



asian games

Pages 15 & 16

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## OVER 7,000 COMMUNICATION TOWERS RAISE HEALTH CONCERNS MP urges swift government overhaul



Gold medalist Kuwait's Yaqoub Al-Youha celebrates on the podium during the victory ceremony for the men's 110-meter hurdles at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023. (AP) - See Page 16

### MPW under fire

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: MP Mubarak Al-Tasha has called upon His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to hasten in reforming the government before the start of the upcoming parliamentary term.**

The lawmaker insisted that the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqamaz should be the first to be replaced, due to the delay in signing contracts related to road maintenance and the recent incident that resulted from the delay in the completion of the bridge construction on the Fifth Ring Road close to Grand Avenues.

MP Al-Tasha said every time a problem is discovered concerning the Ministry of Public Works, Dr. Buqamaz and her team rush to the media to promote fake achievements including the signing of road maintenance contracts.

He stressed that Dr. Buqamaz has been given enough time to make achievements but no progress has been accomplished until date.

Meanwhile, the parliament's Committee for Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs held a meeting on Monday.

The Chairman of the committee MP Hamad Al-Matar disclosed that the discussions during the meeting focused on the health hazards of communication towers.

He explained that there are facts revealing that telecommunication companies are more powerful than the government. Kuwait has over 7,000 communication towers, and over 3,000 of them are installed in residential areas including the rooftops of some private houses. This matter represents a major health hazard for citizens. Telecommunication companies give KD 3,000 per year to the owner of such houses, taking advantage of the private nature of these houses, as it is not easy to be inspected. They also get another advantage of the subsidised cost of electricity.

MP Al-Matar stressed that the Council of Ministers is the relevant institution because of the fact that the issue concerns several ministries and public institutions including the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

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### Opinion

## Thank you Minister of Information and whoever said the word of truth

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

FROM 33 articles in the press and publications law issued in 2006 to 104 articles in the unified media law, there is a milestone decline in how freedom is dealt with.

If this proposal gets passed by the Ministry of Information, which will soon be in the custody of the Education Committee and the General Secretariat of the National Assembly, there will be a long journey of torment and horror awaiting writers.

Many observations were made by journalists, writers, and editors-in-chief regarding the old law. Now this is being followed by a draft that contains nothing but darkness.

Therefore, what had been raised more than once in the past 17 years regarding media openness, and despite many cases that were filed regarding articles and news, the judiciary was merciful in dealing with them because that's how the society was at that time.

Today, we are getting a law that combines the media and the penal laws. This only exists in repressive police states, not in a country that is supposed to be democratic, and where freedom of opinion is constitutionally guaranteed.

All of this is the same as in the new proposal. We therefore say "thank you" to the Minister of Information Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi for understanding the demands of academics, editors-in-chief, and journalists, and eliminating some of the poisonous spikes in the new law.

Nonetheless, this proposal remains silent, even outside the framework of the era because it simply did not realize in its depths that the world had changed, and the open spaces prevented any repression.

Therefore, the fraud in some of its articles, which refers the writer to State Security in line with article 15 of the Penal Code, and imposes the most severe penalty of up to 15 years in prison on him, undermines freedoms from the start.

We beg to ask - What is the fault of the institution, its employees, and the editor-in-chief for a word or phrase that was inadvertently mentioned in an article or news, and for the newspaper to be closed for a week, month, or year?

This only happens in repressive countries, where intelligence services count people's lives, and where injustice and abuse are widespread with the matter sometimes leading to security unrest, uprisings, and revolutions.

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'Net zero by or before 2050'

## Kuwait affirms commitment to 'decarbonization' targets

ABU DHABI, Oct 2, (Agencies): Oil Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Nemr Fahad Al-Sabah affirmed Monday Kuwait's commitment to agreements supporting decarbonization efforts and boosting cooperation to meet future demands, as per leadership's directives on heading towards renewable energy.

Undersecretary Al-Sabah stated this to KUNA following ADIPEC 2023 opening ceremony. ADIPEC is a conference and exhibition handling challenges faced by the energy sector, including decreasing carbon emissions by 2050 as well as prepping for COP28 to be held in Dubai from November 3 to December 12.

The Ministry official underscored the importance of such an event saying that he is looking forward to the constructive discussions and fruitful negotiations it would promote, especially as leading figures in the sector will be in attendance.

ADIPEC, sponsored by President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, is a platform allowing energy sector to come together with other sectors to find solutions and arrive at future visions.

COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber called on the oil and gas industry to rally around ambitious decarbonization targets as part of the COP28 Presidency's Action Agenda to fast-track the energy transition and keep 1.5C within reach.

Dr. Al Jaber reiterated calls on industry to "step up, align around net zero by or before 2050, zero-out methane emissions, and eliminate routine flaring by 2030." He welcomed recent progress and action from over 20 oil and gas companies, including both international and national oil companies (IOCs and NOCs), which have "positively answered the call" to take the challenging but achievable steps to curb emissions from the production of energy.

Describing the progress, Dr. Al Jaber said, "This took time, effort and many months of hard work, negotiation and collaboration. We are counting on many more to come onboard and start taking action to decarbonize further and faster. I urge everyone to make this commitment at COP28, a COP where I am calling on everyone to set the highest ambitions, follow through with practical actions and deliver real results."

Dr. Al Jaber issued his call to action at the beginning of the 2023 Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC), the largest and most inclusive energy industry gathering. The event was attended by HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates, along with 160,000 energy professionals, 2,200 exhibiting companies, 54 NOCs, IOCs, and IECs.

Setting off the event which runs from 2-5 October, Dr. Al Jaber said that "This industry can and must help to drive the solutions. For too long, this industry has been viewed as part of the problem, that it is not doing enough and, in some cases, even blocking progress. This is your opportunity to show the world that, in fact, you are central to the solution."

Noting the scale of the climate challenge, Dr. Al Jaber stated that "the world must reduce emissions by at least 43% over the next 7 years to keep 1.5 within reach. And that is our north star. It is our destination. It is simply respecting the science. And we must do this while also ensuring human prosperity by meeting the energy needs of the planet's growing population."

Describing the necessary actions, Dr. Al Jaber highlighted three key areas that he was prioritizing, including: curbing emissions from the production of energy, scaling up renewables, and decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors, such as steel cement, aluminum and heavy transportation.

### NewsWatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphatically denounced the burning of a Holy Quran copy by an extremist person in Malmö city, southern Sweden, with the knowledge of the local authorities.

"This shameful and unjustifiable behavior violates all humanitarian values and principles. It aims to provoke the public opinion and stir the feelings of Muslims around the globe," the Ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

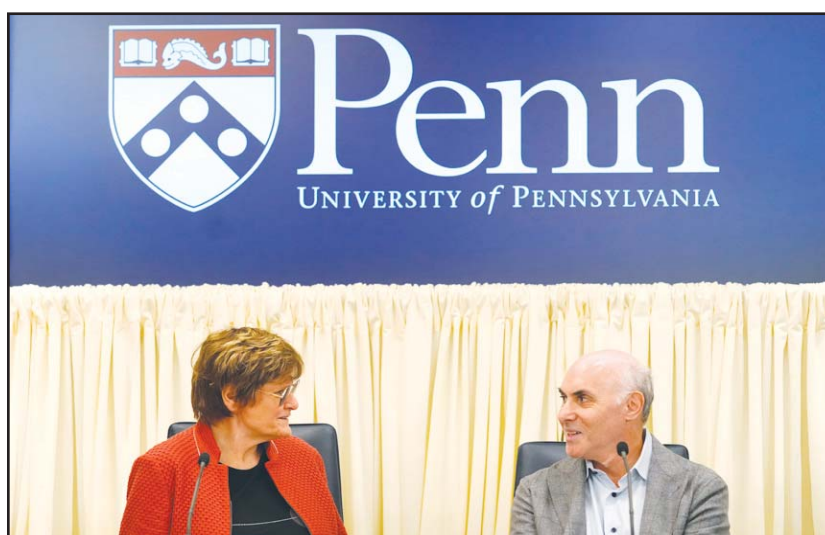
The statement reiterated Kuwait's call for the Swedish authorities to adopt the necessary measures against such behaviors which could jeopardize coexistence, and instigate hate and violence. (KUNA)

**BRUSSELS:** EU Commissioner for interior affairs, Ylva Johansson, Monday said combating terrorist finance is a global struggle.

"That's why we need to work with partners across the globe. We also need to train people outside Europe, in Africa for example."

And need to learn how to work with all parties involved. Including intelligence services, Europol and Interpol, "she said in her opening speech at the first annual conference on countering the financing of terrorism held in Brussels.

Further, she warned of the growing terrorism threats from right wing extremist groups. (KUNA)



Biochemist Katalin Kariko and physician-scientist Drew Weissman speak at University of Pennsylvania, Oct. 2, 2023, in Philadelphia. Kariko and Weissman were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine for discoveries that enabled the creation of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 and whose technology could be used in the future to develop shots against other diseases like cancer and lupus. (AP) - See Page 13

### Other Voices

Court expands reach

## 'Internet crimes under Kuwait legal authority'

By Dr. Fawaz Khaled Alkhateeb  
Attorney and Visiting Assistant Professor at Kuwait International Law School

In today's dynamic digital era, platforms like X have profoundly transformed our communication avenues, offering a space for rigorous dialogue. While these platforms enable vibrant discussions, they have also prompted conservative calls for the Ministry of Interior's oversight, aiming for a discourse in line with our strict legal parameters.

