical Complex recently opened in northern Pakistani city, Skardu.

'GB will never forget this kindness'

Kuwait opens medical complex in Pakistan's north Skardu city

SKARDU, Pakistan, Oct 21, (KUNA): The Humanitarian Charity Society holds the opening ceremony of the Kuwait Medical Complex (KMC) on Sunday in Pakistan's northern Skardu city.

KMC stands as a state-of-the-art 100-bed hospital located in Skardu city of Gilgit Bhatistan (GB) region aimed at restoring dignity and health to those in need. In his address at the ceremony, Chairman of the Board of Directors Abdul Ilah M.R. Marafie thanked the people of Kuwait and the government of Pakistan for their support in achieving a significant milestone with the inauguration of KMC.

He said that the foundation has had a profound connection with GB inspiring to contribute in education and health to combat poverty.

The Chairman recalled the establishment of a hostel in Karachi city of Pakistan to improve access to quality intermediate education for students from GB. "In 2006, we opened our first hospital in Mehdiabad, focusing on women's health, which continues to serve the community today," he added.

The Chairman mentioned that the first donor to the KMC was the late Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who helped us build the hospital.

He thanked the people of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti donors and the Marafie Foundation Pakistan who helped in achieving the vision to build the KMC. He also thanked the Pakistan government for allocating 30,000 sq. meter of land for the construction of this much-needed hospital.

"I would like to emphasize that this project

will endure as a legacy of the People of Kuwait and our family's commitment to service.

We will continue to support the hospital with dedication, ensuring that it remains a beacon of hope and healing for one and all," the chairman concluded.

The Governor of GB, Syed Mehdi Shah in his speech on the occasion thanked the people of Kuwait for serving humanity and ensured them of his full support for smooth functioning of the hospital to provide needy people best treatment.

He recalled the groundbreaking ceremony of the hospital in 2014 and appreciated the efforts by the foundation to complete the project despite challenges.

He said that people of Pakistan will always remember the kindness and humanitarian aid by the people of Kuwait and the brotherly country. The people of GB will not forget the act of kindness and the gift from people of Kuwait as it is one of the largest hospitals in the area.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Kuwaiti donors, top medical practitioners, politicians, renowned religious scholars and high ranking officials.

A local resident and patient in the hospital, Dilshad Hussain in a statement to KUNA praised the hospital management for his free treatment and thanked the people of Kuwait for the medical facility. He prayed for the State of Kuwait to keep on developing and keep on helping people in need. The KMC is built to meet the region's growing healthcare demands, providing various services such as a modern operation theater, a fully equipped lab, diagnostic services, a pharmacy, and emergency care.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Spontaneous reaction born from deep hatred, not love'

'IT WAS not surprising that the Arab world, particularly in Syria, reacted strongly when the Iranian-backed party in Lebanon was targeted, with its leaders being taken down one by one. This reaction was not out of love for the Zionists, but born from deep hatred for both the Zionists and the Iranian regime that has embedded its influence in our region,' columnist Talal Abdul Karim Al-Arab wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

'There is an old and painful saying that applies here, 'It is not love for Ali, but hatred for Muawiyah'. This reflects the sentiments of those who oppose the Iranian regime -- not in support of Israel, as some mercenaries and militia loyalists might claim, but out of a desire to rid the region of criminals who have committed atrocities against the Arabs on a scale that the enemy itself has not reached.



Talal Al-Arab

'These forces have killed millions of Arabs, displaced tens of millions, and leveled entire cities, far surpassing Israel's toll since its founding.

'Now, a pressing question arises for the Zionist state and for America and the West as well: Why has the US consistently blocked Israel from targeting Iran's nuclear reactors and programs?'

'Isn't this suspicious? Why all the rhetoric surrounding it, then? Could it be that the US is confident this program is intended to target Arabs, not Israel or the West?'

'Why was Iraq's French reactor bombed before it was even completed? Why was a modest scientific facility in Syria bombed while it was still under construction? Why was Egypt's missile development program halted in its infancy, while Iran was allowed to develop and produce weapons freely? This strongly suggests that there is a deliberate plot against the Arabs.'

'Doesn't it raise the question that Israel only strikes and destroys Arab countries overrun by militias loyal to Iran, as if it is continuing the financial, economic, and military destruction already initiated there?'

'Israel, America, the West, and the world all know who is behind these militias and who gives them their orders. We may not be a military superpower, but it is clear that the way to kill a snake is to cut off its head. And we refuse to believe that Western nations or Israel are unaware of who that head is or that they don't realize attacking the tail of the snake is futile.'

'We don't concern ourselves with the number of missiles fired at Israel by those who call themselves the 'Axis of Resistance', nor with Israel's losses, no matter how exaggerated may they be.'

'What matters to us as Arabs is that four Arab countries have suffered deadly, destructive, and costly attacks from this enemy, in retaliation for those missiles. Yet, the ones who ordered the launches remain untouched by single shrapnel.'

'Some important questions arise: Is the recent failed assassination attempt on Netanyahu a signal to begin targeting Iran's top leadership? And is Prime Minister Mikati's defiance of the Iranian parliament speaker's meddling in Lebanon's internal affairs the first step in the decline of Iranian dominance over Lebanon's national decision-making?'

Also:

'I love autumn with its colors, spectra, winds, moods and legends. Autumn has a special place in my heart, which makes me unable to help but embrace it in an article every time it comes. So I have started writing every autumn about the legends that different civilizations have created about this season, which is different in its colors, moods and about its relationship with human life, and everything that

has been described in poetry, literature and songs about this relationship, and about the embrace of art and painting of its colors, which are excessive in their beauty, harmony and creativity,' columnist Suad Fahd Al-Moajel wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

'This autumn is different, as politics has a role and a competing language, in its dialogue with autumn, poetry, literature and art. It is an autumn in which the first anniversary of the winds of the 'Al-Aqsa Flood' has come, which revived an entire nation from its slumber and revived some of its lost dignity that had been long awaited to blow.

'It is an autumn whose violent winds have toppled all false political and humanitarian systems, from human rights to the United Nations, international charters, international law and others.'

'It is an angry autumn that has come to take revenge and avenge the deaths of thousands of innocent children, and to restore the blood, limbs and dignity that were squandered along the way.'

'When the book Autumn of Rage by the late journalist Mohamed Hassanein Heikal was published in 1982, in which he explains the reasons that led to the assassination of former Egyptian president Mohamed Anwar Sadat, the writer said at the time in his introduction that the book would stir up controversy, because the subject is related to Arab and international powers that have their own ongoing goals above the fates of individuals.'

'He added, that the Autumn of Rage deals with the case of an angry president, whose anger has reached the point of arresting symbols of all political and intellectual trends in Egypt, the case of an angry society whose economic, social and corruption conditions have reached a point that has made it turn its back on everything, the case of an angry mosque that has ultimately become a refuge for groups that have lost hope in this world and have found no one but God to migrate to, and the case of an angry church that has done its utmost to avoid strife.'

'What the late Heikal mentioned in his angry autumn applies today to the anger of the Al-Aqsa flood autumn. The stifling and unjust Israeli siege of Gaza made the anger accumulate to explode on the day of the autumn flood as violent winds and volcanoes of anger and resistance.'

'The political and conspiratorial moral corruption that prevailed in the international community from one end to the other doubled the outburst of anger and accelerated the pace of its winds that exploded in the face of all the false treaties, and all the relief and relief committees, human rights and protection of civilians in wars, which the violent autumn wind exposed and scattered like straw on the sidewalks of withered international politics.'

'More than one autumn has passed since the late Heikal announced his autumnal rage, and a second autumn began with the autumn of rage, whose winds blew from Gaza and swept through every Arab soul that has a silent rage burning inside it that was awakened by the autumn of the Al-Aqsa Flood.'

'Perhaps more than one autumn will come and the blazing rage will remain, as the balance of international power is still in favor of the aggressor, and the West is still commemorating the Al-Aqsa flood with tears and candles, and as a violation of the security and stability of Israel and its people, as if the right to security and stability has become a purely Western right, enjoyed only by those who carry specific genetic genes.'

'The autumn of Al-Aqsa will blossom into a green spring, and bear red anemones as a result of the valiant resistance, and as a result of the cycle of seasons, conditions, and destinies. Injustice, oppression, and humiliation are seasonal and transitional states, and the circles of fate, destiny, and time must revolve around them.'

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Sheikh Sabah Bader interacting with the fire dept personnel.

KFF photo

Governor visits Mubarak Al-Kabeer fire department

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor, Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem organized an inspection tour of the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Fire Department to assess the department's preparedness and operational capabilities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, he commended

the dedicated efforts of the fire-fighting force and highlighted the advanced technology and modern equipment utilized in their operations.

Sheikh Sabah Bader Al-Salem expressed satisfaction with the department's readiness to respond to emergencies, emphasizing

the importance of maintaining high standards in public safety and disaster response.

His inspection reflects a commitment to ensuring that the fire department is well-equipped to handle any challenges it may face in safeguarding the community.

Court acquits ex-MP, others in high-profile vote-buying case

KM team cuts power to 12 bachelors-staying properties

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Inaas Awadh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Court of Appeals has acquitted all the defendants involved in the vote-buying case, including former MP Saadoun Hammad Al-Otaibi, of all charges.

Saadoun Hammad had appeared in the previous court session and defended himself, insisting that the case was politically motivated.

Hammad, upon returning from London, had surrendered himself at Kuwait International Airport to serve the two-year prison sentence with hard labor issued against him.

In the earlier session, the Court of Appeals had rejected requests to suspend the implementation of the two-year prison sentence for Hammad and others for their involvement in vote-buying during the 2024 National Assembly elections.

Al-Quraifa's jail term cut: The Court of Appeals overturned the verdict issued by the Criminal Court, which sentenced Musaed Al-Quraifa to four-year imprisonment. The court instead reduced the prison term to two years with a three-year suspension of the sentence for the charges of challenging the rights of His Highness the Amir and offending Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef. For the charges of inciting to overthrow the regime and broadcasting false news, Al-Quraifa was acquitted.

Previously, the Criminal Court sentenced Al-Quraifa to four-year imprisonment with hard labor in the State Security case filed against him for offending the status of the Amir and spreading false information.

During the court proceedings, Al-Quraifa appeared from prison and denied the charges of inciting regime change, offending the Amir, broadcasting false news, and insulting the Minister of Interior.

His lawyers, who were present during the session, had requested his release.

Female acquitted of drug use: The Criminal Court, headed by Justice Abdullah Nasser Al-Asimi, acquitted a female citizen of possessing hashish and another psychotropic substance with the intent to consume these substances, as well as assaulting and insulting public employees - Interior Ministry officers.

According to the case file, the incident officer revealed that when he was on duty in Mahboula, he was examining a complaint about a suspicious building and while monitoring the place, he saw the accused coming out of one of the buildings in an abnormal state and unable to take care of herself.

The officer stopped her and asked for identification card; but she abused and pushed him, trying to take her identification card forcefully. Then, he called the Operations Unit to request for backup. When the backup officers arrived, she insulted them.

Attorney Bashar Al-Nassar, lawyer for the accused, pointed out the invalidity of the stop procedure due to the absence of 'flagrante delicto' (criminal caught in the act); hence, the invalidity of the measures taken after that.

Al-Nassar explained that restriction on personal freedom as a natural human right -- whether the restriction is arrest or search -- is not permissible except in cases of fraud as they are brazen crimes, or with the permission of the Public Prosecution. "The case of my client is not among them. Simply seeing the accused in a staggering state or abnormal condition does not justify the stop and arrest procedures," he added.

It is also stipulated that for the state of 'flagrante delicto' to exist, which allows the police officer to arrest and search the accused without permission from the investigating authority, this state must not have been based on an illegal procedure.

Power supply cut to 12 properties: The Bachelors Committee team from the Kuwait Municipality, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electricity and Water, has cut power supply to 12 illegal properties inhabited by single men in the Al-Firdous area.

This enforcement followed a series of legal procedures, which included marking the violating properties to inform the occupants and owners of the legal issues by placing stickers on these properties enumerating the violations.

This is in addition to formal reports that were prepared against property owners for allowing bachelors to reside in the so-called 'model' areas.

The municipality aims to limit the spread of bachelors living in private residential neighborhoods, addressing concerns about community safety and neighborhood integrity.

48,066 traffic citations: The latest statistics from the Traffic Sector in the Interior Ministry revealed that 48,066 traffic violation citations were issued last week, reports Al-Anba daily.

In compliance with the instruction of Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs Major General Yousef Al-Khudda to continue the intensified security and traffic campaign in all governorates; the sector carried out an extensive campaign last week that led to the arrest of 47 expatriates of various nationalities -- some of whom were proven to have violated the Residency Law, while others were reported absconding.

25,860 transactions in first 9 mths of '24

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry completed 25,860 transactions in the first nine months of 2024, including seizure reports, license violations, opening and closing shops, and receiving consumer complaints, reports Al-Anba daily.

The latest statistics from the department revealed that the biggest number of transactions were completed in September -- a total of 3,691 including 404 seizure reports, 36 license violations, 13 shop opening procedures, 11 shop closing procedures, 292 direct complaints from consumers at branch headquarters and 2,935 complaints received through the electronic portal.

August is second with 3,449 transactions -- 486 seizure reports, 35 license violations, three store closure procedures, three store opening procedures and 2,922 complaints through the electronic portal.

January is third with 3,157 transactions -- 445 seizure reports, 21 license violations, 24 store closures, 12 store openings and 2,655 complaints.

July is fourth with 2,829 transactions -- 634 seizure reports, 39 license violations, 14 store closures and 23 store openings.

April is fifth place with 2,726 transactions -- 373 seizure reports, 39 license violations, seven store closures and 12 store openings.



KFF photo

A photo from the KFF's awareness lecture 'Fire and Accident Safety and Prevention Measures'.

KFF personnel contain yacht fire

KFF holds awareness lecture in school

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Under the patronage and in the presence of the Hawalli Governor Ali Salem Al-Asfar, the Public Relations and Media Department of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) held an awareness lecture titled "Fire and Accident Safety and Prevention Measures" on Sunday morning at the Intellectual Education Rehabilitation School in Hawalli Governorate.

According to a press release issued by KFF, the awareness lecture was held in collaboration with the Friends of the Disabled Team affiliated with the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA).

During this lecture, students were educated on how to maintain the safety and security of the school. They were taught about electrical faults, overloads, the dangers of discarding cigarette butts within school premises, and ways to use fire extinguishers of various types. They were also informed about how to make proper emergency reports as well as the way to evacuate properly in case of a fire or emergency during school hours.

Meanwhile, fire broke out in a yacht that was docked in one of the marinas in Salmiya on Monday morning.

According to a press release issued by the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), when the KFF Control Room received information about the yacht on fire, firefighting teams rushed to the location and brought the fire under control without any reported injuries. Investigations have been launched to determine the cause of the fire.

KTV advocates AI for enhanced news verification

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Director of Operations and Coverage at Kuwait TV Dr. Khaled Al-Anzi affirmed the importance of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology for news verification due to its potential to identify misleading content more effectively, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Speaking at a meeting of the Permanent Committee for Television News at the headquarters of the Arab Countries Broadcasting Union in Tunisia, Dr. Al-Anzi highlighted the experience of the Arab Network for Fact-Checkers, which was established in late 2020, in response to the spread of misleading information about the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the network has grown to include 41 organizations, and now comprises over 250 fact-checkers from 12 Arab countries.

He stressed the huge problem that fake news has become in the media field, due to which there is the need to investigate and trace the sources of news to differentiate the correct news from the fake ones.

Dr. Al-Anzi explained that audio and visual media outlets are now required to implement mechanisms for detecting and investigating fake news, as well as seeking the truth to present to their audience. Thankfully, modern technology provides the tools necessary for such investigations.