A frequent question often contemplated is: How robustly does the Kuwaiti Constitution champion freedom of speech? Articles 36 and 37 of our Constitution support the freedom of opinion. However, several laws restrict this freedom. It is crucial to highlight that at the heart of any genuine democracy is an unwavering commitment to freedom of opinion. That is why Article 6 of Kuwait's Constitution solidly establishes a key principle about the nation's sovereignty, emphasizing an individual's undeniable right to voice their views, advancing the vision of an enlightened society.

Still, over the past two decades, different government administrations have proposed laws that impact these freedoms. Comparing our standards with Western countries suggests a more limited freedom of expression in Kuwait.

In practice, the Ministry of Interior's role in overseeing digital communications is increasing. Does its jurisdiction solely rest on formal complaints, or does it also consider factors like societal sensitivities, public sentiment, and media reverberations? While formal complaints are essential for cases of slander or defamation, the digital realm has broadened the spectrum of possible offenses. These range from inciting hostility, questioning societal norms, spreading deceptive narratives, to crossing religious lines. Unfortunately, people in many times face legal consequences for their digital content, even when their statements are truthful and unbiased.

This raises a pivotal question: How should we legally define these digital platforms? Drawing from various judicial precedents, we can view these platforms as public spaces. Therefore, digital communicators, whether they are tweeters or publishers, might encounter legal consequences regardless of where the offense took place. Kuwait's Cassation Court contends that the Penal Code applies to Kuwaiti citizens who commit offenses overseas. Recognizing the internet's global reach, the court maintains that, because of its universal access, digital infringements fall under Kuwait's jurisdiction.

In monitoring these digital platforms, the dedicated Electronic and Cyber Crime Police consistently spot users involved in dubious online

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### Day by Day

THE current state of Kuwait Airways is bewildering and uncertain. We witness a series of perplexing events involving resignations, appointments, referrals to the Public Prosecution, and numerous complaints.

The turmoil within this institution is evident, compounded by an extensive documentary cycle highlighting an excessive workforce.

Many employees, some introduced through intermediaries and others seemingly appearing out of nowhere, have added to the confusion. The situation has drastically shifted; once at the forefront, the airline's ranking now appears to be in question.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.  
Zahed Matar

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:22 Asr ..... 15:01  
Sunrise .. 05:41 Maghrib .. 17:33  
Zohr ..... 11:38 Isha ..... 18:50

# Local

BIOMETRIC/FINGERPRINT APPOINTMENT: <https://meta.e.gov.kw/En/>

**Expected weather for the next 24 hours:**  
**By Day:** Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate south-easterly wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.  
**By Night:** Rather hot to mild

**Weather**  
with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.  
**Station Max Exp Min Rec**  
Kuwait City 41 30  
Kuwait Airport 41 23

Abdaly 41 23  
Jahra 41 26  
Salmiyah 38 30  
Ahmadi 39 32  
Nuwaisib 41 24  
Wafra 41 23

## Cabinet congratulates Kuwait Amir on third anniversary of rule

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2. (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet on Monday congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the third anniversary of his rise to power, saying his "wise leadership" has placed the nation firmly on the path towards prosperity and development.

During the Cabinet's customary session, presided over by Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Information Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi spoke of national preparations ahead of "Expo 2025 Osaka," a global Japan-hosted event in which Kuwait will be represented through a special pavilion.

The minister heaped praise on state-wide efforts aiming to depict the nation in a "positive light" at the expo, saying that Kuwait was the first Arab nation and the eighth globally to have agreed on setting up a booth at an event of

such magnitude.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Aiban, who doubles as Minister of State for Youth Affairs, briefed the Cabinet on his recent visit to Hangzhou, China, the site of the ongoing 19th Asian Games, where he met his compatriot athletes to check on their level of preparedness as they represent national colors.

The minister personally surveyed the facilities in the Chinese city, while he has also attended a number of contests in which Kuwaiti athletes took part, saying he was confident in their abilities to elevate the nation to the upper echelons on international sports.

Discussing current regional and global happenings, the Cabinet deplored a recent drone attack perpetrated by Yemen's Houthi movement against forces of the Saudi-led coalition, where some four Bahraini troops lost their lives.

Condemning the incident, the Cabinet underlined Kuwait's unflinching support for the measures Bahrain will take in the wake of the attack, saying the country stands in solidarity with its Gulf Arab neighbor.



Sheikh Talal

### New safety measures introduced

## Tent market at slaughterhouse?

By Enas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Municipal Council, during its regular session yesterday, headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, approved the Public Markets Committee's proposal to change the slaughterhouse site to a temporary tent market site in Shuwaikh Industrial Area.

In the same context, Head of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri said, "The council supports any project managed or owned by a Kuwaiti citizen. It supports any amendment that is in the interest of the investor."

Meanwhile, Director of the Legal Department Hussein Al-Ajmi said, "Changing the location of the slaughterhouse to a temporary tent market, or adding any conditions or texts, is up to the Municipal Council, while the signing of the contracts will be with state property."

Also, Engineer Hassan Al-Kandari, a member of the Municipality's Tents Markets Committee, said, "The current site belongs to the Kuwait Municipality, but the previous one belonged to the State Property Administration."

He stressed that the KD 50 fee collected by the municipality is not a rental value, but rather an estimate in exchange for cleaning, security and monitoring services for the market.

Eng. Al-Kandari revealed that the market in the past lacked safety requirements, but in the new location, there is coordination with the fire department, and the operation will be different from the previous one.



Al-Mahri

### 'Kuwaitization' sought

## Co-ops top job interviews begin

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Marzouq Al-Otaibi announced that PAM, with the cooperation of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and the Ministry of Social Affairs, has started conducting interviews for administrative jobs in the cooperative sector from Sunday.

In a statement issued during the PAM's launch conference on the interviews for administrative jobs in the cooperative sector yesterday morning, Al-Otaibi revealed that the number of vacancies for the first batch in the cooperative societies listed during the period from July 3 to August 13 is 25 vacancies in 11 cooperative societies.

He affirmed that this step is aimed to apply Kuwaitization policy in the cooperative societies and to continue efforts to direct national workers to work in the private sector, especially the cooperative sector.

Meanwhile, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Abdulaziz Sari Al-Mutairi affirmed the continued appointment of citizens in cooperative societies for non-supervisory positions in accordance with the conditions specified by the ministry, foremost of which is that "the ratio of salaries to the budget meets the conditions and is approved by the board of directors."

### Conference

In a statement issued on the sidelines of the conference, Al-Mutairi denied stopping the appointment of citizens to jobs in cooperative societies, indicating that appointments are continuing, and applicants will be accepted according to the specified controls.

Regarding the test on personal characteristics that applicants for supervisory positions undergo, Al-Mutairi said this test was among the proposals, but was not taken into account, as the mechanism was established by PAM so that the interviews are directive, coordination, and personal, without tests.

In his speech during the conference, he revealed that the adoption of the joint coop-

eration mechanism approved by the Council of Ministers as a basic option for implementing the plan to apply Kuwaitization in the cooperative societies required full coordination and continuous cooperation in order to establish the necessary legal and logistical mechanisms to implement this plan.

Al-Mutairi said, "Efforts are ongoing to accelerate the Kuwaitization of supervisory positions in cooperative societies and to complete the remaining stages of implementing the plan in its part related to non-supervisory positions, in compliance with the decision and directives of the Council of Ministers."

This is aimed to achieve the desired goal, which is to create 3,000 job opportunities for Kuwaitis in the cooperative sector as part of the efforts to attract national cadres to work in this vital and important development sector."

Furthermore, Deputy Director General for National Employment Development in charge of PAM Najat Al-Yousef affirmed that the authority will continue for two weeks to conduct interviews for applicants for supervisory positions in cooperative societies.

She announced that the interviews will guide 191 citizens who have been accepted out of 380 applicants to complete their data. This will be the first step in selecting those accepted by the competent committee of the Ministry of Social Affairs for appointment to the vacant supervisory positions in the cooperative societies, with 28 vacancies for general directors, 114 for deputy general directors, and 49 for department heads.

In addition, Head of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies Abdul Wahab Al-Fares said he considers the step that began today as the first in the project to apply Kuwaitization to the supervisory positions in cooperative societies, and as an achievement for the concerned authorities due to the vitality this sector represents.

Al-Fares said, "With the launch of the project," we have tightened control over cooperative work, especially with the establishment of a clear system for all work procedures, an organizational structure, and the provision of financial incentives."



KUNA photo  
Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Head of the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah upon his arrival in Doha.

### HH Amir's rep participates in Doha's Expo 2023 opening

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, head of the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah participated in the opening of the International Horticultural Expo 2023.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation ar-

rived on Monday at the Qatari capital Doha to partake in the opening of the International Horticultural Expo 2023.

He was welcomed at Sheikh Hamad International Airport by Sheikh Fahad Al-Thani, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Saad Al-Barak and Kuwait's Ambassa-

dor to Qatar Khaled Al-Mutairi.

Senior officials at the Crown Prince Diwan and Qatar Ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah Al-Humoud saw the Amiri representative off at the international airport.

Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs at the Crown Prince office Mazen Issa Al-Issa accompanied Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah. (KUNA)

## 'Human development target'

### Bid to achieve 'New Kuwait' vision

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Honorary President of the Kuwait Public Relations Association Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah stressed the importance of the association's meaningful and influential activities and events.**

In his speech at the opening of the Digital Public Relations Forum, which was held on Sunday, Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah affirmed the association's keenness about human development, and to push in this direction and achieve the New Kuwait vision.

He said, "The development industry and the future are not difficult if we start it with deliberate steps, as the private sector, along with the government sector and civil society organizations, contributed to building this great goal."

The public benefit associations and civil society organizations are essential partners in development, as they move according to strategies specified by their boards of directors, away from bureaucracy and the documentary cycle, so we always go for what is new and the achievements on the ground."

Meanwhile, the Head of the association Jamal Al-Nasrallah, in a similar speech, stressed that the public relations profession exists strongly in all institutions and companies in both the government and private sector, and is an indispensable profession.

Al-Nasrallah said, "With tireless efforts, we are together achieving the lofty vision of transforming Kuwait into a global financial and commercial center, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad."

Furthermore, the official spokesperson of the Public Authority for Youth Affairs Asrar Al-Ansari said during the forum's dialogue session, "The specialty of public relations is not new. It is in fact very old."

### Relations

The provocative thing is that some believe the specialty of public relations is for lazy people who do not want to work. This is contrary to the truth, because the success or downfall of any party is linked to public relations and the skill of its workers."

Al-Ansari highlighted the importance of digital public relations, indicating that digitization is not limited to marketing, as digitization and social media have fundamentally contributed to raising the stock index of a number of institutions and also contributed to lowering the index of some other companies.

Also, a representative of the Public Relations and Corporate Affairs Sector in Zain Company Maryam Al-Musallam said there is a need to draw a new mental image of the public relations profession.

She explained the difference between public relations and marketing by saying, "Marketing is a way to promote the product. On the other hand, we call public relations at Zain Company as institutional relations and affairs that contribute to conveying a mental image of the company in a way that befits it to society."

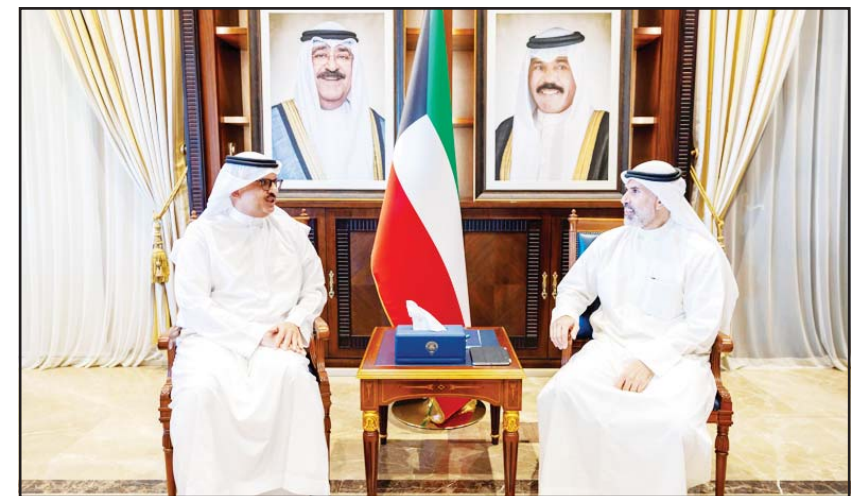
Meanwhile, Regarding the ethical challenges, Director of the Marketing and Corporate Communications Sector at Warba Bank Ayman Al-Mutairi said he does not believe in the challenges, stressing that, "Technology has played a major role in our social, practical and marketing lives."

Al-Mutairi said he believes public relations is an essential part of senior management, as it is its main interface, adding that technology has facilitated many things.

Regarding the dominance of social media and whether or not it has completely replaced traditional means such as television and radio, the official spokesman for the Sahel electronic government services application Yousef Kazem said public relations and marketing are two very similar fields.

He explained that, "The Sahel app, which is a government digital product, has been considered a major challenge on the Internet since the day of its launch, and even six months before its launch, as we prepared a media marketing campaign that relies on public relations to inform people and follow up on making the application indispensable on every phone for citizens and residents."

Kazem highlighted the possibility of running an advertising campaign at the lowest costs, of which the Sahel app is clear evidence, as the number of users reached 1,400,000 across 333 services, and the number of transactions completed within two years reached 21 million transactions.



KUNA photo  
The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Kuwait Prince Sultan Bin Saad Al-Saud.

### Deputy FM meets Saudi, Spain, EU envoys

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Prince Sultan Bin Saad Al-Saud.

Both Sides discussed fraternal relations between the two Gulf countries.

Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also received on Monday Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait Miguel Jose

Moro Aguilar.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bolstering relations between the two countries.

Sheikh Jarrah then received on Monday European Union (EU) Ambassador to Kuwait Ms. Anne Koistinen.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bolstering relations between the State of Kuwait and the EU. (KUNA)

### KNPC plan implementation soon

## 'Charge your EV at fuel stations'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is currently developing a plan to provide charging points for electric vehicles at fuel stations.

Informed sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy affirmed the ministry's readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the concerned company to implement its strategy aimed at providing vehicle charging points as an additional service at the fuel stations affiliated with the Kuwait National Petroleum Company starting from 2030.

They explained that the ministry had finished preparing the list of chargers for electric vehicles in Kuwait in September last year. It included the strategies, regulating rules, principles, and standards for the charger system for electric vehicles. It also included the principles of connecting the system to the network of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, in accordance with the technical conditions and standards appropriate to the climatic conditions of Kuwait with regard to electric car chargers.

The trend towards providing vehicle charging points in a number of sectors and locations across the country, including government and private institutions, comes within the framework of the ministry keeping pace with the global shift towards electric cars with the aim of using clean energy for transportation, and reducing carbon dioxide emissions and other pollutants in line with the New Ku-

### 'Better living'

## Allowance hike eyed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The government is studying the possibility of increasing the cost of living allowance for Kuwaitis from 120 to 250 dinars, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting reliable source.

The source said: "The government will work first to stabilize prices, before approving any financial increases in the country," noting that "it will implement a joint mechanism whose duration does not exceed 90 days to control any high prices for consumer goods and products in cooperative societies, retail stores, and supermarkets."

The source explained that "the strategic alternative is still under study, and requires time," pointing out "several points that require lengthy study, the most prominent of which is that there are approximately 400 government job titles and more than one job grade, which needs to be researched, so that they are equal in all government institutions."

The source indicated that the alternative would cost the state at least one billion dinars annually and there are several economic studies underway in this regard.

wait 2035 vision by achieving a sustainable living environment and creating a clean environment.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Iraqi Federal Supreme Court's ruling is an attack on history'

"THE recent ruling by the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court concerning the agreement governing maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah between Iraq and Kuwait brought back memories of the political tensions experienced in the 1960s and 1970s," columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"During that era, we grappled with heightened anxiety and tension in our interactions with the Iraqi government, countering its ambitions in Kuwaiti territory through its "programmed advance" plan.

"This plan incrementally encroached upon Kuwaiti territory, and Kuwait's response primarily entailed summoning the Iraqi ambassador and conveying dissatisfaction and anger. The Iraqi ambassador would promise to escalate the matter to higher authorities in Baghdad.

"This state of affairs persisted from 1963 until the Iran-Iraq war, during which Kuwait displayed tolerance to enable Iraq to defend itself against Iranian attacks. Kuwait dedicated its ports, airports, and roads to this cause. Following the ceasefire in 1988 until the invasion in August 1990, Kuwait rejected an Iraq-proposed draft border security agreement that aimed to provide Iraq ports and a special road, with Iraq responsible for security, extending from the north to the port of Shuaiba in southern Kuwait.

"This period highlighted Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's steadfast rejection of such attempts and his insistence on Kuwait's commitment to the defense agreement. However, Saddam Hussein remained undeterred, ultimately invading Kuwait to subdue its rejection of his ambitions.

"In the aftermath of the invasion, Kuwait's leadership made the historic decision to forge a strategic partnership with the United States and Britain to ensure Kuwait's stability, integrity, and regional stability. This move marked a significant departure from Kuwait's diplomatic philosophy between 1961 and 1990, which relied on Arab solidarity, unity of Arab positions, respect for the Charter of the Arab League, and the integrity of member states' legitimacy.

With this strategic shift, Kuwait's diplomacy has since provided a robust security deterrent, a crucial element missing since its independence in 1961.

"I have reviewed the Federal Supreme Court's record regarding the agreement, initiated by a member of Parliament, that was nullified due to not garnering the required two-thirds majority for parliamentary approval. The historical narrative presented in the record lacked accuracy, was riddled with distortions of facts, and contained additions that held no substantive weight.

"In response to the Iraqi court's decision, Kuwait promptly reacted during a meeting between His Highness the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Muhammad Al-Sudani, in New York City on the twentieth of September 2023. During this meeting, His Highness emphasized the imperative of upholding security, independence, and territorial integrity for both nations. He reiterated the importance of honoring agreements and relevant international resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution No. 833, which outlined the land and sea borders between the two countries up to maritime mark No. 162.