The situation in Palestine dominates much of the Arab news landscape. The union continues to provide media coverage of the security and humanitarian conditions in Gaza and the West Bank in coordination with the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation and accredited reporters.

Advertisement for Premium Diwali Sweets featuring 'Mithai Mithai' and 'Pure Desi Ghee Preparation'. Includes an order number: 1800 188 / 55011985.

Cabinet decides to implement govt performance management system

Reform aims better oversight, public confidence

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Council of Ministers has decided to implement an integrated system for managing government performance through the Government Performance Follow-up Agency which has been tasked with overseeing the system's execution, which includes contracting with an international consultant and monitoring progress, reports Al-Rai daily quoting government sources.

This decision follows a Cabinet meeting which was held on September 24, where Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mishaal, head of the Government Performance Follow-up Agency, presented a comprehensive report on developing a government performance management system.

The primary goal of this initiative is to address observations noted in oversight agency reports concerning government performance.

The proposed system aims to achieve several key objectives, includ-



KUNA photo
A file photo during the Council of Ministers weekly meeting at Bayan Palace, chaired by His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, on September 24, 2024.

ing such as:

— Reducing Oversight Observations
— Limiting the issues identified by supervisory bodies

— Financial Sustainability — Establishing financial policies that promote the state's financial stability

— Incentive and Accountability Mechanisms — Developing effective strat-

egies for rewarding high-performing employees and holding underperformers accountable

— Strategic Alignment with Kuwait's Vision — Preparing government agencies for strategies aligned with the national vision for Kuwait

— Improving International Indicators — Enhancing Kuwait's global perfor-

mance metrics
— Boosting Citizen Confidence — Strengthening public trust in government activities

— Service Satisfaction — Achieving high levels of satisfaction among citizens regarding the services provided

— Performance Measurement Indicators — Creating indicators to assess the performance of government agencies and foster a favorable business environment

In conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, the Council will ensure that the necessary financial appropriations are allocated for the engagement of a global consultant to support this initiative.

Moreover, all government agencies are required to adopt the new performance management system, develop strategic plans with clear missions, and establish measurable objectives linked to performance indicators.

The Council has emphasized the importance of enhancing employee evaluation systems across all levels, particularly for supervisory and leadership roles.

This approach aims to ensure accountability and recognition for outstanding performance while promoting specialized roles focused on improving institutional performance.

MoE launches new e-services

Higher Education to allocate part of school for PAAET use

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Acting Minister of Education Dr. Nader Al-Jalal issued two decisions to allocate part of the Khalid bin Al-Waleed School building in the Hawally area for and as the training ground for Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

The first decision allocates a portion of the building to the Ministry of Health as a headquarters for carrying out medical tests for expatriates. This move aims to strengthen the health infrastructure and provide medical testing services in a more organized manner.

The second decision allocates another part of the building to serve as the headquarters for PAAET and provide a suitable training environment for PAAET members in the field of applied education, which contributes to enhancing the efficiency of trainees and improving the quality of education.

The two decisions indicated that the Ministry of Education's Educational Facilities Sector will coordinate with the relevant authorities to ensure the completion of the necessary procedures for this allocation, thereby contributing to achieving the desired goals of both the Ministry of Health and PAAET.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education has introduced new electronic services on the Sahel application aimed at enhancing communication between schools and parents.

The key features include the general notifications service which allows school administrations to send important notifications to parents, including:

- Dates for parents' meetings
- Attendance requests
- Distance learning schedules
- Other significant announcements

This is in addition to student absence warning notifications -- a new feature that alerts parents about their children's absences based on attendance records.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has emphasized its commitment to improving communication with parents, enabling them to easily monitor their children's educational progress.

These services aim to enhance school discipline and facilitate effective tracking of student performance.



Dr. Al-Jalal

Simulation lab opens at new Farwaniya Hospital



Al-Anba photo
Dr. Amal Khader being honored.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Chairperson of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Departments Council and Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Amal Khader has announced the opening of the Simulation Laboratory for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the New Farwaniya Hospital, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Khader disclosed the laboratory was established through the coordinated efforts of the Farwaniya Health District and Farwaniya Hospital administrations. She said the laboratory is equipped with the latest simulation

devices in the field of obstetrics and gynecology; including the training of obstetricians and gynecologists at Farwaniya Hospital on gynecological endoscopes, childbirth operations, wound suturing, ultrasound for pregnant women and gynecological diseases, and how to use surgical tools.

She revealed a two-day workshop was also held on the latest and unique simulation devices in cooperation with Kuwait Obstetrics and Gynecology Association and Obstetrics and Gynecology Program at the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations to train 28 doctors on gynecological laparoscopic surgeries.



KU students with NASA delegation members.

KUNA photo

KU welcomes NASA delegation, discusses enhancing space field

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): Kuwait University (KU) discussed with a US research delegation from The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) ways of enhancing Kuwait's space field on Monday.

In a statement, KU's Head of the Physics Department and project director of Kuwait's first satellite Hala Al-Jassar stated that the delegation came to support research, education, and training between NASA and KU.

For his part, Dr. Yasser Abdulrahim, a professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at KU said that cooperation between NASA and KU will allow students to exchange experiences in the field of space.

KU's Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Research, and Graduate Studies Dr. Suzanne Al-Bustan said that the College of Science students will be shown ways of benefiting from the cooperation in various other fields, as well.

In turn, NASA's Deputy Associate Administrator Casey Swails praised the cooperation between KU and NASA during the visit, and said that the meeting is expected to contribute to the potential of cooperation between the two.

Kuwait Oil Company and Kuwait satellite (Sat-1) representative Hussain Al-Mousa stated that the satellite aims to take pictures and publish them through various communication sites.

Al-Daiya Cooperative to organize 2nd Umrah trip

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Salem Al-Ustadh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Daiya Cooperative Society, announced the approval of the Board to organize the second Umrah trip for the society's shareholders at the end of November, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This follows the success of the first trip, which saw a high turnout with 70 percent support. Al-Ustadh also highlighted the society's plans to provide more activities for shareholders and offer enhanced services to the public in the coming period.

Regarding ongoing projects, Al-Ustadh stated, "The renewal of the central market shelves has been completed, and work is currently underway to replace the air conditioning units in both the central market and Al-Daiya Mall.

"We have also contracted an engineering office to replace the old refrigerators in the central market and the cheese section, with the tender for replacements now being prepared after securing the necessary approvals," he said.

He added that the development of the new mini central market (Plot 2) is progressing according to plan, with the bank branch already open and all shops offered for investment in various activities, set to open soon.

Strategic pact signed

AAIOT partners with Oracle and RIT to boost AI and IoT in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Association for the Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIOT) announced two significant cooperation agreements with Oracle and the Rochester Institute of Technology during its participation in GITEX 2024 in Dubai, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These agreements aim to accelerate the integration of AI and IoT technologies across multiple sectors in Kuwait, aligning with the country's Vision 2035, which seeks to transform Kuwait into a regional technology hub.

In a press release, AAIOT stated, "Oracle will bring its expertise in cloud technology, data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cybersecurity to enhance Kuwait's digital infrastructure. Meanwhile, the AAIOT Association will coordinate efforts with local entities, including government agencies, the private sector, and academic institutions, to tailor these technologies to the specific needs of the Kuwaiti market."

Sheikh Mohammed Al-Sabah, Chairman of AAIOT, praised the partnership with Oracle, emphasizing the added value it brings to Kuwait's



Al-Seyassah photo
Photo taken after signing the agreement.

technology sector.

He remarked, "With Oracle's global expertise and our deep understanding of local market needs, we are confident that this collaboration will pave the way for a sustainable and impactful digital transformation in Kuwait."

Additionally, AAIOT signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rochester Institute of Technology, focused on empowering and training Kuwait's national workforce in fields like digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and smart cities.

The partnership will support the development of specialized educational

programs to equip Kuwaiti youth with the advanced skills necessary for entering the modern job market.

Sheikh Mohammed highlighted that the collaboration with the Rochester Institute will strengthen Kuwait's ability to cultivate a highly skilled national workforce capable of leading the country's technological advancements in the future.

Omar Saleh, Vice President of Oracle Gulf Region, expressed Oracle's enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are proud to collaborate with AAIOT to drive digital transformation in Kuwait through AI and IoT technologies."



October

Room Promotion



One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana
for 2 persons with inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 76.230
Now BHD 49.550 Net



One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet
for 4 persons inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 170.247 Net
Now BHD 110.661 Net





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

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

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

Al-Hamad's luncheon sparks meaningful discussions



Mohammed Al-Barjas, Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers and Ahmed Al-Hamad.



Ahmed Al-Jarallah speaking in the presence of Al-Hamad, Al-Barjas, Al-Gharib, Al-Amawi and Al-Hayyan

Photos by Mohammad Morsi and Samer Shaqair



Duajj Al-Otaibi and Mohammed Fahd Al-Ajmi



Ahmed Al-Hajri, Khaled Al-Dakhil and Awad Al-Mutairi



Saud Al-Farhan



Faisal Al-Gharib, Meshary Al-Amawi and Saleh Al-Hayyan

Colleagues connect over pressing economic issues

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Businessman Ahmed Al-Hamad hosted a luncheon at his residence for a number of his colleagues and friends from various fields including the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah. Several open discussions on a range of topics were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In his welcoming speech, Al-Hamad expressed his happiness and gratitude to all the attendees of the gathering.

He affirmed the importance of continuous communication and the exchange of ideas and opinions during such meetings in strengthening the bonds among friends and colleagues.

Al-Hamad highlighted that such meet-

ings, which focus on various economic issues and developments through constructive discussions, are essential for hearing varied opinions and identifying valuable perspectives that benefit both individuals and society. These discussions serve the supreme national interests and embody the values of communication and solidarity that were upheld by their fathers and grandfathers.

Usufruct possession

Continued from Page 1

merely empty land or neglected ruins and ultimately causing inconvenience to all state institutions.

Such a decision is detrimental to the national economy and individuals alike, because it will further shrink industrial, service, and agricultural areas, and increase dependence on imported goods, even the basic commodities.

Allowing the inheritance of usufruct ensures the continuity of activities, regardless of their type. The restrictions imposed in this regard are particularly unfair, as they hinder the expansion of activities within these facilities instead of encouraging investment.

If someone who grows vegetables wants to add fruit, this may later reduce the huge costs of importing them from abroad. Unfortunately, in Kuwait, some operate on an irrational principle, and this applies to all industrial, agricultural, and service facilities.

Hence, the proposal to prevent the inheritance or sale of usufruct rights for a property suggests a lack of understanding. It undermines the national economy by removing an important tool for development. Despite ministers' statements indicating Kuwait's desire to compete with neighboring countries, this proposal seems more like a catchphrase than a viable strategy.

Kuwait's Constitution and law ban the confiscation of usufructuary property except under certain conditions, as ownership is a sacred right, and one of the foundations upheld by all countries. Therefore, contemplating such a matter poses a huge threat to both individuals and institutions.

This raises an important question - How can the Council of Ministers promote the idea of development and job creation for citizens while simultaneously attempting to stifle the economy with such proposals, which we hope are merely hypothetical?

We sincerely hope this is just an unrealistic idea, as implementing it would only serve to further restrict citizens.

Kuwait deports

Continued from Page 1

Moreover, 506 misdemeanor cases were registered against domestic workers (Article 20 visa) and companies whose violations include facilitating visa procedures in exchange for money, harboring violators and absconding.

The ministry reiterated that it will not hesitate in arresting and holding accountable anyone proven to have violated the Residency and Labor laws, stressing the accountability is applied on both the employer and the employee.

Meanwhile, a security source confirmed to the newspaper that the security campaigns are continuing in all governorates at different and unexpected times.

Kuwait inks

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait and these countries to greater levels, said chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah.

The global gathering brings together representatives of civil aviation bodies and organizations from around the world in an effort to learn about "current industry trends and issues, exchange experiences, in addition to the negotiation of agreements," according to the event's website.

Iraq and

Continued from Page 1

He said Iraq will participate in a conference scheduled for next month in Kuwait at the level of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. "We aim to have effective participation in this conference, because Iraq is considered a large part of the axis of combating terrorism. We are hoping for the success of this conference in terms of organization and attendance."

He explained that the periodic meetings of the technical committee are pre-determined; reiterating the Iraqi government's desire to push forward the relevant files, especially since there are many commonalities between the two countries.

He is hoping that "the pace of these talks and negotiations will accelerate, and that negotiations to complete the demarcation of maritime borders will begin as soon as possible."

On the extent of coordination between the two countries in case the Zionist entity strikes neighboring Iran, Al-Safi said "this strike is mere speculation. We hope things will not escalate to the point of strikes, and that there will be diplomatic efforts to prevent the region from drifting into tensions with dire consequences ... because entering into such a strike is easy, but exiting from it is difficult."

On coordination between his country and Kuwait about hosting the Gulf Cup, he confirmed "there is coordination between the Gulf countries and Iraq regarding Kuwait hosting the 26th Gulf Cup. We are hoping for a large public presence from all Gulf countries, and Iraq as well. There will be a mechanism for applying for entry visas for fans. We had a previous experience last month and it was successful. We wish it will continue and grow. As far as I know, the stadiums are ready. The Gulf Federation has approved the preparations of the State of Kuwait. I am confident that Kuwait will organize this tournament in the best possible way. We are aspiring for a large attendance. I wish the title holder - Iraq - will appear at a high level and retain the title."

Asked about the issue of prisoners and missing persons, he clarified this is a purely humanitarian issue that the Iraqi government is striving to investigate. "We are not leaving any stone unturned in this regard," he concluded.

Education cancels

Continued from Page 1

However, the Ministry clarified that school competitions are exempt from this suspension.

They underscored the importance of implementing necessary safety measures during school activities to prevent any future incidents occurring outside school premises.

MoH moves

Continued from Page 1

to tackle this issue. Since 2021, a specialized liaison officer has been assigned to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) for collecting accurate and comprehensive data on these bacteria from all of the ministry's microbiology laboratories and sending it directly to the WHO. Within the framework of this international cooperation, Kuwait has submitted accurate and detailed data, including 59,926 samples in 2023. This reflects its strong commitment to supporting global efforts to combat microbial resistance.

Furthermore, data on fungi that cause blood poisoning were provided, placing Kuwait in a leading position for accurate and integrated medical monitoring, and improving the global system's ability to analyze and follow up these complex cases.

In line with the ambitious objectives of the Global Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance and under the "AWARE" program, Dr. Al-Awadhi said Kuwait has implemented stringent and innovative policies to regulate the use of antibiotics in all of its healthcare facilities.

Kuwait charts



Continued from Page 1

The plant privatization move was meant to turn state bodies from an operator and producer into an organizer and regulator, giving the private sector the opportunity to own or operate and manage productive utilities and units with a view to revamping their productive efficiency, thus serving the country's national economy.


Five policies of a dynamic private sector promotion program was accomplished by the end of the last quarter of the 2023-2024 annual plan, bearing on 17 development projects carried out by nine state agencies.

Of this figure, a project is now in the delivery rate, seven in the implementation process and nine in the preparation phase, according to the report.

Five policies have been put in place in this regard, chiefly related to the development of large-sized and highly efficient productive economies by means of developing economically prioritized sectors. In this regard, the report particularly mentioned the mega Al-Zour refinery project of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), which is in the delivery phase with a completion rate of 99.9 percent.

To apply please scan QR code:



Join Our Team

Kuwait Airways Job Vacancies Announcement

Kuwait Airways announces the vacancies for the job listed below in accordance with the following specific requirements and specifications:

Required Job	Qualifications	Required Experience
Sr. Expert Investment & Cash Flow	University degree in Accounting, or Finance.	16 years of general treasury accounting experience, with a knowledge of project evaluation and capital investment techniques experience of surplus funds and foreign exchange field, including 5 years supervisory or management experience.
Expert Investment & Cash Flow	University degree in Accounting, or Finance.	14 years general treasury accounting experience, with a knowledge of project evaluation and capital investment techniques experience of surplus funds and foreign exchange field, including 5 years supervisory or management experience.