"Kuwait expressed its eagerness to finalize the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-

Iraqi maritime borders beyond mark 162 in the days to come, following international laws and conventions.

"Iraq's Prime Minister promptly responded to Kuwait's call, affirming Iraq's unwavering commitment to pertinent international resolutions. He reiterated his government's dedication to Kuwait's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and adherence to international laws and Security Council resolutions.

"Al-Sudani restated this commitment in his statements to The National, an Emirati newspaper, following the New York meeting. He confirmed Iraq's position and desire to sustain the joint committees' efforts, facilitating continuous mutual visits between officials and experts from both countries in various fields to enhance cooperation and foster confidence.

"Al-Sudani acknowledged Kuwait's concerns, particularly related to the 1990 invasion, emphasizing that Iraq has transformed significantly post-2003. Iraq is actively working on cross-border projects and developing relations with all its neighbors, including Kuwait.

"Addressing the Federal Supreme Court's decision to invalidate the Khor Abdullah Agreement, Al-Sudani highlighted a division among Iraq's branches of authority, clarifying that the matter is currently in the judicial domain.

"Iraq's National Security Advisor, Qasim Al-Araji, had previously affirmed Iraq's profound respect for Kuwait's sovereignty across past, present, and future. This affirmation followed his meeting with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Baghdad, Mr. Fahd Al-Fadhli. Al-Araji emphasized understanding and dialogue as the means to resolve all issues, emphasizing the principle of good neighborliness and the involvement of legal committees. The New York meeting, where the prime ministers of both countries convened, underscored their stance of love and respect towards Kuwait Iraq and its officials acknowledge that the Security Council resolutions under Chapter Seven of the United Nations Charter are unequivocal and not subject to hesitation or manipulation.

"Furthermore, we have profound confidence in the sincere intentions of Baghdad's officials, especially the Prime Minister and his influential aides. We firmly believe that the process of delineating maritime borders will remain unaffected by this decision. What matters most is our ongoing communication with Baghdad's officials on all fronts, not only to resolve outstanding issues but to elevate our relations to a collaborative stage.

"Kuwait is resolute in building a comprehensive trade and investment system within various Iraqi cities, driven by a sense of neighborliness, aligned interests, and a commitment to enhancing communication in the next phase. This ambition stays with us, fully cognizant of the potential for its realization as long as the Iraqi situation continues to be guided by the constitution and the rule of law.

"We place our trust in the Iraqi political consciousness that endured the tragedy of Saddam's disruptive actions in Iraqi affairs, wreaking havoc on Iraq and causing suffering to the Iraqi people, who bore the burdens of his recklessness.

"Perhaps the Iraqi people grasp Kuwait's sensitivity stemming from the invasion and its eagerness for future steps to be secure and free of loopholes through which adventurers could exploit. They understand the necessity of shifting relations between the two countries towards mutual gains in trade and development. I anticipate that this ambition will materialize after the completion of maritime

demarcation, paving the way for both countries to enter a comfortable space characterized by mutual trust, aligned interests, and rational behavior.

"In addition, Kuwait extends its heartfelt condolences for the passing of Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad. His demise represents a loss of a reservoir of noble values.

"The late Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Ahmad was a steadfast champion of truth and justice, consistently employing dignified language and committing to his convictions.

"His presence significantly enriched society, and we remember his esteemed legacy with admiration and respect. We pray for his eternal peace and offer solace to his honorable family during this challenging time.

"Despite his illness, he remained exceptional, displaying resilience in suffering and believing that everyone facing it will eventually find peace in the divine presence of honor and majesty."

**Also:**

"In short, the country is exhausted by the different kinds of conflicts, particularly the political conflicts between sheikhs and merchants, and among sheikhs, commercial conflicts between large business families, sports-related conflicts, government-parliament conflicts, and inter-parliamentary conflicts. All these conflicts have a major negative impact on the country and its development", columnist **Eng. Talal Al-Enezi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The nature of these conflicts is neither praiseworthy nor positive. Rather, they are fierce, and all permissible and non permissible weapons are used in them. Each party in the conflict has its followers, including MPs, writers, and social media users. Therefore, we find the Kuwaiti arena more like a war zone with everyone waiting for opportunities to exclude their opponents and keep them away from the scene.

"Everyone is trying to harness all the capabilities of the state for himself and his followers. We therefore find unequal opportunities and brash appointments, the result of which is the destruction of the country, its delay and the disruption to its progress.

"Our ears have become accustomed to hearing the terms "conflicts", "disagreements", "exclusion", "termination", "theft" and "embezzlement". We unfortunately do not hear words such as "a project has been launched", "a development project has been signed", "a large factory has been opened", or "the railways project has been completed".

"Our neighbors and brothers in the Gulf countries are interested in developing their countries and making them qualitatively better. They have succeeded, while we are still immersed in our conflicts and disagreements. We get upset when someone criticizes our situation even if it is done with compassion and love.

"In short, there is no one whose heart is against the country! Political and commercial conflicts and disagreements have exhausted the country, disrupted it, frustrated its people, and made them pessimistic. We do not see any glimmer of hope for reform, development, achievement, and progress of our country".

— Compiled by **Mai Elsoukary**



Bishara

**Other Voices**

### PAFN and the expiry dates

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

Kuwait stands out as a unique country globally, mandating manufacturers and importers of food products to specify expiry dates, limited to a maximum of 2 years, regardless of the product's inherent nature.

Interestingly, foods like honey and mustard, known to remain consumable for centuries according to various scientific sources, are also subject to expiry dates. The disposal of canned foods after their expiry, given their prolonged shelf life, represents an extravagant waste.

In a New York Times article on February 24, 2023, American chef and food writer James Kenji López Alt emphasized the importance of being aware of the expiry dates before discarding food items.

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), defining expiry dates for most food products, except those meant for children, is optional and unrelated to food safety. Expiry dates in the US are essentially the producer's best estimate of when the product maintains its optimal quality. Most producers tend to be conservative with these estimates.

Certain food items such as honey, vinegar, vanilla, sugar, salt, corn syrup, molasses, rolled oats, and grits possess an extended shelf life with minimal change in quality and therefore do not require much concern regarding their expiry.

White rice, in contrast to brown rice, can remain viable for years due

to the lower fat content. Unrefined substances like walnuts decay relatively quickly due to their higher fat content, but if stored in the fridge, they can last for a few years. Bread with oils and preservatives might retain its texture for weeks in the fridge, while yeast-based components might degrade within 10 days.

Dried beans and lentils retain their viability for years, although they may harden over time, necessitating longer cooking duration. Spices may lose some flavor but remain viable for extended periods.

Canned foods stored in metal containers have a longer shelf life compared to those in glass or plastic containers. Signs of spoilage, such as swelling, mold, odd smells, or tastes, are absent in canned fruits, vegetables, and meats, allowing them to last for years.

Carbonated beverages maintain their effervescence for a considerable time, with those in glass bottles lasting longer than those in plastic ones. Oils, when stored away from heat, can last for a prolonged duration, and their suitability for consumption can be determined by their smell or taste.

Honey and mustard possess an indefinite shelf life, and ketchup remains viable for approximately one year, even if there's a change in color. Mayonnaise without lemon and garlic can last for a significant period. Soy sauce takes a long time to spoil, but refrigeration is advisable.

Eggs have a lengthy shelf life and can be identified as spoiled by their smell. Only expiry dates on children's food items accurately represent their actual validity. I urge the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) to adopt a flexible approach regarding expiry dates.

□ □ □  
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alsarraf

## Zero tolerance for fake goods

Companies shut as raids pick up steam

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) in its relentless work is determined to clean the markets of adulterated products, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The daily added after restricting the markets for food, spoiled meat, and counterfeit goods of various kinds, the scope of work of commercial control inspectors has increased.

Informed sources told the daily the inspectors recently shut down two companies and their stores selling tobacco (molasses), one in Salmiya and the other in Al-Ardhiya, after they were caught tampering with the expiry dates of the molasses prepared before putting the products for sale, indicating that the two companies will be referred to the prosecution.

**Fraud**

The sources indicated that the commercial fraud included all different types, flavors, and trade names of molasses, two tons of seized products had all expired since 2021 and 2022.

The sources pointed out that "according to the field inspectors the violators had concealed the expiry date on the original boxes of the seized molasses containers, and tampered with it by extending other valid consumption dates, and then sold it to customers directly or to cafés."

The sources explained that "the seized quantities and the method of manipulation reflected a clear case of tampering carried out by officials in the warehouses, in violation of the law and regulatory instructions regulating consumer protection and health."

The sources stated, that "there are clear directives from the Minister of Commerce, Muhammad Al-Aiban, and Undersecretary Ziyad Al-Najem to all inspection teams in the ministry to increase inspection tours and restrict violators to the maximum possible degree," noting that "the directives in this regard include working to intensify campaigns and expand their scope to include all consumer markets without focusing on one market at the expense of another."



A Fire Dept inspector seals one of the violating companies.

### 'All Kuwaitis in Public Prosecution'

### Fire Dept shuts down 57 facilities

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2:** The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) has shut down 57 facilities and units administratively during last September, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Farwaniya Governorate topped the list of violators, followed by the Capital Governorate.

The statistics indicated the Farwaniya Governorate accounted for 105 violations, followed by Hawalli with 87. The statistics also showed that the prevention sector issued 207 licenses for facilities, and 191 approvals for architectural studies for projects, while 2,193 units were licensed, and 824 approvals for vouchers were issued during the past month.

□ □ □

**Kuwaitizing Prosecution:** The Public Prosecutor, Counselor Saad Al-Safraan, issued a decision yesterday to completely "Kuwaitize" the Public Prosecution office, and transfer non-Kuwaitis to the full Prosecution, as of yesterday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Resolution No. 77 of 2023 stipulated the transfer of all non-Kuwaiti heads and members of the Public Prosecution from all partial and specialized prosecutions to the full prosecution, as of Sunday.

The Public Prosecution said in a statement on its account on the 'X' platform, that the decision comes within the framework of the Public Prosecution's efforts to rely on national cadres in forming partial and specialized prosecutions.

### Kuwaiti child dead, 3 others 'injured' in fire

By **Munaif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2:** Sabah Al-Salem area woke up at dawn yesterday to a house fire that resulted in the death of a six-year-old Kuwaiti child and the suffocation of two of his siblings and a woman who were taken to the hospital.

According to a security source, when the Operations room of the Ministry of Interior received information about a house on fire, security officers and firefighters from two fire stations were immediately dispatched to the location. They rescued four people from the house, and referred them to paramedics at the site who referred them to the nearest hospital.

The Public Relations and Media Department of the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate explained that the fire had broken out in a house in Sabah Al-Salem area, and firefighters from Al-Qurain and Mishref fire stations rushed to the location to realize the fire broke out in an apartment on the first floor of the house. The teams immediately worked on extinguishing the fire. Four people suffered from suffocation and were transported to the hospital, but one of them - a six-year old child - had died. Investigations have been launched in this regard.

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### Minor girl guardianship annulled

### Verdict upheld in inheritance case

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2:** The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued by the Court of First Instance, which rejected the lawsuit filed by the Minors' Affairs Authority as the guardian of a minor girl, and demanded the invalidation of a house ownership document and a "gift contract" from the Kuwaiti citizen to his children and wife.

The facts of the case were presented by the Director General of the Public Authority for Minors' Affairs, in his capacity as the guardian of the deceased citizen's minor daughter, demand-

ing the invalidation of the home ownership document and the "gift contract" from the deceased man to his children and wife, for violating public order, circumventing the rules of legal inheritance, and considering the contract as if it did not exist, by removing him from the Real Estate Registration and Authentication Department.

During the court session, lawyer Jassim Al-Tuwaitan, representing the family members of the deceased, said the father of his clients gave the property to them when he was alive 17 years ago. He also had a minor daughter under the guardianship of the Minors' Affairs Authority. During his lifetime, he did not return or amend the gift, which confirms the effectiveness of the gift in favor of his clients.

Lawyer Al-Tuwaitan demanded that the ruling of the Court of First Instance to reject the case be upheld.



Al-Tuwaitan

## LOCAL

# Govt spends only 10 pc of KD1.02 bln on development projects, shows data

Total number of projects in annual dev plan reaches 130

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2:** Despite giving priority to spending on development projects, and granting them facilities that would contribute to the speed of their completion, official figures revealed that the total amounts spent on development projects during the first half of the current fiscal 2023/2024 is only 108 million dinars -- only about 10 percent, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the same data, the total number of projects in the annual development plan reached 130, of which 13 projects have not been started yet, while there are about 52 projects in the preparation stage, 60 projects in the implementation stage, while there are five projects in the delivery stage.

Relevant sources indicated that the low rate of disbursement and completion of projects raises fears of a repeat of last year's failure, in which only 10 projects were completed, and the rate of disbursement did not exceed 50 percent, knowing that it is the lowest rate historically since the launch of the development plan projects in 2010 /2011.

In more than one circular issued by the Ministry of Finance, a stressing warning to government agencies is evident that speak of development projects being given priority, as the ministry explicitly indicated in its latest circular of the need for all regulatory and concerned authorities to give priority to annual development plan projects, and to quickly com-

## 'Quick action vital to promote better urban future'

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA):** Head of Mission of the UN-Habitat to GCC and Kuwait Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan affirmed that the many challenges facing the world requires a serious and immediate action to promote a better urban future.

This came in a statement to KUNA on Monday after the second UN Habitat Forum opening in Kuwait, in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD), on the occasion of Urban October and the annual World Habitat Day, under the slogan "Kuwait Cities-Achievements and Challenges".

Al-Hassan said that this year's forum focuses on the New Kuwait vision, sustainable urban development and Urban October, which was set by the UN General Secre-

ariate to highlight the importance of Urbanization and boosting sustainability in cities around the world. During Urban October, many events and discussions are organized to focus on urbanization issues and look for sustainable solutions. Al-Hassan noted, adding that the forum highlights the role of private and governmental institutes in achieving sustainable urban development in Kuwait.

She indicated that the event includes recycling, cleaning beaches, and greening, in an initiative by the program to link its work with Kuwait's directions to reach carbon neutrality, implementing the directives of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Kuwait's vision towards a sustainable urban future.

novation while ensuring transparency in the management of financial resources. The list also includes the Kuwait Airport expansion project "Passenger Terminal 2", which is a strategic project that is considered a qualitative leap in infrastructure and air transport, and an important step to transform Kuwait into a financial center, by making Kuwait Airport a hub that attracts travelers around the world and also the project to develop the Mubarakia Markets and its parking lots, which is a project that seeks to revive the Mubarakia Markets economically and culturally and enhance its tourism role.

According to the final report analyzing development projects during the past year, a number of obstacles were identified that slow down the project completion process, including the slow documentary cycle of contractual procedures in the regions, and

the delay in procedures for obtaining the required approvals from the regulatory authorities, while the legislative challenges remain the most prominent, especially since many projects it needs to pass its own laws, or introducing a number of amendments to existing legislation.

The report stated that, at the level of the main indicators of the Kuwaiti economy, nearly 13 years after the launch of Vision 2035, and despite the efforts made, all indicators indicate that the required progress in the sustainable development plan has not been achieved, for the following reasons -- salaries and subsidies consume 80% of the state's general budget; productivity rates are very low compared to the huge level of spending from the state's general budget; oil revenues constitute 91% of the state's total revenues and international oil prices are the main control of the deficit or surplus in the state's general budget.

For his part, Secretary General of the SCPD General Secretariat Dr. Khaled Mahdi said that the event addresses urban development issues and constructing a cohesive infrastructure environment, as they are important policies within the development plan. He appreciated the UN-Habitat Program's cooperation with the SCPD General Secretariat, pointing out that their participation is a part of the ongoing cooperation and partnership with all UN organizations. The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) works in more than 90 countries to support people in cities and human settlements, focusing on urban development, and works with governments and local partners to provide solutions.

World Climate Summit. The Acting Prime Minister received the invitation during his meeting with UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Matar Al-Nayadi, said the Ministry of Interior's Department of Public Relations and Media Security in a statement.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled expressed his appreciation for the invitation as it reflects the historic bonds between Kuwait and UAE, it added.

Al-Azmi asked if there is a defined maximum charge for delivery, and if the delivery platforms and applications are covered by the regulations that organize the delivery of orders from restaurants and coffee shops at a rate of 250 fils for delivery within the same area and 500 fils for the delivery outside the area.

In another development, MP Marzouq Al-Hebeini submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqamaz, asking about the invitation sent by the ministry to a number of embassies in Kuwait to nominate road maintenance companies. He said he wanted to know which embassies have been invited, the criteria adopted to choose those specific embassies, and if any of the invited embassies did not respond.

He asked to be provided with a copy of the minutes of the meetings held for this purpose.

Also, MP Saad Al-Khanfour submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Communications and the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, asking whether the construction of the building of the Institute of Islamic Studies and Quranic Sciences located in West Abdullah Al-Mubarak has been completed and handed over to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. He asked for the plan of the ministry to enhance Islamic education to the residents of Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun sent a cable to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria Tajuddin Abbas and the President of the Senate of Nigeria Godswill Akpabio to congratulate them on the National Day of Nigeria.

In another development, MP Fayeza Al-Jomhour submitted a bill to amend the second clause of article 33 of the Municipality law No. 33/2016.

The bill is aimed to exempt the joint ownership houses located in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh from the regulation of the first clause of article 33 of the above mentioned law, which prevents Kuwait Municipality from issuing description certificate or survey letters to the owners of violating houses with joint ownership.

He said the bill will allow the owners of the houses located in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh to obtain the description certificates and survey letters needed to sell their houses, as part of the procedures aimed at developing Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

The lawmaker stressed that, in case the government does not approve the bill, the State Minister for Municipal Affairs will bear political responsibility for disturbing the citizens' interest.

In addition, MP Hamad Al-Medlej highlighted that the cooperation of the parliament with the government is linked to the achievement of popular legislation, especially those concerning citizens' interest.

He urged the government, particularly the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah, to show cooperation for improving the citizens' standard of living by ratifying the relevant bills related to reforming salaries' scale and increasing pension.

MP Al-Medlej warned against the issuance of negative reports whenever the MPs call for enhancing the citizens' income.