General Terms:

1. For Kuwaiti Nationals Only.
2. The applicant is required to be proficient in Arabic and English (Reading & Writing & Speaking) and proficient in computer applications
3. A minimum of 70% is required to pass the English language test.
4. The applicant must successfully pass a set of tests with specified success rates in order to qualify for a personal interview.
5. The applicant must have performed the mandatory military service or be postponed, excluded, or exempted from it in accordance with Law No. 20/2015 and submit a Completion Certificate of the mandatory military service.
6. Applicants shall be subject to the necessary conditions for appointment in accordance with the rules and regulations at Kuwait Airways.
7. University degrees that are not recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait will not be considered.
8. Applicants must demonstrate good conduct and behavior and must not have been convicted in any case prejudicial to honor or honesty.
9. Applicants will be subject to personal interviews and the necessary tests, and in the event of equal ratings, comparison between them will be made according to the following standards of Civil Service Commission Resolution No. (4) of 2001 and in their order:
 - 1: Holding a grade of (90%) or higher for the qualification.
 - 2: Whomever graduated first.
 - 3: Age seniority.
 - 4: Married applicants are preferred over single status applicants.
10. Submission and receipt of the application do not imply acceptance. Any application that fails to meet the specified conditions will not be considered, and the company reserves the right to decline or not respond to the applicant.

How to apply:

- Applications shall be submitted on the website: careers.kuwaitairways.com. This shall be within 15 days from the date of publishing this announcement.
- Documents to be attached to the website:
 1. CV.
 2. Educational Qualification and professional certificates approved and equivalency approved by the official authorities in the State of Kuwait.
 3. Copy of Civil ID, Passport, Nationality and Birth Certificate.
 4. To whom it may concern certificate from The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) and Career Progression.
 5. Experience Certificates
 6. To whom it may concern certificate from military service for service completion, or postponed, excluded or exempted (If applicable).
- Applications that do not meet the requirements or incomplete applications shall be excluded, and this exclusion in itself is considered an official apology without the need to notify the applicant.

Kuwait Airways Company
22 October 2024

In extension of its efforts to attract job-seeking local talents

KIB concludes its participation in 3rd edition of Kuwait's biggest employment fair, Watheefti

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently took part in the third edition of Watheefti employment fair, the biggest of its kind in Kuwait and the most attractive to national young professionals. The Bank's participation in the three-day event comes in affirmation of its societal role in supporting young, national talents – helping them hone their skills to meet the market's demands, especially within the private banking sector. The fair also presented an excellent opportunity to spread banking awareness, in support of the 'Let's Be Aware' (Diraya) campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with local banks.

Commenting on KIB's participation in the fair, Feras Al Darmi, General Manager of Human Resources at KIB, stated: "We were extremely happy to participate in the third edition of the Watheefti job fair. It is among KIB's top priorities to support and develop Kuwait's national youth cadres, a goal that the Bank is continuously taking active strides towards by offering the youth suitable job opportunities, which underscore their integral role in Kuwait's sustainable growth. In addition to the job opportunities, our team is constantly developing comprehensive training programs for up-and-coming professionals, reinforcing their capabilities and boosting their professional performance. After all, the youth are undoubtedly any institution's cornerstone for success and development, especially in the long run."

Al Darmi highlighted that KIB's presence at Watheefti gave visitors a



Photo during the fair.

chance to hand in their resumes, and to get a brief from a dedicated KIB team about the multi-faceted career path and the rich financial and economic experience that the Kuwaiti banking sector offers. The Bank's representatives also elaborated on the nature of KIB's work environment and its requirements, in addition to the different functions and the skills needed for each job position.

Al Darmi added: "Participating in Watheefti provided us with a valuable opportunity to not only connect with aspiring professionals but also to support the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign's mission of enhancing financial awareness in Kuwait. During the event, KIB played a key role in educating attendees, particularly young professionals and university graduates, on critical financial top-

ics, including personal finance management, secure banking practices, savings, and fraud prevention. Our presence at the event reflects our commitment to fostering both career development and financial literacy."

Organized from October 17th to the 19th at The Arena – 360 Mall, the Watheefti career fair gathered participants and recruiters from various industries of the Kuwaiti private

sector with over 100 companies participating in the event. To further support the fair, conferences, workshops and other activities were held at the adjacent Grand Hyatt over three days.

Al Darmi praised the employment fair for its continuous success, stressing KIB's commitment to continuously participate in such events, which aim to give a boost to future

generations in their journey of joining the job market. He highlighted that the Bank spares no effort in supporting and sponsoring young Kuwaiti talents, inviting all candidates interested in working at KIB to send their resumes to recruitment@kib.com.kw.

About KIB

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

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

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

Clients can win up to KD 1,000, 25-gram gold bar, and 35,000 miles

Warba announces winners of salary transfer campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Warba Bank continues its salary transfer campaign for the year 2024, which gives the clients a chance to obtain different benefits, most notably an exceptional travel experience and cash prizes of up to KD 1,000, a 25-gram gold bar, and 35,000 miles provided by Warba Bank in cooperation with the Oasis Club of Kuwait Airways, in addition to a cash gift of up to KD 15,000.

The Bank stated that this year's salary transfer campaign will grant all Kuwaiti clients of Warba Bank whose salaries exceed KWD 500 exceptional benefits and entry into the monthly and weekly draws for the 2024 Salary Transfer Campaign.

The weekly draw was held and three clients won. The first winner was: Khaled Hussein Al-Zaid, who won a prize worth KD 1,000, while the second winner was Bader Mnawer Al-Shemmeri, who received a 25-gram gold bar. The third prize, went to Hussein Hadi Al-Azmi, who received 35,000 miles provided by Warba Bank in



Ahmed Al-Mutawa, Area Manager Retail Banking Group.

cooperation with the Oasis Club of Kuwait Airways.

On this occasion, Ahmed Mohammad Al-Mutawa—Area Manager Retail Banking Group, said: "We are always keen to provide the best distinctive offers and exclusive benefits to our clients that suit different segments and ages

of Kuwaitis whose salaries exceed KD 500, so we launched this year's salary transfer campaign with exceptional benefits and rewards."

Al-Mutawa added: "Salary transfer gives clients the opportunity to enjoy the distinguished banking solutions provided by Warba Bank, including innovative digital services and the most advanced payment solutions using the latest technology, which contributes to providing clients with banking experience on the highest levels of luxury, security and peace of mind."

He stressed that all the offers included in the salary transfer campaign this year were carefully designed in line with clients' needs and seasonal requirements, with the aim of always providing the most valuable and suitable offers for our clients.

Al-Mutawa pointed out that transferring the salary gives clients the opportunity to obtain special benefits such as other banking and investment solutions, indicating that Warba clients obtain many

exceptional benefits when transferring their salary to the Bank, which include benefiting from the largest banking networks in Kuwait, whether in terms of branches or ATMs.

Al-Mutawa explained that Warba clients can complete their banking transactions quickly, easily and at any time through the Bank's electronic channels, most notably the Warba mobile service, which the Bank is constantly developing and updating, and which is always highly demanded by clients, as it has come to account for the largest share of banking transactions.

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



Photos during the event.

Dr. Ameera encourages parental discipline

FAIPS-DPS dazzles with a symphony of smiles

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The annual celebration at FAIPS-DPS was a lively showcase of talent and enthusiasm, as Grade 1 students took the stage and captivated the audience with their performances. Titled 'A Symphony of Smiles', the event was held on Thursday, 17 October, 2024, in the school auditorium and was attended by an audience of 1,500 eager to support the young performers.

The show commenced with the Kuwait National Anthem, followed by the recital of the Holy Quran and the lighting of the lamp. The Principal, Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr. Ameera Al Hassan, Head of UN-Habitat, Kuwait & GCC mission and the Guest of Honour, Dr. Amir Ahmed, the former President of the Indian Doctors Forum and very well-known humanitarian. In his welcome note, the principal highlighted the crucial role that both parents and teachers play in nurturing the global citizens of tomorrow. He also emphasized the importance of discipline in schools and the need for parental cooperation to ensure every child reaches their full potential.

The inaugural performance transformed the stage into a colourful spectacle as the children displayed their danc-

ing skills with flawless coordination. Thereafter, the programme featured a series of delightful renditions in English and Hindi.

The students went beyond music and mesmerized the audience with traditional and contemporary dance performances. The carefully choreographed French, Arabic, Gujarati, Punjabi and Tamil folk dances left the audience cheering for more. Clad in bright costumes, the young dancers gracefully presented the rhythms of India through a fusion of North and South Indian dance styles.

The grand finale featured a vibrant contemporary performance with a stunning display of movement. Their infectious smiles and spirited movements brought a sense of joy, leaving everyone excited for next year's celebration.

In the closing remarks, Dr. Ameera Al Hassan, commended the students for their outstanding performances. Addressing the audience, she echoed the principal's sentiments and encouraged parents to instil discipline in their children. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Amir Ahmed, was visibly mesmerized. In his address, he applauded the school for excelling not only in academics but also in fostering the overall development of its students.

Collaboration with Green Hands Environment Team for environmental efforts

Youth Wing IEC Kuwait organizes beach cleaning campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Youth Wing Islamic Education Committee Kuwait organized a beach clean-

ing campaign in collaboration with Green Hands Environment Team Kuwait. A large number of people

had gathered on the beach near the Kuwait Towers.

Campaign started with the recita-

tion of the Holy Quran, by young Hamad Nadeem. After the recitation, President Youth Wing Islamic Education Committee Kuwait, Malik Abdul Ghaffar, highlighted the various activities of the Youth Wing and their importance.

The member of Youth Wing, Zahid Khadim, provided detailed information to the attendees on the importance of cleanliness and environment. Irfan Shafiq, Coordinator of Green Hands Environment Team Kuwait thanked the public and IEC youth wing.

On this occasion, Madam Ruba Al Ameer, & Madam Badria Al Tabekh appreciated the services of the Pakistani community and thanked the Youth Wing Islamic Education Committee for being the arms of Green Hands Environment Team in this good work. They expressed his gratitude and said that the Pakistani community has always played a very important role in the development and prosperity of Kuwait.

After that, the participants were provided with the necessary equipment for cleaning and all the people started cleaning the specific part of the beach.

In the concluding remarks, President Islamic Education Committee Kuwait, Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman gave a detailed speech on the importance of cleanliness in Islam and its necessity. He said that Kuwait is our second homeland and home and keeping our house clean is not only a command of Islam but also a collective duty of all of us. Rana Ejaz Husain delivered the prayer. He also expressed his views on the importance of cleanliness. The program was concluded with a prayer of Prosperity of Kuwait & Pakistan.



Photos during the campaign.

		Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts	
SAUDI	- TASI	+125.38	12,008.31	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	-27.15	38,954.60
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+8.71	4,477.96	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-9.10	7,406.63
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+916.41	30,445.20				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+726.34	86,039.38				

Business

Earnings per share reached 29.62 fils, an increase of 4.8%

KFH achieves KD 482.9 million net profit in Q3 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Chairman of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq announced that KFH has, by the grace of Allah, achieved a net profit for its shareholders of KD 482.9 million (USD 1.58 billion) up to the end of the third quarter of 2024, an increase of 4.6% compared to the same period last year. The profits up to the end of the third quarter of 2024 are the highest in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

Earnings per share up to the end of Q3 2024 reached 29.62 fils; an increase of 4.8% compared to the same period last year.

Net financing income up to the end of Q3 2024 reached KD 835.1 million; an increase of 17.0% compared to the same period last year.

Total operating income up to the end of Q3 2024 increased, supported by an increase in all core activities to reach nearly KD 1.2 billion; an increase of 6.9% compared to the same period last year.

Net operating income up to the end of Q3 2024 increased to reach KD 754.0 million; an increase of 1.9% compared to the same period last year.

Financing receivables as of the end of Q3 2024 reached KD 19.1 billion, affected by the sale of Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain, as well as the impact of foreign currency fluctuations during the current period.

Total assets as of the end of Q3 2024 amounted to KD 36.3 billion. Shareholders' equity amounted to about KD 5.4 billion as of the end of Q3 2024.

Depositors' accounts as of the end of Q3 2024 amounted to KD 19.9 billion.

In addition, the capital adequacy ratio reached 17.68% which is above the limit required by regulators. This ratio confirms the solid capital base of KFH.

Exceptional financial results

Al-Marzouq highlighted that KFH has achieved record financial results by the end of the third quarter of 2024, with growth in the main indicators. This success is attributed to the strong performance and disciplined implementation of KFH's strategy, along with a cautious approach to risk management. The bank has also focused on diversifying the financing portfolio, boosting the capital base, and improving the quality of assets to ensure KFH's ongoing financial strength and solid creditworthiness.

Completion of the merger process

Al-Marzouq added that the record financial results were achieved in conjunction with the completion of the merger between KFH and (formerly) AUBK, the largest in Kuwaiti banking history. This marks the beginning of a new successful phase for KFH. The merger has become a successful model in the region, creating a major financial entity in the Islamic finance industry locally, regionally, and globally. It solidified KFH's position as a benchmark in the industry and set the stage for its goal to be listed among the top 100 banks in the world.

Successful conversion

Al-Marzouq explained that KFH Group has demonstrated its capability in advancing the future of Islamic finance worldwide. He highlighted the rapid and successful conversion of the operations of AUB-Bahrain, AUB -UK, and AUB-Egypt to Sharia-compliant banking services. This supports KFH Group's strategy to contribute to expanding the Islamic finance sector on a local, regional, and global scale.

Supporting Kuwaiti businesses

Al-Marzouq emphasized that KFH's support for Kuwaiti businesses and development plans stems from its significant national role and its distinguished economic position as Kuwait's largest bank by market capitalization, the world's second-largest Islamic bank, and a highly competent, financially stable, and experienced institution. He noted that KFH's financing activities have diversified across various sectors, including oil, petrochemicals, energy projects, infrastructure, startups, environmentally friendly ventures, and real estate development. KFH has been a strategic partner in funding all major development projects.



KFH's Chairman Hamad Abdulmohsen Al-Marzouq



KFH's Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood

- Net financing income reached KD 835.1 million; an increase of 17.0%
- Total operation income reached nearly KD 1.2 billion; an increase of 6.9%
- Al-Marzouq: Record profits are the highest in the Kuwaiti banking sector
- KFH's support for development plans stems from its leading national role and prestigious economic position
- MSCI Index "A" Rating for Exceptional ESG Performance
- KFH Group demonstrates potential to enhance the future of Islamic finance in the world
- Al Rushood: Profits confirm stability and robust solvency
- KFH reaps the fruits of its successful strategic plan
- We continue our efforts in sustainability and promoting financial inclusion and green finance products
- Global reach with 640 branches in 12 different countries

Sustainable banking

Al-Marzouq stressed KFH's commitment to a transparent framework aimed at creating a more sustainable banking model that incorporates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects. He highlighted the ongoing progress of sustainability initiatives at KFH, with a focus on achieving new milestones and further integrating sustainable practices into the bank's operations to support its growth. Al-Marzouq also underscored the bank's commitment to enhancing financial inclusion and promoting green financing products as part of its sustainability efforts.

KFH's addition to the FTSE4Good Index Series for emerging markets highlights the increasing focus of KFH on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. The bank also achieved an "A" rating on the MSCI ESG Index due to its strong commitment to ESG practices. Additionally, KFH was recognized for having the top ESG risk assessment on the Sustainalytics Index, receiving a score of 24.7, the highest among Kuwaiti banks.