He stressed the fact that KD 2.5 billion was scheduled to be referred to the Public Institution for Social Security for investment purposes.

MP Al-Medlej asked Minister Al-Jarallah to verify the information that the witnesses against the former chairman of the institution Fahad Al-Rajaan, who was convicted of stealing huge amounts of the institution's funds, have been rejected and exposed to abusive procedures.

The lawmaker asked if the Public Institution for Social Security addressed the Public Prosecution to change the description of the lawsuit against Al-Rajaan, and if the institution delayed in responding to the requests of Public Prosecution for reports on Al-Rajaan's case.

He also asked for verification about the violations recorded by the State Audit Bureau concerning the conflict of interest through the dismissal of the Legal Affairs Director of the Public Institution for Social Security and his replacement with a relative of Al-Rajaan.

## National Day greetings

### HH Amir congratulates Nigeria

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Monday a congratulatory cable to President of Nigeria Bola Ahmad Tinubu on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir expressed good wishes to the president, and hope for optimum progress and prosperity for Nigeria and its people.

Meanwhile, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Bola Ahmad Tinubu

on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the president good health and prosperity for his country.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Bola Ahmad Tinubu on his country's National Day.

In the meantime, Speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun sent cables to top lawmakers in Nigeria, congratulating them on their country's National Day.



KUNA photo  
Acting PM, Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal receiving the UAE ambassador to Kuwait.

## Bid to attend Abu Dhabi-hosted events

### Acting PM receives two handwritten invitations from UAE vice president

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA):** Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Monday two handwritten invitations from UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, Dubai Governor Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

The invitation is to attend World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi from 16 until the 20 of October, and to participate in the

## Thank you

Continued from Page 1

How many times has Al-Seyassah been blocked and the company closed as a result of a slander, or a misunderstanding on the part of the censor? Why punish it for spreading the truth and shedding light on injustices, and every time the judiciary lands justice?

Therefore, when we talk about flaws in the new law as well as the audiovisual law, and also electronic crimes, we highlight the legal sins that are contrary to the Constitution.

Irrespective of the new proposal, we reiterate our appreciation to the Minister of Information Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi for his understanding of what was stated by legal experts. However, it must be emphasized that even though he is today in a ministerial position, he is a citizen in the end, and one day he will be a writer or editor-in-chief of a newspaper. When such harsh penalties are then applied to him, will he accept that?

Thanks also to everyone who made their contribution in this regard, but everyone must be aware that the battle is still in its beginning stages. The fingers of the demons of the National Assembly will delve into the details and deceive in order to achieve their goals.

This is why it is necessary to reform the old law in accordance with what was stipulated in the Constitution for the sake of more freedoms, not more oppression and backwardness, and to continue the confrontation so that Kuwait does not become an oppressive state.

## 'Internet crimes

Continued from Page 1

activities. These individuals are then directed to the relevant Public Prosecution. The startling discovery of over 3,000 digital offense cases in 2022 highlights the increasing scrutiny of our digital environment.

Navigating the intricate landscape of digital freedoms in Kuwait is challenging. As Kuwait delves deeper into the digital age, the endeavor to balance the promotion of expressive freedom with upholding national values becomes more critical. This challenge resembles a fine balancing act, demanding a consistent move towards more freedom and reduced censorship.

## MP urges

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker revealed that there are many other dangerous effects of communications towers, even those installed in open yards.

He explained that diesel is used to run these towers, and they sometimes leak into the soil, causing pollution to the underground water. According to the Environment Public Authority, 140 out of 164 towers are found to be violating environmental requirements.

The issue also has a security aspect as eight towers were discovered to not belong to any of the three telecommunication companies. This arouses suspicions about the reasons behind installing them, which were done so by unknown individuals or bodies for unknown purposes.

London, for example, is completely free of communications towers as part of the efforts to protect citizens' health. Al-Matar concluded by revealing that another meeting will be held to hear from the relevant institutions including Ministry of Health, Kuwait Municipality, CITRA and Environment Public Authority.

Furthermore, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban, asking if the ministry has issued any regulations to standardize the delivery charge collected by delivery platforms and applications. If so, he wanted to be provided with a copy of those regulations. If not, he wanted to know the reasons.



# October

## Room Promotion






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# What's On

## Renowned financial expert unveils insights into India's economic surge

# KCICAI hosts CPE event on remarkable ascendancy of modern India

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Kuwait Chapter of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (KCICAI) successfully hosted yet another highly anticipated event on Indian Economy that unfolded the narrative of "The Incredible rise of Modern India". The event featured renowned speaker Mr. Saurabh Mukherjea, the founder of Marcellus Investment Managers, a celebrated author and a well-respected figure in the financial industry along with esteemed chief guest Mr. Choji Lamba, Chairman IBPC Kuwait and a prominent figure in the business world.



Saurabh Mukherjea with prominent figures in the business world.



Renowned financial expert Saurabh Mukherjea poses for a group photo during the KCICAI's insightful economic seminar.

This insightful Continuing Professional Education (CPE) event which took place recently in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, was attended by a diverse audience of chartered accountants, financial professionals, and business enthusiasts eager to gain insights into India's economic journey and its future trajectory. The focal point of the evening was the enlightening discourse delivered by Mr. Saurabh Mukherjea, on recent surge in the Indian stock markets, sectors fuelling India's growth, and the impact of global trends which provided attendees with valuable insights on investment opportunities and strategies.

### Highlights of the Seminar:

#### 1. Economic Analysis:

Mr. Mukherjea commenced the seminar with a small quiz through which he highlighted a comprehensive overview of the Indian economy, analysing key indicators and trends that have contrib-

uted to the rise of stock markets. This included factors such as GDP growth, industrial production, inflation rates, and government policies impacting various sectors.

#### 2. Sectoral Analysis:

The expert delved into a detailed sectoral analysis, highlighting the industries that have witnessed significant growth and potential for further expansion. He emphasized that High cash generation leads to virtuous cycle of wealth creation. In his presentation he discussed sectors such as technology, healthcare, consumer goods, and renewable energy, which have shown

resilience and promising prospects.

#### 3. Investment Strategies:

Attendees gained valuable insights into investment strategies which could be based on criteria such as Consumption, Utility or Pick & Shovel. Further, Mr Mukherjea highlighted the Buy & Sell driving factors based on historic fundamental filters such as Moat score - Stewardship score - Growth score - Terminal Risk score & Idiosyncratic risk score.

Adding to the prestige of the event, Mr. Choji Lamba, the esteemed chief guest, shared his perspectives on the symbiotic relationship between financial institutions and economic devel-

opment. Lamba's extensive business experience and his insights into the economic synergies between India and the global market complemented Mukherjea's analysis.

An engaging and highly informative Q&A session followed the presentation of Mr. Mukherjea. The event received overwhelming positive feedback from all the attendees. The Institute and its Chapter, remains steadfast in its mission to empower chartered accountants and financial professionals to excel in their roles as stewards of India's economic success.

CA. Deepak Bindal, a senior member and past Chairperson of the KCICAI,

delightfully hosted the evening and efficiently brought the various phases of the event together. CA. Rabin Gonsalves, Chairperson of KCICAI, in his welcome address, thanked all the attendees for their presence and updated the audience about the recent and upcoming events of the chapter. He also informed its members about other ongoing affairs of the chapter and the various initiatives undertaken by the chapter.

KCICAI Executive committee took the opportunity to announce the 3rd International Conference, its annual flagship event. On behalf of KCICAI Executive committee CA. Aditya Dha-

nuka, the vice chairperson of KCICAI unveiled the theme "Expand Your Horizons" (C-A-R-E) for the upcoming 3rd International Conference to be held on 16th December 2023.

The event was concluded with a Vote of Thanks from CA. Sweta Chipra, committee member of KCICAI, with the emphasis on such events which play a crucial role in fostering knowledge-sharing, networking, and promoting a deeper understanding of the subject.

For more information about upcoming ICAI events and resources, please visit [www.icaikw.org](http://www.icaikw.org)

## Role of car seats crucial

### BirthKuwait hosts Road Safety Awareness event

BirthKuwait, a leading non-profit community organization committed to promoting infant and maternal health in Kuwait and the Arabic-speaking world, organized a special event on Saturday, September 30th to mark Road Safety Awareness Month. The event featured car seat safety specialist, Ms. Zainab Al-Alawi. Kuwait has witnessed a concerning rise in road accidents, particularly those involving young passengers. BirthKuwait's event aimed to shed light on this critical issue by providing invaluable insights into child passenger safety.

BirthKuwait's event spotlighted the crucial role of car seats in reducing injuries to infants and children during traffic accidents. Parents, caregivers, and community members learned about best practices for securing children in vehicles, proper car seat installation, and essential safety measures. Ms. Zainab Al-Alawi's expertise and insights provided attendees with practical knowledge that can save lives and contribute to safer roads in Kuwait. This underscores BirthKuwait's unwavering commitment to providing education and resources for the safety of our community's youngest members.

BirthKuwait is a non-profit organization that has been at the forefront of infant and maternal health advocacy for over a decade. The organization offers a wide range of evidence-based educational services, advocacy, and support to families in Kuwait and the Arabic-speaking world. BirthKuwait's mission is to empower both professionals and families with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate the journey of parenthood successfully.

Over the past 12 years, BirthKuwait has become a trusted resource for families and professionals alike, and is proud to have built a vibrant community of dedicated professionals who serve families during the most important stages of their lives, from pregnancy to early parenthood. BirthKuwait's commitment to providing cutting-edge training and educational services has made a significant impact on infant and maternal health in our region.

## Unity and Inspiration: Celebrating Life and Teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

# IEC Kuwait holds Serat-ul-Nabi conference

By M. Irfan Shafiq

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: A Grand Serat-ul-Nabi Conference was organized by the Islamic and welfare organization "Islamic Education Committee Kuwait" on the occasion of the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal at Masjid Al Kaber Kuwait City.

In the Conference, many business, religious, and social personalities of the Pakistani community in Kuwait as well as a large number of Pakistani people participated.

The program was conducted by Athar Makhdoom, Vice President of IEC. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Qari Sahib Anjum while Abdul Rauf Bhatti, Khalid Awan and Qari Sahib Anjum presented Naat.

The first brief lecture regarding IEC activities was delivered by Abdul Rahman Abbasi, and then Maulana Hafiz Hafeez-ur-Rahman delivered the main speech of the program.

He narrated the life of the Holy Prophet in the light of the Qur'an, hadiths and the events of the Companions of the Prophet in



Speakers at the conference.

a very beautiful and literary manner.

The speakers described the qualities and virtues of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as well as the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) and told how important it is for the Muslim Ummah to follow the teachings and teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) and the basic principles of Islam. Without it, humanity cannot reach its original position. By following the life of the Holy Prophet and his teachings, even today, the Muslim Ummah can attain the status of the Imamate of mankind.

The event's special guest, the Ambas-

sador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq Sahib also expressed his views at this gathering. He said that the Muslim Ummah and especially the Pakistani nation is united in its talent and art, whose intellectual abilities and love for their work are recognized by the world. We must create consensus, brotherhood, love, and national harmony within ourselves so that our abilities can become a source of development and prosperity of our country.

He said that following the qualities of

the Holy Prophet (PBUH) described by the speakers in the conference is the guarantee of success in this world and the hereafter.

Representative of the Ministry of Awqaf and Masjid-ul-Kabeer; Sheikh Muhammad Ali, welcomed Pakistani Community and said that Pakistanis always cooperate and abide by the law of Kuwait.

President of the Islamic Education Committee, Javed Iqbal gave the presidential address. He thanked all the attendees and taught them to live together in harmony.

Muhammad Nadeem, Ifthar Ahmed, Yahya Ubaidullah, Zain Nadeem, and Malik Zaheer were among those who received prizes in the draw of the quiz on the Prophet's biography.

Athar Makhdoom, the host of the program, thanked the community personalities, the attendees, and Embassy Staff for attending and supporting the event. The conference ended with the prayer of Mushtaq Ahmed, senior advisor of the Islamic Education Committee.



H.E. Malik Muhammad Farooq, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the event's special guest.



A large number of Pakistani people from business, religious, and social personalities participated in the conference.

## Night of wisdom and compassion in Kuwait

# IMA conducts public program on Prophetic message

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent to this world as a Witness to Mankind, as Giver of glad tidings for righteous people, as a Warner of dreadful torment for evil doers and as a perfect example for all mankind to follow in their daily life and day to day affairs, were the opening remarks by Mr Waleed Umari, one of the renowned speaker and Khateeb in Kuwait, while speaking on this topic "And One who invites to Allah, by His Permission and an Illuminating Lamp" in a public program on Serat Al Nabi (PBUH) organized by Indian Muslim Association (IMA) Kuwait on 28th Sep 2023 after Esha in Masjid Yousef Al Adani in Malya, Kuwait.

He further explained in details to the audience the basic purposes of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) prophetic mission, giving various examples from His pious life.

Mohammad Umar Falahi, IMA President and another key speaker of the program while speaking on his topic "Relevancy of Prophet's life & teaching in current situations", enlightened the audiences through various examples from His life, the guidance available for Muslims & all human being to follow in their practical life.

He further highlighted some points on the economic instability prevailing in current world as how it is being controlled & managed by few people contrary to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) teaching of distribution of wealth from rich to poor through the system of Zakah (Charity), on violation of women's rights and increasing oppression & injustice in the society as how Prophet (PBUH) stood against the oppressor for the rights & justice of all the people throughout His entire life.

Thus, the whole program was dedicated to commemorating the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad



Top & above: Photos taken from the event.

(PBUH) and reflecting upon His wisdom, compassion, and guidance for Humanity, on the eve of 12th Rabiul Awwal.

There was a huge gathering of people, men, women & children who attended the programs with their families and friends. The Program was enlightened with a very thought

provoking & inspiring Speeches, delivered by both the speakers, and was followed by Q/A Islamic Quiz Session which was moderated by former IMA President Mr. Masood Shahab, for audiences specially the Kids attending the program, Prizes were distributed to the winners for their correct answers. A Nasheed (Poem) was

recited as well by Mr. Afridi Khan in his beautiful voice.

The Program commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Kazi Owais, convened, and conducted by Mohammad Samoil Falahi. At the end of Program, the dinner Packets were served to all audience. IMA Kuwait extends its gratitude to the Min-

istry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait, for its patronage and constant support in organizing such impactful events and programs.

IMA Kuwait is an Indian socio-religious organization that operates under the patronage of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kuwait. IMA always focuses to provide plat-

form for enhancement of expatriates living in Kuwait for their spiritual & social aspect through various programs & social gatherings. It looks forward for organizing various beneficial programs in future, considering the occasions and requirements of expatriates in general and specifically Indian community.

## World News Roundup

## Ukraine

## Political strain

## European FMs meet in Kyiv to support Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 2, (AP): Some of Europe's top diplomats gathered Monday in Kyiv in a display of support for Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion as signs emerge of political strain in Europe and the United States about the 19-month-old war.

European Union foreign ministers converged on the Ukrainian capital for an unannounced informal meeting that officials said would review the bloc's support for Ukraine and discuss Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's proposed peace formula.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the foreign ministers' first joint meeting outside EU borders signaled that the 27-nation bloc's support is "unwavering" and underscored the EU's commitment to Ukraine.



Zelenskyy

The United States, the EU and the United Kingdom have provided massive military and financial support to Ukraine, enabling it to stand up to the Kremlin's attack. The assistance is crucial for Ukraine's weakened economy and has so far been open-ended.

But uncertainty has set in over how long Kyiv's allies will keep sending it aid worth billions of dollars (euros).

US President Joe Biden on Sunday reassured allies of continued US financial support for the war effort, after Congress averted a government shutdown by adopting a short-term funding package that dropped assistance for Ukraine in its battle against Russia.

## Ensure

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told reporters that Ukraine held discussions with representatives of both parties in the US Congress to ensure more help will arrive.

"The decision was taken as it was, but we are now working with both sides of the Congress to make sure that it does not repeat again under any circumstances," Kuleba said.

"The question is whether what happens in the US Congress last weekend is an incident or a system. I think it was an incident," he added.

The EU meeting in Kyiv took place after the weekend election victory in EU member Slovakia of Robert Fico, whose pro-Russian agenda has increased the question marks about the EU's continued support for Kyiv.

The small eastern European country could bring more tension to the EU's discussions on Ukraine, as has happened with Hungary's at-times cool attitude toward Kyiv. Budapest has maintained close relations with Moscow and argued against supplying arms to Ukraine or providing it with economic assistance. Slovakia operates a key rail line used to transport western military hardware to Ukraine.

The foreign ministers of Hungary and Poland were not at the Kyiv gathering. However, it is not unusual for diplomats to skip such informal meetings.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said Europe must be ready to provide further help "for many good reasons."

"First of all, in order to support Ukraine, but also to send a strong trans-Atlantic signal that what's going on on our own soil is something we have to take on a great responsibility for," Løkke Rasmussen said.

Ukraine is bent on becoming a member of the EU, and EU officials have encouraged that course even though it could take years amid a war of attrition with no end in sight.

"With every village, with every meter that Ukraine liberates, with every meter in which it rescues its people, it is also paving its way to the European Union," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told reporters in Kyiv.

## Deliver

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said Western allies must keep up the military aid "because if we don't deliver any weapons from the EU, from NATO, from other countries, then this war is over but with the wrong consequences."

Meanwhile, Britain's new defense secretary has suggested that British military training of Ukrainian soldiers, which currently takes place at UK bases, could move into western Ukraine.

In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, Grant Shapps said he was in discussions with the British army about "eventually getting the training brought closer and actually into Ukraine as well."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was quick to rule out speculation of an imminent deployment of British soldiers to Ukraine. Shapps' suggestion was not for the "here and now," Sunak told reporters, but a possibility "for the long term."

"There are no British soldiers that will be sent to fight in the current conflict. That's not what's happening," Sunak said.

Russian politicians immediately criticized the proposal. Former President Dmitry Medvedev, who is deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council, claimed Shapps was actively pushing "towards a Third World War."

The British minister "will be turning his instructors into a legal target for our armed forces, knowing perfectly well that they'll be mercilessly destroyed - not as mercenaries, but as NATO specialists," Medvedev wrote on social media.