Societal leadership

Al-Marzouq confirmed KFH's commitment to upholding its role as a leading example of social responsibility and maintaining its status as a respected national financial institution that fulfills a societal purpose and actively participates in executing numerous strategic community projects.

Stability and robust solvency

KFH's Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood stated that the bank's financial results up to the third quarter of 2024 demonstrate the stability and robust solvency of KFH. He added that the bank's successful strategic plan and high-quality assets have enabled it to maintain profitability and strengthen its financial position. This success validates KFH's vision and business plan, which focus on sustainable profits, promoting financial position, improving cost-to-income ratios, managing bad debts, increasing operating income, and bolstering liquidity and capital adequacy ratios.

A giant banking group

Al Rushood commended KFH for its distinguished status as a giant banking entity that attains sustainable profits, competitive performance, and international presence across approximately 640 branches in 12 countries, notably including Kuwait, Bahrain, Türkiye, Egypt, Britain, and Germany. He noted that KFH surpasses all other Kuwaiti banks and companies listed on Boursa Kuwait in terms of market capitalization, which exceeds KD 12 billion.

Digital transformation journey

Al Rushood shed light on KFH's achievements in digital transformation and improving customer experience to meet their evolving needs. This was achieved by continuing collaboration with FinTech companies, developing technological infrastructure, integrating artificial intelligence into global operations, and ensuring that all services and products offered to customers meet high standards of speed, quality, and security.

Al Rushood highlighted Tam Bank, introduced by KFH as Kuwait's first Shariah-compliant digital bank, along with the digital payment platform Zaha for merchants, as examples of KFH's dedication to offering top digital financial solutions to customers of various segments.

Best Institution in Manpower Nationalization

Al Rushood emphasized the high quality of KFH and its commitment to implementing replacement, nationalization, and training programs within the private sector in Kuwait. This recognition of KFH as the top institution for manpower nationalization in Kuwait underscores their ongoing efforts to support and enhance the skills of young graduates and experienced professionals. KFH has a comprehensive strategy in place to attract, develop, and nurture Kuwaiti talent, ensuring that individuals have the necessary skills and experience to excel in leadership roles and contribute effectively to KFH's success. He mentioned that KFH won 13 distinguished global awards in the field of Human Resources for 2024 from the renowned Brandon Hall Group.

Rankings & awards

Al Rushood highlighted the fact that KFH continues to receive esteemed international ratings and awards, solidifying its position as a top financial institution in the region. He specifically commended KFH Group for their recent achievements, such as being awarded Kuwait's Best Bank, Kuwait's Best Digital Bank - tam digital bank, Kuwait's Best Bank for ESG by Euromoney. Additionally, KFH was recognized as the top listed company in Kuwait and ranked tenth in the Middle East by Forbes Middle East in their 2024 ranking of the top 100 listed companies. KFH has ranked first in the Kuwaiti banking sector in terms of growth and return on risk for this year's Top 100 Arab Banks Rankings from The Banker. These accomplishments, along with numerous other international awards, further establish KFH's significant role in the Islamic finance industry.

Acknowledgments

Al Rushood expressed gratitude to shareholders and customers for their trust, and to the Board for their unwavering support. He also thanked the Central Bank of Kuwait and regulatory authorities for their support to the banking system. He also expressed appreciation for the executive management and all employees for their dedication and hard work.

The highest
in the Kuwaiti
banking sector

Praise be to Allah

482.9 KD Million

بيت التمويل الكويتي
Kuwait Finance House



Net Profit for Shareholders until the end of Q3 - 2024

	30/09/2024	30/09/2023	%
Net Profit for Shareholders "KD Million"	482.9	461.5	4.6
Earnings per Share "Fils"	29.62	28.26	4.8
Net Financing Income "KD Million"	835.1	713.9	17.0
Net Operating Income "KD Million"	754.0	739.8	1.9
	30/09/2024	31/12/2023	%
Total Assets "KD Million"	36,259	38,010	(4.6)
Financing Receivables * "KD Million"	19,136	19,425	(1.5)
Depositors' Accounts * "KD Million"	19,865	21,813	(8.9)
Shareholders' equity "KD Million"	5,371	5,316	1.0

* Financing receivable and depositors' accounts decreased due to the effect of Sale "Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain", as well as the impact of foreign currency fluctuations during the current period.

Sides sign partnership agreement

Gulf Bank collaborates with kuwait technical college to empower youth and enhance job skills

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: In its ongoing efforts to empower youth, Gulf Bank has signed a partnership agreement with kuwait technical college (ktech) to train and prepare college students for the job market. This initiative demonstrates the bank's dedication to fostering the growth of young national talent and enhancing their skills.

Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, expressed her excitement, stating, "We are delighted to embark on this partnership with ktech to promote cooperation among community institutions, supporting youth development and equipping them with outstanding skills for the job market." She highlighted Gulf Bank's commitment to nurturing young talent across various fields, both within the bank and in the broader community.

"Our youth embody the generation capable of meeting current demands and keeping up with the rapid technological advancements in the banking sector, both locally and globally. We actively participate in job fairs organized by different universities and collaborate with civil society organizations dedicated to youth training and development," Al-Hajjaj stated.

Mrs. Al-Hajjaj reaffirmed the bank's dedication to supporting Kuwait's Vision 2035, which focuses on enhancing employment in the private sector and developing young Kuwaitis. "Our commitment is evident in the rising growth rates of national employment at Gulf Bank in recent years." She continued, "We take pride in being one of the leading banks that generously invest in human capital to enhance our employees' competencies, as they are the central pillar in achieving our strategic objectives. We provide them with the latest experiences and skills



Salma Al-Hajjaj and Mishari Boudi sign the partnership agreement.

necessary to keep up with the significant developments in the banking industry." Al-Hajjaj concluded by emphasizing that recruitment, training and development are essential pillars of Gulf Bank's ongoing efforts to promote economic sustainability. "By hiring and nurturing Kuwaiti talent, we empower them to thrive and grow, preparing them to become the future leaders in the private sector."

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive

Salma Al-Hajjaj:

■ We are committed to supporting Kuwait's vision of empowering youth and increasing employment

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.



Group picture of the judges panel members.

Zain Great Idea Bootcamp concludes

10 Kuwait-based tech startups to join ZGI Int'l Accelerator Program in Silicon Valley

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Zain announces 10 Kuwait-based tech startups selected by the judges panel to advance to the next phase of Zain Great Idea (ZGI) – the International Accelerator Program in Palo Alto, California, specifically in Silicon Valley, the global center of innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.

The following startups and founders have qualified: Lama Aloraiman and Ksenia Ozkok from BLU DOT – the platform that transforms access to space, Dalal Thani from Akrem – the app that enables secure and easy tipping to service providers, Raghad AlZamel from MAWADA – the ultimate gifting platform, Hamad Althunayyan, Nasser AlQimlas, and Ryan Dougherty from DAWRATY – the quality education platform, and Abdulrahman AlHamdan from Nextbite – the platform that revolutionize the dining and hospitality experiences.

Also joining the program are Faisal Tawfiqi, Fahad Alzuabi, and Maxime Rousselet from USim – the seamless internet roaming app, Eissa Alloughani from STAX – the app that offers one membership to access the best gyms in Kuwait, Abdullah Albusairi from EYON – the Arab live streaming platform, Abdullah Shaban from Mawqif – the ultimate parking app, and Tala Alzafiri from Q8MAPS – the e-mapping and GIS solutions app.

The announcement came after the ZGI participants joined Super Saturday, where they utilized the expertise and skills they acquired in the first phase, the ZGI Bootcamp, to prepare the final business pitches of their startups and present them to the judges panel. The 10 finalists were then selected based on a set of criteria that took into account several key aspects of the business.

The judges panel featured executives, experts, and investors, including Volkan Sen, Digital Investment Director of Zain Ventures; Dakhil Al Dakhil, CEO of Rasameel Investment; Abdulaziz Al Marzouq, Assistant Manager for Business Development at Rasameel; Abdulaziz Al Dhubaib, CEO and Managing Partner at NIZEK;

Seham Al Husaini, General Manager at Deliveroo; Omar Al Mandani, CTO of Dars Learning; Saud Ak Subaie, COO Al Sayer Facilities and founder of CUARDO; Sohail Ladha, CEO Asiya Investments; and Saleh Al Tunaib, CEO and co-founder of Btr.tech.

The finalists will join the ZGI International Accelerator Program in Palo Alto, California, specifically in Silicon Valley, the global center of innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. The program is offered in collaboration with Vibranium VC, a Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm specializing in startup investments.

The program offers an invaluable opportunity for finalists to learn about business dynamics first-hand in the heart of Silicon Valley. Participants will attend workshops, connect with startup founders, visit major accelerators and tech companies, pitch their ideas to investment funds, build relationships, and gain a deep understanding of the global entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The program will include field visits and insightful talks in collaboration with major tech companies and prestigious universities and accelerators in Silicon Valley, including Amazon, Nvidia, Stanford University, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), 500 Startups, and more.

The first phase, the ZGI Bootcamp, recently concluded, with over 70 aspiring

entrepreneurs joining to learn the most essential business and startup management skills through intensive workshops, training programs, and one-on-one mentoring sessions.

The bootcamp was facilitated by a group of local, regional, and international experts, like Prof. Paris de l'Etraz from IE Business School, Prof. Mike Grandinetti from Harvard, MIT, and Brown universities, Ramesh Chander from Google for Startups, and Gaele Bou Abdo from IE Business School.

In addition, the bootcamp featured Sahar Albaharna from IMPACTIQUE, Noorhan Al-Zan from Noor Coaching, Abdullah Saleem from Mushtari, Abdullah Al Mutawa from Cari, Abdulaziz Al Marzouq from Rasameel Investment, and Yousef Alhusaini from Baimis.

In the last week of the Bootcamp, ZGI participants worked on developing multiple aspects of their startups by joining extensive one-on-one sessions with experts and business owners from various industries, including Ahmad Marafi from CODED Academy, Najlaa Al Rumaith from Zain Group Branding and Advertising, Sulaiman Al Tunaib & Abdulrahman Al Sadoun from Waves, Naser Al Qatami from Jahez, Eid Al Mujaib from Tenmeya, Faisal Al Kuraibi from Enabill, and Rawan Alotair from Octopus AI.



From the ZGI Super Saturday event.

Boursa Kuwait's general index down by 0.32 pct

Total of 281.4 million shares were traded

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday with its general index down by 22.68 points, or 0.32 percent, settling at 7,026.91 points. A total of 281.4 million shares were traded across 16,412

cash transactions, amounting to KD 51.7 million (around USD 1 million).

The main market index dropped 54.01 points, or 0.84 percent, closing at 6,405.78 points, with 212.8 million shares traded through 9,543 transactions, valued at KD 26.8 million (USD 81.7 million).

The premier market index also de-

creased by 15.45 points, or 0.20 percent, to reach 7,530.84 points, with 68.5 million shares traded across 6,869 transactions, totaling KD 24.8 million (USD 75.6 million).

The Main 50 index fell by 68.18 points, or 1.07 percent, ending at 6,316.68 points, with 160.5 million shares traded through 6,435 cash transactions, valued at KD 20.12 million (about USD 60.3 million).

Delegation to discuss key challenges facing global economy

NBK joins Annual Meetings of IMF and the WBG in Washington, D.C.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: In a reflection to its unwavering commitment to advancing international collaboration and knowledge exchange in finance and economics, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is participating in the Annual Meetings held by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG). These high-level discussions are held in Washington, D.C. starting from yesterday until October 26th.

NBK's delegation is headed by Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO, alongside Mr. Omar Bouhadiba, CEO of International Banking Group, and Mr. Nassif Chehab, Head of Financial Institutions Division, as well as Mr. Rani Selwanes, General Manager of NBK- New York. The delegation will take part in the Annual Meetings, focusing on discussions regarding significant economic and financial challenges. Key topics on the agenda include exploring how do governance reforms promote economic growth and social inclusion.

On the sidelines of the meetings, NBK delegation will attend the Group of Thirty's seminar, an exclusive annual gathering of central bank governors, senior officials and executives of the financial sector, as well as academics. The seminar provides a platform to address the most pressing financial and systemic challenges facing the global central banking community. Additionally, the delegation will participate in the Institute of International Finance (IIF) Annual Membership Meeting.

The delegation will also take part in a joint reception ceremony hosted by Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) for senior international banking leaders on the sidelines of the meetings. This event will be attended by Kuwaiti banking leaders, heads of international banks, as well as officials from European and Arab central banks, along with a large number of international public figures and decision makers. Additionally, the delegation will attend a reception hosted by the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the United States of America.

This year's annual meetings will discuss several important topics, including public debt, fiscal sustainability, and economic growth, by assessing financial risks and analyzing growth indicators in member countries and ways to promote sustainable development. Furthermore, the meetings tackled international trade issues with the continued disruption of shipping traffic in the Red Sea and the impact of geopolitical tensions on the global economic landscape.

Discussions will also address the issue of climate change, how climate change affects the economy and fiscal policies, and means of cooperation between countries to face this existential challenge. Key topics on the agenda also include digitization and innovation, as well as the impact of modern technologies and artificial intelligence on financial markets and the global economy.



NBK Tower



IMF logo

NBK's delegation will hold bilateral meetings with senior international officials on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. Those discussions will focus on some of the key and pressing issues and current challenges that the banking and financial industry has been facing around the world.

The IMF and the World Bank Group Annual Meetings bring together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, parliamentarians, private sector executives, civil society, and academics to discuss issues of global concern.

The Annual Meetings feature several significant committees, with the most notable ones being the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the Group of Ten, the Group of Twenty-Four, etc. The IMFC meeting, in particular, is slated to tackle a range of critical issues including the current state and potential future trends in the global economy's performance, as well as examining developments in international financial markets, and other pressing issues.

Non-oil GDP could grow slightly faster than in 2024 at 2.6%

Kuwait's economy set for expansion in 2025

By National Bank of Kuwait

The economy will return to expansion in 2025 led by the unwinding of earlier cuts in oil production. Non-oil GDP could grow slightly faster than in 2024 at 2.6%, amid interest rate cuts and signs that consumer spending growth and other metrics are edging higher. Structural reform prospects have improved, but strong delivery is needed for growth to sustainably match that in some other parts of the GCC. Fiscal deficits will continue through 2025, making another tight spending round likely next year although capex could still rise from recent very low levels. Key upside risks to the outlook include higher oil prices and clear signs of momentum on structural reforms.

Economy to return to growth over forecast period

Kuwait's non-oil economy is expected to emerge from two years of negative growth this year, expanding by 2.3% and then 2.6% in 2025. Having decelerated previously, consumer spending growth (+5.4% y/y in Q2) appears to have stabilized while other key indicators such as bank credit (+2.2% ytd in August), real estate sales (+24% y/y in

Q3) and project awards have moved up, suggesting that a growth improvement could be around the corner. Official data (subject to revision) shows non-oil GDP growth averaging 3.5% in H1 2024, with manufacturing (mostly refining) the standout performer following the production ramp-up at the huge 615 kb/d Al-Zour refinery in 2023. Despite the prospect of a cyclical upturn, our forecasts for non-oil growth are below the 2011-2019 historical average (+3.3%), with key structural challenges laying ahead. These include tackling low investment rates, the need for fiscal consolidation (see below) and Kuwait's low rankings in competitiveness measures versus GCC peers. We do expect greater progress on these issues going forward than in previous years, reflecting more streamlined decisionmaking in the new political climate. The government is yet to release its work agenda for the years ahead and a stepchange in the pace of reform delivery is needed if Kuwait is to sustainably match the 4%+ non-oil growth rates now being recorded in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. We see strong expansion potential in sectors such as utilities, housing, transport, and tourism & entertainment over coming years. The oil sector is expected

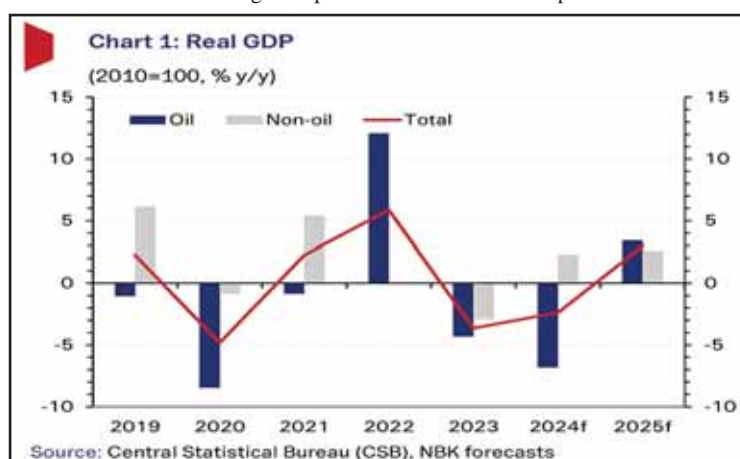
to record its first output gains in two years in 2025, with OPEC+ scheduled to unwind members' voluntary cuts from end-2024. Kuwait should see 135 kb/d of crude return and production average 2.5 mb/d in 2025. This should boost oil GDP by 3.4% from -6.8% in 2024 and total GDP growth to 3.0% in 2025 from -2.4% in 2024. State oil firm KPC is undergoing a restructuring aimed at delivering efficiency gains and faster decision-making but plans

to spend some \$410bn to achieve its 4 mb/d 2035 oil production target and 2050 net zero goal. Inflation down, monetary policy easing cycle begins.

Inflation has proven slightly sticky amid price rises in the food and clothing categories especially, but still eased to 2.9% y/y by August from 3.3% at the start of 2024. We see the trajectory as broadly downwards given moderate economic growth, still elevated interest rates and soft price.

trends elsewhere in the GCC region: we see it slowing from 3.0% this year to 2.5% in 2025. Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Kuwait cut its discount rate in September by 25 bps to 4.0%, after the US Fed cut interest rates by 50bps. This comes after the Central Bank of Kuwait had raised interest rates less than the US Fed during the recent tightening cycle. Deficits expected, fiscal consolidation to proceed

Addressing the weak fiscal position is a key government objective, with deficits recorded in 8 of the past 9 years and forecast to average 5% of GDP in FY24/25-FY25/26. Issues include the rigid structure of public spending, especially the rising share of salaries and subsidies, and heavy reliance on oil revenues, which are forecast to decline in FY25/26 on lower average oil prices. We expect another tight spending round in FY25/26, following a projected 5% spending cut this year (from FY23/24's high base, inflated by one-off items), although potentially allowing for a pick-up in capex from recent very low levels as the authorities move on delayed infrastructure projects (e.g. housing, water, power). To boost fiscal sustainability, the IMF in its October Article IV statement recommended the government



adopt a medium-term fiscal framework based on annual consolidation of 1-2% of GDP (up to KD950mn). Steps would include caps in public sector hiring and wage control, energy subsidy cuts and the introduction of VAT, but higher investment. Still, ample fiscal and external buffers (estimated KIA assets of \$980bn) including ultra-low debt levels (2.8% of GDP) put Kuwait in the enviable position of being able to balance reform of public finances with support for economic growth – so long as near-term liquidity pressures are avoided. Fitch recently reaffirmed Kuwait's high investment grade AA- credit rating. Oil, geopolitics and reform agenda the main outlook risks

The main risks to the outlook center on the path of oil prices, reflecting the health of the global and Chinese economy in particular, regional geopolitical and security issues and progress on the government's domestic reform agenda. While oil prices could fall further than forecast and a widening regional conflagration cannot be discounted (which could lead to a spike in oil prices), we see the launch and implementation of a reform-centered economic plan as critical for driving a more positive growth narrative for Kuwait from 2025 onwards.

Horror hits and Oscar hopefuls make waves

'Smile 2' grinning to No. 1 at box office while 'Anora' glitters

LOS ANGELES, Oct 21, (AP) — Horror movies topped the domestic box office charts and an Oscar contender got off to a sparkling start this weekend. "Smile 2," in its first weekend, and "Terrifier 3" in its second proved to be the big draws for general movie audiences in North America, while the Palme d'Or winner

"Anora" got the best per-theater average in over a year. "Smile 2" was the big newcomer, taking first place with a better than expected \$23 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Parker Finn returned to write and direct the sequel to the supernatural horror "Smile," his debut. Originally intended for streaming, Paramount pivoted and sent the movie to theaters in the fall of 2022. "Smile" became a sleeper hit at the box office, earning some \$217 million against a \$17 million budget.

The sequel, starring Naomi Scott as a pop star, was rewarded with a bit of a bigger budget, and a theatrical commitment from the start. Playing on 3,619 screens, it opened slightly higher than the first's \$22 million.

Second place went to Universal and DreamWorks Anima-

tion's "The Wild Robot" in its fourth weekend with \$10.1 million, bumping it past \$100 million in North America. Family films often have long lives in theaters, particularly ones as well reviewed as "The Wild Robot," and some have speculated that it got a bump this weekend from teenagers buying tickets for the PG-rated family film and then sneaking into "Terrifier 3," which is not rated, instead. Either way, Damien Leone's demon clown movie, which cost only \$2 million to produce, is doing more than fine with legitimate ticket buyers. It added an estimated \$9.3 million, bringing its total to \$36.2 million.

"Rumors like that are PR gold," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "There's no better indication that that movie is red hot right now."

The No. 1 openings for "Smile 2" this weekend and "Terrifier 3" last were only possible because of the failure of "Joker: Folie à Deux." That big budget sequel continued its death march in its third weekend, falling another 69% to earn \$2.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$56.4 million.

Warner Bros. has a better performer in "Beetlejuice Bee-

tejuice," which placed fourth in its seventh weekend with an additional \$5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$284 million. Star Michael Keaton also had another film open this weekend - the father-daughter dramedy "Goodrich" which stumbled in with only \$600,000 from 1,055 locations.

Rounding out the top five was the romantic tearjerker "We Live In Time," which expanded to 985 theaters following last weekend's debut on 5 screens. The A24 release starring Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh earned \$4.2 million over the weekend. Audiences were 85% under 35 and 70% female, according to exit polls. The well-reviewed film will expand further next weekend.

One of the other brightest spots of the weekend was Sean Baker's "Anora," which opened in six locations in New York and Los Angeles and earned an estimated \$630,000. That's a \$105,000 per theater average, the best since "Asteroid City's" \$142,000 average last summer. The Neon release, a sensation at Cannes and a likely Oscar contender, stars Mikey Madison as a New York sex worker who falls

for the son of a Russian oligarch.

After several weeks of would-be awards contenders and buzzy films ("Piece by Piece," "Saturday Night," "The Apprentice" among them) fizzling with audiences, "Anora's" success is a promising sign that moviegoers will still seek out arty, adult fare.

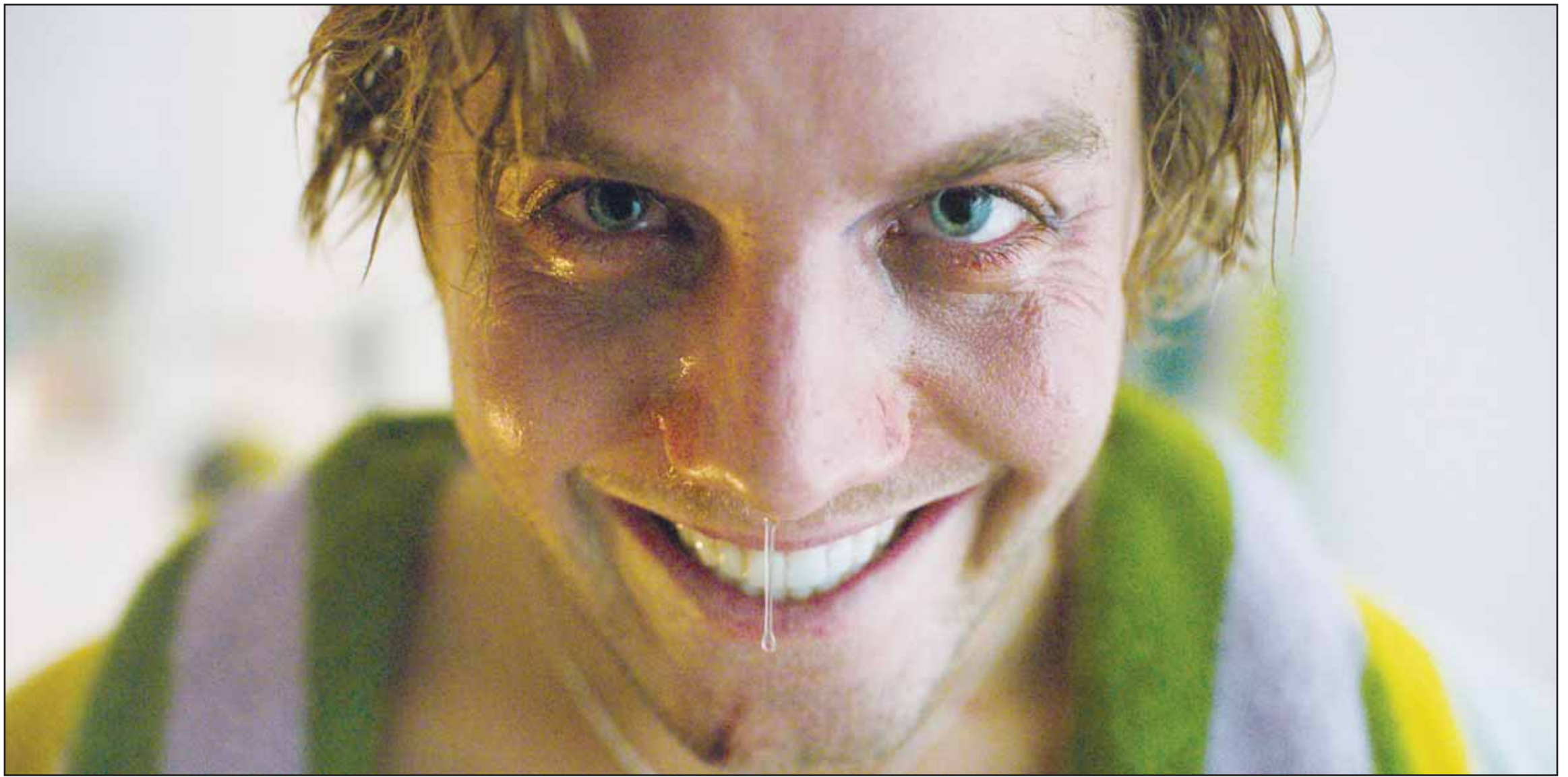
"For moviegoers, there's a lot on offer with something in every type of movie in every category," Dergarabedian said. "I think we're going to have a really strong home stretch with a great combination of movies big and small."

The Walt Disney Co. also made a splash with several re-releases. "The Nightmare Before Christmas" got a place in the top 10 with \$1.1 million, while "Hocus Pocus" made \$841,000.

Next weekend will have a major studio comic book movie with "Venom: The Last Dance" as well as an awards movie in the papal thriller "Conclave" vying for audience attention.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Film



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Lukas Gage in a scene from 'Smile 2.' (AP)



Fans gather to pay tribute to late British singer Liam Payne, former member of the British pop band One Direction in Treptower Park in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Oct. 20. (AP)



Fans gather near the Peter Pan statue in Hyde Park, London to pay tribute to late British singer Liam Payne, former member of the British pop band One Direction, Sunday, Oct. 20. (AP)

Singer's life celebrated

Directioners mourning Payne leave tributes across the globe

LONDON, Oct 21, (AP) — Hundreds gathered Sunday in London's Kensington Gardens to mourn Liam Payne as fans around the world grieved for the One Direction singer who died this past week.

Directioners, as supporters of the massively successful boy band are known, left tributes in London, Glasgow, Paris, Sydney and New York this weekend as they celebrated the life of the 31-year-old who died Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires.

In London, they clapped and sang after gathering near a statue of Peter Pan, the fictional boy who never grew up created by J.M. Barrie. The mourners,

mostly young women, left heart-shaped balloons, photographs and flowers at the base of the statue, which sits next to a narrow path next to a waterway known as The Long Water.

Mindful of the crowds in the limited space, organizers asked fans to leave their tributes then move away to allow others to approach the statue.

Fans Lauren Anderson and Natasha Bradley, both 23, said they wanted to be with others who shared their grief.

"Your parents, they don't really understand how much (One Direction) really meant to you growing up," Bradley said, explaining why she came to the park.

Terrific Naomi Scott shines in bold sequel

'Smile 2' nicely targets pop star fame

LOS ANGELES, Oct 21, (AP) — In an early scene in "Smile 2," the fictional pop superstar Skye Riley is in her drug dealer's apartment. "Do you believe in weird stuff?" he asks her, between doing lines of coke.

You certainly will after this horror romp - writer-director Parker Finn's second movie that suddenly opens up the franchise with the promises of multiple directions in the future. Not for that drug dealer, though: He soon smiles at her demonically as he repeatedly slams a 35-pound gym weight into his head, making it hamburger.

"Smile 2" lands as unsettling grins are plastered on pumpkins and politicians alike as we approach Halloween and Election Day, and the psychotic, overly made-up leads of "Joker: Folie à Deux" have been putting up a brave face at their terrible box-office numbers.

So it's the perfect time for a sequel to 2020's "Smile," which bridged the gap between elevated art horror and straight-out, unapologetic slasher. Finn this time takes on fame, a better tonal fit than the generational trauma of the first. It's a meditation on breakdowns in the public eye, with a side dish of body horror.

We start six days after the last movie but they are barely connected - a single character for a few minutes - as we watch a demon that forces its victims to smile before meeting a gruesome end working its way into the low-level drug game.

The evil entity will eventually glom onto our heroine, Skye, a fictional Grammy-winning pop superstar akin to if Lady Gaga and Miley Cyrus had a baby. We meet her a year after a horrific car crash she was in that killed her famous boyfriend and left her with a Vicodin addiction and rumors about whether she had anything to do with it. That drug dealer has now infected Skye, but she has no idea what's in store (or in score, the terrific work of Cristobal Tapia de Veer).

Soundtrack

On thing to really beam about is leading lady Naomi Scott going for it all-out, all snoot, smeared blood and wide-eyed, full on-fear. Scott manages to pour her humanity into the part - diva, whimpering, defiant, strung out, panicked. She even sings on the soundtrack - songs that are credible hits.

The smile demon collides with Skye as she's about to launch a comeback tour and the pressure is on. Finn is at his best here, mocking confessional TV interviews - a Drew Barrymore cameo, a nice touch - full of self-work and apologies: "I let you down and I promise this will never happen again." Her management demands that she show up "smile and read from the teleprompter." Skye's mom - on the payroll - is little help: "You need to stay hydrated," she tells her after Skye is clearly in torment.

Finn has become a much more assured film-

maker and uses humor so well here, from nasty gangsters enjoying pumpkin Frappuccinos to our heroine Googling "Does vomit have DNA?" He's still fond of jump-scares and blood spurting and gross-out tricks, like a body dragged by a truck until it's just a smear with entrails. One delightful moment has Skye chased by demonic backup dancers, a Bob Fosse-meets-"Thriller" sequence.

Finn also has a ball putting his heroines into cringe-worthy situations. In the first movie, a murdered cat got bundled into a kid's birthday present. In this one, it's a impromptu speech in front of music industry types that goes horrifically off the rails. He's got a deeper target: How do we quiet those voices in our heads that say we're no good?

Finn's script sometime lags as he searches for an ending for "Smile 2," seemingly in two minds, before basically delivering both, kicking up dream sequences and alternate timelines like a squid pumping out ink to cover its tracks. Over two hours ends up being too long.

But he has found a great satirical target, given life to a third film easily and showcased another rising star to watch. That's a reason to, well, smile about.

"Smile 2," a Paramount Pictures release on Friday, is rated R for "strong bloody violent content, grisly images, language throughout and drug use." Running time: 127 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Variety

NEW YORK: Naomi Shihab Nye is this year's winner of the Wallace Stevens Award, a \$100,000 lifetime achievement honor named for the celebrated 20th century poet.

Nye's prize was announced Friday by the Academy of American Poets, which has previously given the award to Louise Glück, John Ashbery and Rita Dove among others. Nye, 72, is known for such collections as "Fuel," "Yellow Queen" and "Grace Notes," which came out this year.

"In a stunning spectrum of works published in a period beginning nearly fifty years ago, Naomi Shihab Nye has borne witness to the complexities of cultural difference that connect us as human beings, evidencing a firm commitment to the poet as bearer of light and hope," Academy Chancellor Afaa Michael Weaver said in a statement.

"In celebrating her Palestinian heritage with a gentle but unflinching commitment, her body of work

is a rare and precious living entity in our time, when the tragic conflict between Gaza and Israel threatens to deepen wounds and resentments everywhere.

The academy also announced that it had awarded Evie Shockley the Academy of American Poets Fellowship, which includes a \$25,000 stipend and residency at the Eliot House in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams and Claudia Rankine are among previous Fellowship winners. (AP)

CHANGSHA: "Three-Body," the live-action television adaptation of the science fiction novel "The Three-Body Problem," claimed the

best TV drama as China's national TV arts award unveiled on Sunday.

The drama's director Yang Lei received the honor of the best TV drama director of the China TV Golden Eagle Award, which was unveiled in Changsha, central China's Hunan Province.

In his acceptance speech, Yang said that Chinese science fiction faces challenges. He said whenever science fiction is mentioned, audiences tend to immediately think of Western sci-fi stories and movies.

"When I was creating 'Three-Body,' I wanted to take a different path. I hoped it would be a Chinese sci-fi story, one that has a sense of Chinese identity," he said, adding that he approached the filming with a realist perspective.

He went on to say that the rapid advancement of China's technology has provided fertile ground for science fiction to grow. He calls on all Chinese sci-fi creators to make full use of Chinese elements in their work to bring the dream of science fiction into reality and to let the uni-

verse shine for Chinese science fiction. (Xinhua)

NEW YORK: The 7th China Now Music Festival themed "Composing the Future" came to a close Saturday evening in New York City with a concert that fused East-West musical traditions and blended human-made music with artificial intelligence (AI).

The event, held at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, featured two distinct parts. The first half featured musicians from the Bard East-West Ensemble, performing new works by composers from China's Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM).

With the rich sounds of traditional Chinese instruments like the pipa and guzheng accompanying Western orchestral instruments, the performance created a unique cultural and musical fusion that resonated with the audience.

The second half showcased AI's Variation: Opera of the Future, a science fiction chamber opera penned by CCOM professor Hao Weiya. (Xinhua)



Some of the Roman antiquities at Britain's Verulamium Museum.

KUNA photos

Britain's Verulamium Museum: A trove of rare Roman antiquities

Thirty kilometers northeast of the British capital, London, lies the city of St. Albans. Its ancient Roman heritage has given it a rare touch in British history. The city, founded in 50 AD, was known as Verulamium, the second larg-

est Roman colony in Britain after Londinium, or London today. It gave it all the features of Roman cities, especially in its architectural and artistic aspects. Although only small parts of Verulamium remain, including its theatre

and walls that survived wars and fires, its museum contains countless pottery, glass, jewelry, coins, some weapons and shields, and even complete human skeletons of some of its inhabitants from that era. (KUNA)

Television



This image released by CBS shows Damon Wayans (left) and Damon Wayans Jr., in a scene from 'Poppa's House.' (AP)

Father-son duo explore generations in new sitcom

Wayans family unites in 'Poppa's House'

NEW YORK, Oct 21, (AP): Boundaries between work and family don't just blur in the new CBS sitcom "Poppa's House" starring father-and-son comedy duo Damon Wayans and Damon Wayans Jr. They shatter.

"It's wonderful to come to work every day and see him and some of his kids and my sister and my brother and nieces and nephews. They all work on this show. They all contribute," says the senior Wayans. "I don't think there are words to express how joyful I am."

Wayans plays the titular Poppa, a curmudgeonly radio DJ who's more than comfortable doing it his way, while Wayans Jr. plays his son, Damon, a budding filmmaker who's stuck in a job he hates.

"My character, Pop, is just an old school guy who's kind of stuck in his ways," says Wayans, who starred in "In Living Color" and "My Wife and Kids."

Pop yearns for the days when a handshake was a binding contract and Michael Jordan didn't complain if he got fouled on the court. Pop laughs at the younger generation's participation trophies.

"It's old school versus new school and them teaching each other lessons from both sides," says Wayans Jr., who played Coach in the Fox sitcom "New Girl."

"They (the characters) bring the best out in each other and they're resistant initially. But then throughout the episode they have revela-

tions and these revelations help them become better people," he adds.

The two have worked together before - dad made an appearance on son's "Happy Endings" and "Happy Together," while son was a writer and guest star on dad's "My Wife and Kids." But this is the first time they have headlined a series together.

Moments

The half-hour comedy - premiered recently and co-starring Essence Atkins and Tetona Jackson - smartly leaves places in the script where father and son can let loose and create, like a moment in the pilot when the son has to wait as his father sips tea.

"We have a lot of those moments in every episode. And that's kind of what we're trying to zero-in on, is trying to find the comedic set pieces, at least one of them for each episode," says the son.

"I tell the writers, 'Don't write the funny. Put us in the area of the funny and we'll find it,'" says Wayans. "You know, if you've got Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, don't put them in a pie factory reading books."

He has some sway with the writers: They include he and his son as well as Kim Wayans, Michael Wayans and Shawn Wayans, siblings of the elder Wayans.

The Wayans family is like the Barrymores of comedy, a clan that also includes Keenen

Ivory. The Wayans have been behind everything from "In Living Color" and "White Chicks" to "Bamboozled."

Viewers of the first episode of "Poppa's House" find the elder Wayans challenged when a new female co-host (played by Atkins) is hired, while the younger Wayans puts pressure on his happy marriage by threatening to leave his salesmen job.

Later episodes will have Poppa starting a podcast at home - further blurring the home-work divide - and exploring the different ways the generations deal with grief and discipline. In one show, a family photo leads to a discussion of who and what constitutes family. Does it survive divorce?

"I think we're dealing with a lot of relatable storylines that I think people will enjoy. And on top of enjoying it, you're going to laugh out loud," says Wayans Jr.

Speaking of laughing, do the two men have the same approach to comedy? Wayans Jr. says they mostly laugh at the same things.

"I would say that they're very similar and the differences are minuscule. It's because my comedy is informed by my upbringing and same for him," he says.

Dad agrees: "Yeah, I call it same humor, different sensibilities. Like, he'll say stuff that in a million years, I would never get to that joke. And I love that about his sense of humor. It's like, 'That's so random.'"

Music

New album poignant

Heidecker shifts focus from comedy to music

LOS ANGELES, Oct 21, (AP): Tim Heidecker is working through his existential dread.

"There's a million things to think about as you're trying to go to sleep at night," he said. "Post-pandemic, in the age of Trump, you know, North Korea, whatever it is."

Best known for his absurdist comedy and creative partnership with Eric Wareheim, Heidecker has leaned more into songwriting in recent years. Through music, he has recorded some of the dark meditations that keep him awake.

"Slipping Away," his latest album out, vacillates between semi-fictional apocalyptic storytelling and poignant, vulnerable reflections on fatherhood, aging and success. "I've got bills to pay/I've gotta keep working every day/I'm not gonna go down in history/Only my family, will remember me," he sings on "Dad of the Year."

Fictional

Although Heidecker is communicating genuine fears in his more fictional songs, particularly as he thinks about what the world will be like for his kids when they get to be his age, he also thinks these stories make for interesting art. "Birds all falling out of the sky/Bees don't sting and no one knows why/The air is thick, I can't breathe/If I had anywhere to go you know, I would leave," he croons on "Bows and Arrows."

"The subject of the songs that deal with this post-apocalyptic hellscape world and people suffering - it all sounds like a lot of fun, I know," he laughed. "But I think I'm a fan of those kinds of TV shows and movies. I don't see that a lot in rock music or in pop music, but it is fertile material for me to think about."

Often when comedians venture artistically outside of what they are known for, audiences aren't quite sure how to react. And although Heidecker, who started playing guitar as a teenager, has been making music in addition to his myriad comedy projects for years, he admitted it's taken people some time to grasp his sincerity.

But the skeptics haven't deterred Heidecker. The 48-year-old has had some impressive musical collaborators over the years, including Mac DeMarco, Weyes Blood and Father John Misty.

Even as he spends more time making and touring his music, Heidecker has maintained his expansive comedic world-building through his weekly call-in show, "Office Hours Live," and his sprawling satirical movie review series "On Cinema," which he has hosted with Gregg Turkington for more than a decade.

While motivations for that level of output can sometimes be financial or stem from a need to keep busy, Heidecker says for him, artistic collaboration with others - be it music or comedy - is what inspires him to be prolific.

"The spirit of creativity should be completely intertwined with

communion of friendship and doing stuff with people you want to do stuff with," he said. "I want to do more things with these people, you know? And whatever that is, it will be either good or bad or connect with an audience or not connect with an audience. That's kind of like secondary."

That ethos has moved Heidecker to put in the sometimes-difficult work required to maintain those friendships and collaborations, something Wareheim thinks Heidecker is particularly gifted at.

"We've been working together for over 25 years and that is hard. I've been through lots of relationships since then that have not worked," Wareheim laughed. "Tim has always been super, super fair and is always giving credit and building up the people around him."

The pair, known professionally as Tim & Eric, met while attending Temple University. They instantly hit it off. Even as they started making skits together, both maintained their diverse interests - something that is still true today.

Heidecker continued his musical pursuits and played in a few different bands, until writer and actor Bob Odenkirk discovered the comedy duo. Odenkirk worked with them on a pilot, which was eventually picked up by Adult Swim, and their fate was sealed. "It was like, 'Okay, this is what we're doing,'" Heidecker recalled.

Career

He often made music for their show but never seriously pursued it as a career. But after having kids and reconnecting with the songs of Randy Newman and Warren Zevon, Heidecker had a kind of epiphany.

"I sort of discovered in my 40s that these were guys that seemed a lot like me," he said. "They didn't have to leave their sense of humor at the doorstep. They could incorporate it into real songs. They weren't parody songs."

So he slowly began moving away from the satirical and silly songs he had been putting out, like his 2017 concept album critiquing former President Donald Trump or his record, "Urinal St. Station," released in 2013 by one of his bands, The Yellow River Boys.

"I've been testing the waters and talking about things that are a little more personal and a little more private and getting more comfortable doing that," he said. And while Heidecker has resigned to the fact that some fans of his comedy will never get it, he has also been pleasantly surprised by people who have expressed their appreciation for his vulnerability, particularly in response to his previous record, "High School."

"I found a lot of guys my age or in their 40s who had similar experiences or were at a similar place in life," he said. "That's something I never really got from the comedy stuff we did, was this feeling of like, 'That connected with me and I relate to those experiences.'"



Tim Heidecker poses for a portrait on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Variety

LONDON: A British chestnut-whacking champion was cleared Monday of cheating after an investigation into alleged malfeasance at the World Conker Championships.

Organizers of the nutty annual event said that Dave Jakins, a veteran competitor nicknamed "King Conker," did not use a steel chestnut to conquer his rival.

The traditional game, played by generations of British schoolchildren, involves players using conkers - the glossy brown seeds of the horse chestnut tree - threaded onto a string to try and smash their opponent's chestnut.

More than 200 conkers enthusiasts entered the annual competition in the village of Southwick in central England earlier this month. Jakins, 82, won the men's tournament. But organizers launched an investigation after claims that he might have used a steel chestnut that was in his pocket.

Investigators said they studied him and photo evidence and took testimony from judges and umpires, and concluded that "it would be near impossible for Mr. Jakins to have swapped the conkers unnoticed."

Organizers said they accepted Jakins' claim "that he had had the (steel) conker to amuse people and as part of his role as 'King Conker,'" and had used a real

chestnut in the contest. (AP)

WARSAW, Poland: Polish musician and teacher Janusz Olejniczak, who played the piano parts in the 2002 Oscar-winning movie "The Pianist," has died at the age of 72, his family said Monday.

The family's statement to the media said Olejniczak died Sunday of a heart attack.

The statement said that his "extraordinary musical sensitivity, especially in the interpretations of music by Frederic Chopin, brought him international fame and recognition."

Aleksander Laskowski, a spokesman for the national Frederic Chopin Institute, said the staff were "deeply saddened" by Olejniczak's death.

Laskowski described him as "one of the most outstanding contemporary performers of Chopin's music," also on period instruments, and a superb teacher.

Composer and conductor Jerzy Maksymiuk, who was a personal friend, said Olejniczak's "sensitive soul and extraor-

dinary talent transpired throughout his interpretations" in which he created a "unique aura."

Maksymiuk said he had lunch with Olejniczak on Sunday and they discussed his "great plans" which he was determined to pursue despite his health problems.

Olejniczak's international career was launched in 1970 when, aged only 18, he was a laureate of the 8th International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw. Commentators said he bore a physical resemblance to the romantic-era composer, a trait that even led Olejniczak to play the role of Chopin in the 1991 movie "The Blue Note" by director Andrzej Zulawski.

In 2002, Olejniczak recorded the piano parts for Roman Polanski's "The Pianist." His hands can be seen playing the piano in the movie, for which Polanski won the best director Oscar and Adrien Brody won for best actor. (AP)

KAZAN, Russia: A photo exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Russia opened Saturday in the Russian city of Kazan.

The exhibition, held at the National Library of the Republic of Tatarstan, features around 36 photographs from Xinhua News Agency, showcasing important achievements in cooperation between the two countries over the last 75 years.

The exhibition is organized by the Xinhua News Agency Eurasia Regional Bureau and the Union of Chinese Entrepreneurs in Russia in partnership with the Torgmoll company.

This year also marks the China-Russia Year of Culture, with the exhibition highlighting bilateral cooperation and exchanges across various fields including culture, technology, economy and trade. (Xinhua)

BEIJING: Photo Beijing, an international photography week held annually since 2013, kicked off in the Chinese capital on Saturday, featuring more than 5,400 works from over 2,600 photographers.

The works are displayed across 58 themed exhibitions, such as life and landscapes in Beijing, cultural heritage in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and mobile phone photography.

People can enjoy the exhibitions in the main venue of the China Millennium Monument and 11 other locations, including the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing Film Academy and the Summer Palace.

The photography week, running until Oct. 28, will also feature 13 dialogues and discussions on topics such as ethnographic photography and large-format photography. (Xinhua)

Photo Beijing 2024 is co-hosted by China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Beijing municipal government. (Xinhua)

1 in 8 woman is diagnosed with cancer

Kuwait prioritizes breast cancer treatment

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): Ministry of Health has been paying much attention to treat breast cancer, which is a major challenge to the world, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said on Sunday.



Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi

Delivering an inaugural speech during cancer surgery conference, Al-Awadhi said the event sheds light on breast cancer, adding that a woman in eight is diagnosed with this disease.

The conference is featuring a number of experts from varied specialties to share expertise and knowledge to develop new strategies to combat this disease, he noted. It is also an opportunity to boost cooperation between the public and private sectors.

This requires raising societal awareness on the importance of early detec-

tion and periodical medical tests, he stressed.

The minister voiced pride as Jaber Hospital was internationally-accredited by Surgical Review Cooperation as an outstanding center in breast cancer

surgery. The ministry launched the national program for early detection of breast cancer for women aged 40 and above in 2014, he noted, saying that above 40,000 women have been checked.

The ministry has been working on inaugurating a new cancer treatment center with a capacity of 618 beds, he said.

Dr. Heba Ibrahim, senior specialist in plastic and reconstructive surgery, and cancer surgeon, said care provided by the minister shows his keenness on enhancing healthcare level, extolling the attendance of French Ambassador Olivier Govin.

The conference includes workshops featuring a galaxy of experts and specialists in breast cancer treatment over three days, she noted.

More accuracy, less harm

Heavy ion therapy aids cancer patients

LANZHOU, Oct 21, (Xinhua): A man surnamed Zhang from northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was diagnosed with maxillary sinus cancer in May, with a 6.2-cm-diameter tumor expanding in his mouth and distorting his left face.

"I had a headache and could hardly fall asleep. My left eye could hardly open up and four teeth were loosening. My body was weak at that time," said the 51-year-old man from Xinjiang's Changji Hui Autonomous Prefecture.

Zhang was diagnosed with cancer in a local hospital, and the doctors told him that 33 chemotherapy sessions and 16 radiation sessions were needed for therapy, and his left eye should be removed through surgery.

After visiting hospitals in cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, acquiring information online and consulting with friends, he learned that cancer can be treated without surgery in Gansu Wuwei Tumor Hospital through the heavy ion radiotherapy.

Heavy ion means an ionized atom that is usually heavier than helium. The carbon ions, produced by an accelerator and beamed to about 70 percent of light speed, are channeled into the treatment room to kill the tumor cells of cancer patients.

Zhang went to the hospital in Wuwei City, northwest China's Gansu Province, where he started the treatment at the beginning of June. He received 23 such radiotherapy sessions within about a month.

"There is no lump on my face now. I feel better," said Zhang.

The treatment cost Zhang nearly 300,000 yuan (about 42,264 U.S. dollars). He currently uses chemotherapy to eliminate cancer cells and prevent cancer from recurring, and he takes physical checks in the hospital on a regular basis.

Ye Yancheng, head of Gansu Wuwei Tumor Hospital, said over 1,500 patients have been treated with the heavy ion radiotherapy in the hospital since the accelerator was put into use

in 2020.

"The heavy ion radiotherapy is more accurate and less harmful to cancer patients," said Ye, explaining that, compared to X-rays, carbon ions cause less harm to normal cells when penetrating biological tissues.

When reaching the tumor, the beam bombards a target with high-energy release to kill cancer cells, and its direction can also be adjusted, he added.

Another patient, 58-year-old Yan from Hanzhong City in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, went to the same hospital after a back pain two years ago. He was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer but was not suitable for surgery, as the cancer cells had spread to the lymph, sternum and other organs.

Yan had already learned about the heavy ion radiotherapy. He decided to receive treatment at the hospital due to its proximity, advanced technology and lower cost as compared with other hospitals in Beijing, Shanghai or abroad.

Dengue claims 247 lives in Bangladesh

Polio cases increase ahead of new vaccination campaign in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Oct 21, (AP): Polio cases are rising ahead of a new vaccination campaign in Pakistan, where violence targeting health workers and the police protecting them has hampered years of efforts toward making the country polio-free.

Since January, health officials have confirmed 39 new polio cases in Pakistan, compared to only six last year, said Anwarul Haq of the National Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication.

The new nationwide drive starts Oct. 28 with the aim to vaccinate at least 32 million children. "The whole purpose of these campaigns is to achieve the target of making Pakistan a polio-free state," he said.

Pakistan regularly launches campaigns against polio despite attacks on the workers and police assigned to the inoculation drives. Militants falsely claim the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

Most of the new polio cases were reported in the southwestern Balochistan and southern Sindh province, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and eastern Punjab province.

The locations are worrying authorities since previous cases were from the restive northwest bordering Afghanistan, where the Taliban government in

September suddenly stopped a door-to-door vaccination campaign.

Dengue: Bangladesh has logged 84 dengue-related deaths in October, representing the highest monthly death toll due to dengue this year, out of 49,880 confirmed cases as of Sunday.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 1,298 new

confirmed cases of dengue in the last 24 hours till 8:00 a.m. local time Sunday, raising this month's total tally to 18,942.

The DGHS confirmed another six deaths on Sunday, bringing the total fatalities due to dengue in the Southeast Asian country to 247 so far this year.

According to the DGHS, the deaths included 80 in September, 27 in August, 12 in July and eight in June.



A police officer stands guard as a health worker, right, administers a polio vaccine to a child in a neighborhood of Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept. 9, 2024. (AP)



Women take part in sports activity during the 'Pink Steps' celebration.

Early detection boosts recovery chances

CAN urges annual mammograms, monthly breast self-examinations for women over 40

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21, (KUNA): The National Campaign for Combating Cancer (CAN) has stressed the importance of monthly breast self-examinations and annual mammograms for women aged forty and older to promote early detection of breast cancer. According to the campaign, early detection greatly improves treatment effectiveness and the likelihood of complete recovery.

Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, a board member of CAN, made this announcement during a "Pink Steps" celebration held in partnership with the International Women's Committee on Sunday. This event is part of the campaign's ongoing activities, which commenced earlier this month under the theme "Your Health in Your Examination."

During her remarks, Dr. Al-Shaheen pointed out that breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women worldwide. In Kuwait, approximately 630 new cases were reported in 2019, comprising 359 Kuwaiti women and 272 non-Kuwaitis. She highlighted that this marks the 13th consecutive year CAN has organized its breast cancer awareness initiative.

Dr. Al-Shaheen elaborated that the campaign is dedicated to creating programs that train women in self-ex-



Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, a board member of CAN, at the 'Pink Steps' celebration.

amination techniques, having trained 156,000 female students in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The initiative also includes lectures, exhibitions, and the distribution of educational materials on prevention strategies, risk factors, and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

A notable focus of the campaign dur-

ing International Breast Cancer Awareness Month is encouraging physical activity, which is known to lower the risk of breast cancer and various obesity-related diseases. Dr. Al-Shaheen emphasized that the collaboration with the International Women's Group enhanced the event's mission by promoting walking and physical activity.

Therapy hope

Immune protein may combat bowel cancer

CANBERRA, Oct 21, (Xinhua): Australian researchers have identified an immune protein that could be the key to developing new treatments for bowel cancer.

In a new study, a team of researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) discovered that the immune protein NLRC4 can prevent healthy cells from turning into cancer cells.

According to the research, NLRC4 finds cancer-causing damaged DNA and repairs it.

By doing so, NLRC4 stops damaged cells from growing and dividing during the repair process, helping to prevent healthy cells from turning into cancer cells and cells that are becoming cancerous from turning into tumors.

Si Ming Man, the lead author of the research from ANU, said that the findings indicate new drugs could be developed to make NLRC4 help fight bowel cancer, which develops when cells become abnormal due to changes in the DNA inside the cell.

Researchers previously believed that NLRC4 only played the destructive role of killing infected cells but the new study found that it is also constructive.

The ANU research found that people with bowel cancer carry less NLRC4 in their body, making it a promising biomarker to predict who will fare better or worse after being diagnosed with bowel cancer.

"Checking the amount of NLRC4 in pre-cancerous polyps could help guide the frequency of bowel cancer screening," Man said in a media release.

Early warning system

'Smart Eye' to detect plant pests, diseases

BEIJING, Oct 21, (Xinhua): China has developed a sky-ground intelligent monitoring and early warning system for plant pests and diseases, according to the Aerospace Information Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The research team has employed self-developed chip-level intelligent pest and disease detection devices and specialized drone remote sensing solutions for low-altitude pest inspections to establish a multi-scale monitoring and warning system.

The "Smart Eye" system enables rapid and precise detection of pests and diseases at the near-ground level, facilitates dynamic monitoring and efficient management at the plot level, and provides multi-scale dynamic monitoring and warning for more than 20 major pests and diseases at the regional level, according to the Aerospace Information Research Institute, one of the developers.

"The system can effectively address the challenges of traditional plant protection monitoring techniques, such as difficulties in field surveys and identification, low accuracy in low-altitude monitoring, and weak regional early warning capabilities," said Huang Wenjiang, a researcher at the institute.

The system, combining artificial intelligence technology, aerospace information, and plant protection theory, was recently unveiled at the 5th conference on remote sensing of vegetation pests and diseases held in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE FARAWANIYA الفروانية

Dermatology - Cosmetology Dept.

Dr. Abdul Nazer MBBS, MD (DVD) Skin & Dermatology Specialist

Dr. Faizan Kalekhan MBBS, MD, DNB Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy

Our Services: PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, Aging, Skin Tightening, Stretch marks | Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corn | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond Microdermabrasion | Carboxytherapy | Dualpeel | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries | Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police Station - Farwaniya www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw Ph: 2473 4000

Barhama set for Gulf Champions League opener

Kuwait Club needs win to keep AFC Champions League 2 hopes alive

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Oct 21: The Kuwait team wraps up its training this evening in the Emirates, gearing up to face Shabab Al-Ahli Dubai tomorrow in the third round of Group 4 of the AFC Champions League 2.

Currently, the "Whites" sit at the bottom of the group standings in fourth place, with just one point from two matches. They trail the group leader, Nasaf Qarshi of Uzbekistan, by three points, and are two points behind both Al-Hussein Irbid of Jordan and Shabab Al-Ahli of the Emirates.

The team enters this match with high spirits following a thrilling 4-3 victory over Al-Salmiya in the seventh round of the Zain Premier League, allowing them to maintain their position at the top of the league standings with 21 points and a perfect record.

Kuwait Club's Montenegrin coach, Nebojsa Jovic, is counting on the players' elevated morale, emphasizing that tomorrow's match is cru-

cial. Kuwait Club needs all three points to keep its qualification hopes alive, bolstered by the readiness of all players.

Meanwhile, Al-Qadsiya's Mehdi Barhama is prepared to compete against Qatari Al-Arabi tomorrow in the first round of Group Two of the Gulf Champions League. Barhama missed the previous match against Al-Nasr due to a muscle injury sustained during training, prompting the technical staff to rest him to avoid worsening the injury.

Qadsiya will hold its final training session this evening at Al-Thumama World Cup Stadium before kicking off its Gulf Championship journey, which returns after a nine-year hiatus.

It is joined in the group by Al-Ettifaq of Saudi Arabia and Al-Riffa of Bahrain, who will face each other on the same day at Prince Mohammed bin Fahd Stadium.

Montenegrin coach Zeljko Petrovic understands that competing for the championship is a goal shared by all fans and supporters of the "Yellow" team, especially since it has fallen 11 points behind league leader Kuwait Club.



Bader Al-Mutawa is the winning card for Al-Qadsiya.

Leclerc dominates US GPrix as Verstappen extends lead



McLaren driver Lando Norris, of Britain, leads drives into Turn 1 during the U.S. Grand Prix auto race at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Norris penalized in final laps

AUSTIN, Texas, Oct 21, (AP): Charles Leclerc gave Ferrari its first United States Grand Prix victory since 2018 with a commanding drive Sunday, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen strengthened his lead in the F1 season championship with a podium finish awarded by a late penalty on McLaren's Lando Norris.

Verstappen finished third after Norris was given a five-second penalty for leaving the track to pass Verstappen in the final laps.

Norris' pass came after the two drivers had battled for the final podium spot and critical championship points over several laps and Verstappen had stubbornly refused to give ground. Verstappen immediately complained after Norris passed him. The McLaren driver insisted Ver-

stappen also left the track.

"It was a tough battle. I tried to do everything I could to keep him behind. To be on the podium is a good result," Verstappen said. "I have my opinion (on the penalty). I'll let the stewards do their thing."

The penalty and fourth place finish may cost Norris dearly in the title chase. Verstappen stretched his championship lead over Norris from 54 points to 57 with five grand prix and two sprint races left.

Leclerc earned his third win of the season and Ferrari pulled a 1-2 finish with his teammate Carlos Sainz in second. Kimi Raikkonen had been the last Ferrari winner at the Circuit of the Americas in 2018.

"We couldn't have dreamed for better," Leclerc said. "It was a bit of a lonely race, but a good kind of lonely."

The bigger battle was raging behind them. Verstappen and Norris tangled at the start and fought over every inch of the track in the final dozen laps.

Verstappen has not won a Grand Prix since June and Norris has steadily chipped away at his lead as the Red

Bull car has faded. Yet Verstappen still stretched his lead by five points over the weekend by also winning Saturday's sprint race.

Norris leaves Austin knowing he squandered a big chance to gain ground. He had even earned pole position for Sunday's race.

Verstappen started right beside him and the fireworks between the drivers ignited in the first turn.

Both cars run wide, leaving room for Leclerc to pounce on the opening. The Ferrari driver jumped from fourth and straight into the lead, and quickly drove off for the victory.

Norris complained Verstappen forced him off the track. It was just the start of a scrap they would rejoin late in the race.

Verstappen said he "enjoyed the battle today" and had little sympathy for Norris losing the podium. Verstappen noted he was stripped of a podium finish in Austin in 2017 for a pass that was determined to be illegal.

"I just tried to remain calm and bring the car to the end," Verstappen said. "That was key. Norris' pace late in

the race was good enough that he could have given the place back to Verstappen and tried to pass him again.

Instead, Norris chose to try to stretch the gap ahead of Verstappen to more than five seconds to nullify the penalty. He only got to 4.1 seconds.

"He defends by going off-track, he overtakes by going off-track. But I'm not going to complain. Max drove well and he defended well, we had a good race together. But the rules are the rules," Norris told Sky Sport F1.

McLaren team principal Andre Stella said race stewards "interfered with a beautiful piece of motorsport."

"Both cars went off track so both cars gained an advantage," Stella said. "It's a shame because it cost us a podium." It was a race weekend to forget for Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton who once dominated at COTA.

Hamilton's race ended on the second lap after poor qualifying left him starting from 17th. He quickly shoot up to 12th, then spun his car into gravel and retired. It was the first time the seven-time champion failed to finish a race in the U.S.

Al-Hilal could welcome back Neymar

Ronaldo & Al-Nassr's ACL game moved amid Iran security fears

DUBAI, Oct 21, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo and Al-Nassr's AFC Champions League Elite game with Esteghlal of Tehran on Tuesday will be as closely watched in India as it is in Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement released last Tuesday that Esteghlal had to move its home fixture with Al-Nassr to the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai due to the security situation in Iran.

The decision was greeted by surprise in India as, on Oct. 7, the AFC ruled that Mohun Bagan Super Giants of Kolkata had been "considered to have withdrawn" from the second tier AFC Champions League Two for refusing to travel to Iran to play its Oct. 2 fixture against Tractor SC in the northwestern city of Tabriz.

It is not only Al-Nassr's game that has been relocated. Tractor's home game against Ravshan of Tajikistan, scheduled for Wednesday, has been switched to become an away tie. Iran's national team also had to move its Oct. 15 World Cup qualifier against Qatar to Dubai.

"...(Mohun Bagan) notes that the AFC has indeed recognised the volatility of the situation in Iran and as such, has rescheduled or shifted venues for several games," a spokesperson for Mohun Bagan told Associated Press, adding that the confederation had taken the same geopolitical instability into account that the club had. "Failing to apply the same standard to Mohun Bagan would result in unequal treatment by the AFC."

According to the spokesperson, Mohun Bagan had made a request to the AFC that the game's date or venue be changed before it decided not to travel.

"We consistently communicated concerns about the volatile and unsafe conditions in and around Iran, particularly regarding the safety of players and staff," the official added. The Indian Super League club

said that it had appealed the decision to the relevant AFC committee and hoped to be reinstated into the tournament.

The AFC did not reply to an invitation to comment.

Al-Nassr has four points from the first two games and can take a big step towards the second round with a win. The revamped tournament now consists of two groups of 12 - divided into west and east geographic zones - with the top eight from each advancing to the Round of 16.

Nassr is going well in the Saudi Pro League with a 97th minute penalty from Ronaldo giving the team a 2-1 win over Al-Shabab on Friday to stay in third place.

"There are a lot of games at the moment and it is not easy," said Stefano Pioli, Al-Nassr's coach. "We will do our best to maintain our performances in the Asian Champions League."

Saudi Arabia has three of the four top teams in Group A. Al-Hilal is first and the four-time winner meets defending champion Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates and could welcome Neymar back to action after a year out through injury. Jeddah club Al-Ahli also has maximum points and travels to Qatar to face Al-Rayyan.

In the eastern zone the top two meet. Gwangju FC of South Korea is making its first ever appearance in Asian competition and is the only team with two wins from two. It takes on Johor Darul Ta'zim of Malaysia.

Australia's Central Coast Mariners has lost both games so far and head to China to take on Shanghai Port, coached by former Australian international Kevin Muscat, also seeking a first win.

Last season's defeated finalist Yokohama F. Marinos also travels to China and meets Shandong Tiashan while three-time winner Pohang Steelers of South Korea faces Thailand's Buriram United.



Trophy unveiling and team draw event in progress.

Trophy unveiling and team draw event held for Manjappada NextGen Cup '24

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: The Manjappada Kuwait Wing proudly hosted a successful Trophy Unveiling and Team Draw Event yesterday evening, building anticipation for the Manjappada NextGen Cup 2024, set to take place on 25th October 2024 at PAS Sabahiya.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from coaches, media, sponsors, and supporters. The highlight of the evening was the grand unveiling of the coveted trophies, representing excellence and sportsmanship, for which young footballers will compete in the tournament's Under 15 and Under 18 categories. Adding to the excitement, the official team draw set the stage for the tournament matchups, further intensifying the spirit of competition.

Attendees were introduced to the history, vision, and extensive activities of Manjappada and its Kuwait Wing, providing valuable insights into the organization's contributions to fostering football talent. A special moment during the event was the felicitation of Mr. Shanavas Basheer, who was honored for his election to the Working Committee, the top governing body of Manjappada.

The Trophy Unveiling and Team Draw Event marked the beginning of an exciting chapter for the Manjappada NextGen Cup 2024, which promises to showcase thrilling football action, featuring some of the region's most promising young talents. The tournament will kick off at 2:00 PM on 25th October 2024 at PAS Sabahiya, with fun activities and exciting prizes planned for spectators.

The Manjappada Kuwait Wing extended heartfelt thanks to all participants, sponsors, and supporters for making the event a grand success. The countdown to the Manjappada NextGen Cup 2024 has officially begun, and the community eagerly anticipates coming together to support the future stars of football.

Key figures, including President Mr. Jamsheed Aydeed, Secretary Mr. Lejoe Koshy, and Treasurer Mr. Manu Mohachan, along with other Executive Committee members of Manjappada Kuwait Wing, spoke on various aspects during the event. The evening concluded with a photo session and dinner, and the event was anchored by Dr. Merlene Lejoe.

Spanish and German soccer royalty collide in CL

MADRID, Oct 21, (AP): It's the best in Spain against German soccer royalty in the latest round of games in the Champions League.

A rematch of last season's final between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund is the headliner on Tuesday, before Barcelona hosts Bayern Munich on Wednesday in the next chapter of what has been a fairly one-sided rivalry in Europe's top club competition.

All four teams have been European champions inside the last 30 years and they've made mixed starts to this season's revamped format.

Dortmund has won both of their opening matches - 3-0 at Club Brugge and 7-1 at home to Celtic - to be the early leader and top scorer of the league stage, which sees all 36 teams play eight matches: four at home and four away.

Just like last season when reaching the Champions League final against the odds before losing to Madrid, Dortmund has been far more impressive in Europe than in the Bundesliga. Indeed, after thrashing Celtic, Dortmund lost at Union Berlin four days later.

Madrid, meanwhile, is coming off a surprising 1-0 loss at Lille, the defending champions' first defeat in the competition since the semifinals in the 2022-23 season.

In fact, the second round of matches threw up a few shockers, including

Bayern losing 1-0 at Aston Villa to end its unbeaten run under new coach Vincent Kompany.

Now Bayern heads to Barcelona in search of a seventh straight win in their head-to-head, a streak that includes a humiliating 8-2 loss for Barca in the quarterfinals in 2020. Hansi Flick was in charge of Bayern that night and is now the coach of Barcelona.

If Manchester City beats Sparta

Prague at home on Wednesday, the English champions will set the record for consecutive games undefeated in the history of the competition - even stretching back before 1992 into the European Cup era.

City is currently on 25 matches unbeaten, tied with Alex Ferguson's Manchester United team from 2007-09.

The last loss for Pep Guardiola's



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski celebrates after scoring the opening goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Sevilla at the Olympic Lluís Companys stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)



New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu (20) drives against Minnesota Lynx forward Bridget Carleton (6) during the second quarter of Game 5 of the WNBA basketball final series in New York. (AP)

Sports

Liberty breaks through with first WNBA title

Jones earns MVP honors

NEW YORK, Oct 21, (AP): As confetti fell and Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" blared through the arena, the New York Liberty celebrated the end of a long odyssey.

The team that always fell short, starting from its days in Madison Square Garden, through detours to Radio City Music Hall and Westchester County Center, finally found their way to the top.

Start spreading the news, indeed: There's finally a pro basketball champion in New York again after a 67-62 overtime win over Minnesota in Game 5 of the WNBA Finals on Sunday night.

"I've been manifesting this moment for awhile. There's no feeling like it," Breanna Stewart said. "Credit to Minnesota, it gave us a tough series. The fans have been amazing everywhere we've gone. To bring a championship to New York, first ever in franchise history it's an incredible feeling. I can't wait to continue to celebrate with the city. It's going to be bonkers." Jonquel Jones scored 17 points to lead New York, which was one of the original franchises in the league, earned MVP honors.

The Liberty made the WNBA Finals five times before, losing each one, including last season. This time they wouldn't be denied, although it took an extra five minutes.

With stars Stewart and Sabrina Ionescu struggling on offense, other players stepped up. Leonie Fiebich started off OT with a 3-pointer, and then Nyara Sabally, who finished with 13 points, had a steal for a layup to make it 65-60 and bring the sellout crowd to a frenzied state.

"Whoever scores in overtime first usually wins," Liberty coach Sandy Brondello said.

Minnesota didn't score in OT until Kayla McBride hit two free throws with 1:51 left. The Lynx missed all six of their field goal attempts in overtime. After Ionescu missed a shot with 21 seconds left, her 18th miss on 19 shot attempts, the Lynx had one last chance, but Bridget Carleton missed a 3-pointer with 16 seconds left.

Stewart, who missed a free throw with 0.8 seconds left in the end of regulation in Game 1, hit two free throws with 10.1 seconds left in overtime to seal the victory.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock the players hugged and streamers fell from the rafters at Barclays Center. Stewart and Jones hugged. The two prize free agent signees two years ago helped get this team its first title.

New York trailed by two in regulation when Stewart was fouled with 5.2 seconds left. After a lengthy video review, Stewart calmly hit two free throws to tie the game at 60. Minnesota had challenged the foul call and after the game coach Cheryl Reeve still questioned it, saying the title was stolen from her team.

McBride, who finished with 21 points, had an open look for a 3, but it fell off the rim and the game went to OT.

Many of the former Liberty greats were in the audience, including Teresa Weatherspoon, who hit a half-court heave in the 1999 WNBA Finals to force a decisive Game 3 that year. That was the last time that New York had a chance to



The New York Liberty hold up the championship trophy after defeating the Minnesota Lynx in Game 5 of the WNBA basketball final series in New York. (AP)

play in a championship-deciding game until this year.

Napheesa Collier scored 22 points to lead Minnesota before fouling out with 13 seconds left in OT.

The Lynx were trying for a record fifth WNBA title, breaking a tie with the Se-

attle Storm and Houston Comets. Minnesota won four titles from 2011-17 behind the core group of Lindsay Whalen, Seimone Augustus, Rebekkah Brunson, Sylvia Fowles and Maya Moore. That was the team's last appearance in the WNBA Finals until this year.



Jude Issa, a member of the Kuwait junior karate team, secured ninth place in the kata competition at the World Championship held in Venice. This achievement makes her as the first Kuwaiti to enter the International Federation's rankings in this discipline during the Junior World Championship.

Sabalenka overtakes Swiatek to reclaim WTA No. 1 ranking

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Oct 21, (Agencies): U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka is officially No. 1 in the WTA rankings again after ending Iga Swiatek's 11-month reign.

Sabalenka led Swiatek by 41 points in the latest rankings published Monday, overturning a 69-point deficit from the week before, even though neither of the two played last week.

Instead, the Belarusian took back the No. 1 spot following "continuing year-end adjustments for falling short of certain tournament quotas," the WTA said.

Sabalenka, who was previously top of the rankings from September through November last year, laid the groundwork for regaining the No. 1 spot when she won the Wuhan Open on Oct. 13.

Swiatek has taken time out for a coaching change since she last played at the U.S. Open. Swiatek reached the quarterfinals before losing to Jessica Pegula, who was in turn beaten by Sabalenka in the final.

Sabalenka also defended her Australian Open title in January.

The next chance for Swiatek to regain the top spot is at the WTA Finals next month in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Olympic women's singles champion Zheng Qinwen and highest ranked Chinese male tennis player Zhang Zhizhen, was drawn on Monday into the group with defending champions Germany and Brazil in the 2025 Union Cup team event.

The official draw set up Team China in Group E in Perth against Germany, led by world No. 3 Alexander Zverev, and Brazil, led by world No. 10 Beatriz Haddad Maia.

A total of 18 teams in six groups will compete in the third edition of the United Cup in Perth and Sydney from December 27, 2024 to January 5, 2025.

Top seed Team USA, led by 2023 US Open champion and world No. 3 Coco Gauff and world No. 6 and 2024 US Open finalist Taylor Fritz, will headline Group A in Perth, alongside Felix Auger-Aliassime and Leylah Fernandez's Team Canada and a third team to be confirmed in November.

No. 2 seed Team Poland, led by five-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek, will face Team Czech Republic, led by Karolina Muchova, and Team Norway, led by Casper Ruud, in Group B in Sydney.

The United Cup official draw on Monday determined where the top 16 teams will play. The second qualification date of November 19 will determine the final two teams.

Kuwait U17 team finalizes preparations for Asian Cup qualifiers

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 21: Kuwait U17 team will hold its final training session this evening at Abdullah Al Khalifa Stadium at Al Yarmouk Club in preparation for the upcoming Asian Cup qualifiers.

Kuwait will host the Group 7 competitions from October 23 to 27, featuring teams from Australia, Indonesia, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The tournament kicks off for the Blues tomorrow as they face Indonesia, followed by a match against Australia next Friday, and concluding with a game against the Northern Mariana Islands on Sunday.



The final training session of the Kuwait U-17 team.

The top team from each of the ten groups, along with the five best

second-placed teams, will earn a spot in the finals, which will be

held in Saudi Arabia next year.

Led by Croatian coach Ferdo Milin, the technical staff has selected 26 players for the squad, including: Saleh Mohammed, Ahmed Al Shawaf, Abdulrahman Mohammed, Zain Al Abedin Marafi, Fawaz Al Dawood, Abdullah Al Qarza, Aayed Al Shalqi, Abdullah Al Aybani, Abdulrahman Al Suwaidi, Hamad Al Saeed, Mohammed Al Ansari, Mohammed Al Mulla, Suleiman Jamal, Abdullah Al Ansari, Abdulrahman Al Shuaib, Khaled Al Saeed, Misfer Al Adwani, Mishal Al Dhafiri, Bilal Mubarak, Ismail Khorshid, Laith Al Qallaf, Mubarak Al Ajmi, Mohammed Al Ateeqi, Khaled Al Nuwaif, Ali Al Maraghi, and Abdullah Al Kharji.

Lewandowski extends scoring streak

Barcelona routs Sevilla ahead of 'clasico'

MADRID, Oct 21, (AP): Robert Lewandowski scored two more goals to extend his league-leading tally to 12 and Barcelona routed Sevilla 5-1 to open a three-point gap on Real Madrid ahead of next weekend's "clasico."

Pedri and Pablo Torre also scored Sunday for the Catalan club, which restored its lead of La Liga a day after second-place Madrid won 2-1 at Celta Vigo.

Barcelona midfielder Gavi came off the bench to replace Pedri in the 83rd minute, making his return to action nearly a year after a serious knee injury.

"I had been dreaming about this moment for several months," Gavi said. "It's tough to watch from the outside. I have to enjoy every moment. I feel very lucky to be here today."

Barcelona will play Madrid on Saturday at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Both teams have Champions League matches midweek - Madrid hosts Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday and Barcelona hosts Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

"This was an important win considering the matches that we have ahead," Pedri said. "We had to leave with a good feeling and the three points."

Lewandowski scored twice in the first half against the visitors, first by converting a 24th-minute penalty kick and then by finding the net from close range in the 39th.

The Poland striker was coming off a hat trick at Alaves in the previous league round, and had scored twice in the team's win over Young Boys in the Champions League. He has 14 goals in 11 matches in all competitions this season.

Lewandowski, who received a standing ovation when he was substituted in the 65th, nearly got his hat trick against Sevilla in a one-on-one situation in the first half.

Pedri scored with a curling shot from outside the area in the 28th and

Torre added to the lead from inside the area in the 82nd and with a free kick in the 88th. Raphinha had a 49th-minute goal disallowed for offside.

Barcelona has outscored its league opponents 33-10 this season.

Sevilla, which had no attempts on target in the first half, scored its lone goal in the 87th with 19-year-old substitute Stanis Idumbo.

Barcelona also saw Lamine Yamal return from a muscle strain that saw him leave Spain's squad during the international break.

Barcelona defender Eric Garcia hurt a muscle in the team's warmup and did not play.

Fewer fans than normal watched Atletico Madrid beat Leganes 3-1 in a match played in a partially closed stadium because of recent fan trouble.

Alexander Sorloth scored twice and Antoine Griezmann once after the visitors took the lead in the first half at the Metropolitan stadium, which had an empty fan section behind one of the goals as punishment after Atletico fans threw objects on the field during a city derby against Real Madrid last month.

The section is where the club's more radical supporters usually gather.

Atletico had been originally ordered to close the section for three matches but appealed the decision and the punishment was reduced to a single match.

The derby was interrupted for more than 15 minutes after fans threw the objects near Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in a game that ended 1-1.

Sunday's victory, which ended Atletico's three match winless streak in all competitions, moved Diego

Simone's team to third place in the league. It trails Barcelona by seven points.

Atletico midfielder Pablo Barrios and defender Clément Lenglet both got injured.

Griezmann was sent off late in the game after he slid into an opponent, but the red card was changed to a yellow after video review.

Villarreal is in fourth place after conceding an 87th-minute equalizer in a 1-1 draw against Getafe. Santiago Comesaña had put the hosts ahead in the 44th.

Mallorca defeated visiting Rayo Vallecano 1-0 with a goal by Vedat Muriqi in the 75th. It was the fourth win in five matches for Mallorca, which moved to sixth place in the standings. Rayo stayed ninth.



Sevilla's Jose Angel Carmona, left, heads the ball during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Sevilla at the Olympic Luis Companys stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)