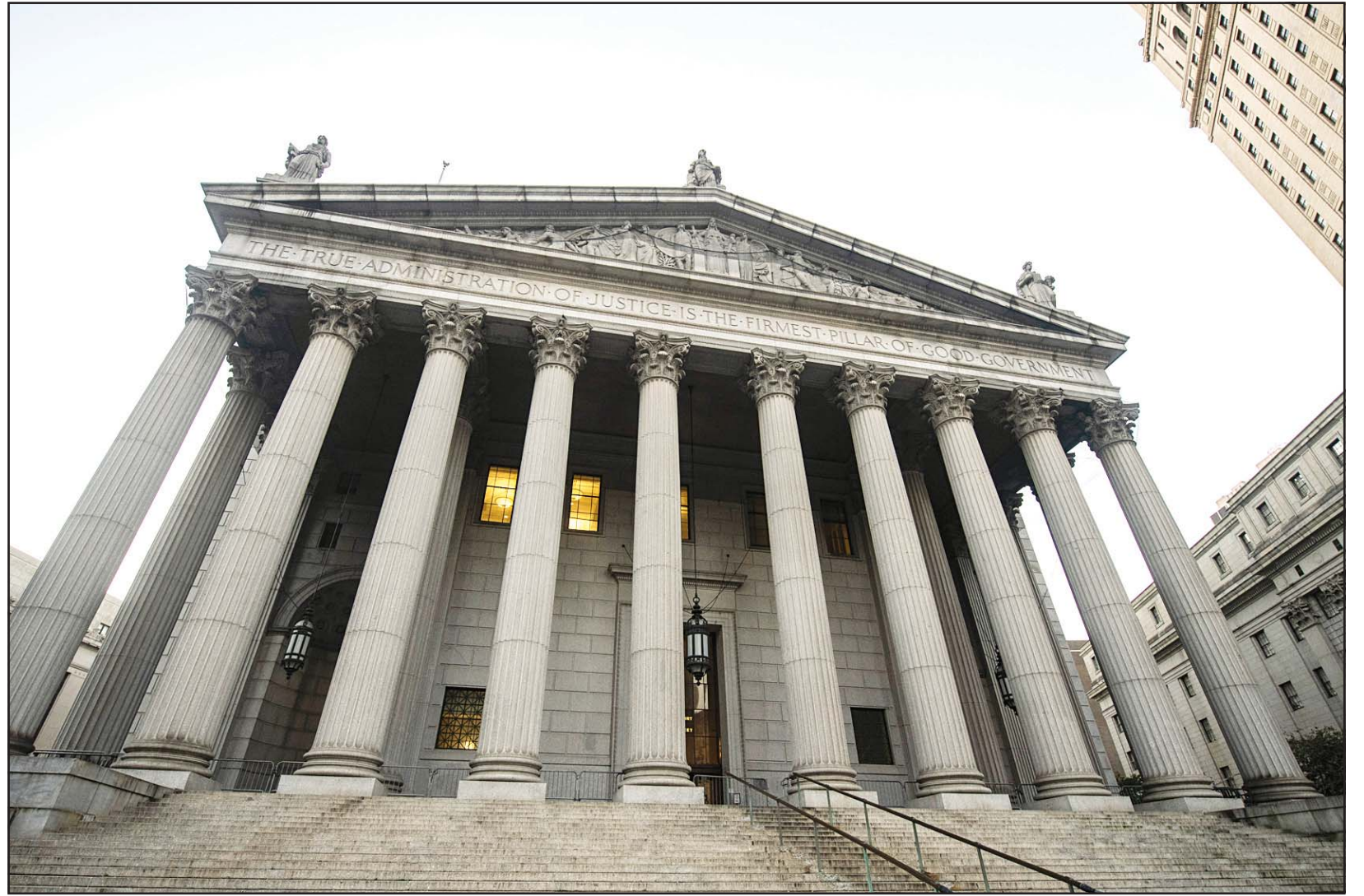
Since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine more than 19 months ago, Medvedev, a law school graduate, has emerged as one of the most hawkish Russian officials, regularly issuing blustery remarks that combine Latin mottos and legal expressions with four-letter words.

Observers have interpreted Medvedev's rhetoric, which sounds tougher than the statements of even old-time Kremlin hardliners, as an apparent attempt to curry favor with Putin.

Yan Gagin, advisor to the head of the Russian-occupied part of eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, also dismissed Shapps' idea but without Medvedev's fiery warnings. "Even if British instructors do organize training for Ukraine's armed forces inside Ukraine, it won't bring any results," Gagin told Russian state news agency RIA Novosti.

"Ukraine's failed counter-offensive has already shown the level of such training," he added.

More than 23,500 recruits from Ukraine have received combat training at army bases across the UK since the start of 2022, receiving instruction on skills that include weapons handling and battlefield first aid. Earlier this year, Britain's government committed to training another 20,000 recruits. The training is part of a broader package of support for Ukraine that includes a pledge of 2.3 billion pounds (\$2.8 billion) of anti-tank weapons, rocket systems and other hardware this year.



Stairs leading up to the entrance of New York Supreme Court sit empty ahead of former president Donald Trump's civil business fraud trial on Oct. 2 in New York. (AP)

## US

## 'Stop playing games, get this done'

## Biden urges Congress to approve Ukraine aid

WASHINGTON, Oct 2, (AP): US President Joe Biden said Sunday that American aid to Ukraine will keep flowing for now as he sought to reassure allies of continued US financial support for the war effort. But time is running out, the president said in a warning to Congress.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said in remarks from the Roosevelt Room after Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding package late Saturday that dropped assistance for Ukraine in the battle against Russia.

"We have time, not much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency," he said, noting that the funding bill lasts only until mid-November. Biden urged Congress to negotiate an aid package as soon as possible.

"The vast majority of both parties - Democrats and Republicans, Senate and House - support helping Ukraine and the brutal aggression that is being thrust upon them by Russia," Biden said. "Stop playing games, get this done."

## Momentum

But many lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on. Republican resistance to the aid has been gaining momentum and the next steps are ahead, given the resistance from the hard-right flank.

While Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, has begun a process to potentially consider legislation providing additional Ukraine aid, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., faces a more difficult task in keeping the commitment he made over the objections of nearly half of his GOP majority.

He told CBS' "Face on the Nation" that he supported "being able to make sure Ukraine has the weapons that they need," but that his priority was security at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"I firmly support the border first," he said. "So we've got to find a way that we can do this together."

By omitting additional Ukraine aid from the measure to keep the government running, McCarthy closed the door on a Senate package that would have funneled \$6 billion to Ukraine, roughly one-third of what has been requested by the White House. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the stopgap measure, with members of both parties abandoning the increased aid in favor of avoiding a costly government shutdown.

Now Biden is working to reassure US allies that more money will be there for Ukraine.

"Look at me," he said turning his face to the cameras at the White House. "We're going to get it done. I can't believe those who voted for supporting Ukraine -- overwhelming majority in the House and Senate, Democrat and Republican -- will for pure political

urged Belgrade to scale down its troop presence there.

Kosovo's government said Saturday it was monitoring the movements of the Serbian military from "three different directions." It urged Serbia to immediately pull back its troops and demilitarize the border area.

"A campaign of lies ... has been launched against our Serbia," President Aleksandar Vucic responded in a video post on Instagram. "They have lied to

'Whole case is a sham!'

## Trump attends New York trial 'scrutinizing' his biz practices

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): With control over some of his most prized real estate holdings in jeopardy, former president Donald Trump says he will make a rare, voluntary trip to court in New York on Monday for the start of a civil trial in a lawsuit that already has resulted in a judge ruling that he committed fraud in his business dealings.

Trump lashed out in his post at New York Attorney General Letitia James, who is suing him, and Judge Arthur Engoron, who is presiding over the non-jury trial and made the fraud ruling last week.

"This whole case is a sham!!!" Trump wrote. "See you in Court - Monday morning."

The trial is the culmination of a yearslong investigation by James, who accused Trump and his company of habitually lying about his wealth in financial statements.

Last week, Engoron resolved the lawsuit's top claim before the trial even began, ruling that Trump routinely deceived banks, insurers and others by exaggerating the value of assets on paperwork used in making deals and securing loans.

The former president and a who's who of people in his orbit - his two eldest sons, Trump Organization executives and former lawyer-turned-foe Michael Cohen are all listed among dozens of potential witnesses.

reasons let more people die needlessly in Ukraine."

Foreign allies, though, were concerned. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Sunday from Kyiv that he believed it wouldn't be the last word, but he noted the EU's continued substantial financial support for Ukraine and a new proposal on the table.

"I have a hope that this will not be definitive decision and Ukraine will continue having the support of the U.S.," he said.

The latest actions in Congress signal a gradual shift in the unwavering support that the United States has so far pledged Ukraine in its fight against Russia, and it is one of the clearest examples yet of the Republican Party's movement toward a more isolationist stance. The exclusion of the money for Ukraine came little more than a week after lawmakers met in the Capitol with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He sought to assure them that his military was winning the war, but stressed that additional assistance would be crucial.

Trump isn't expected to testify for several weeks. His trip to court Monday will mark a remarkable departure from his past practice.

Trump didn't come to court as either a witness or a spectator when his company and one of its top executives was convicted of tax fraud last year. He didn't show, either, for a trial earlier this year in which a jury found him liable for sexually assaulting the writer E. Jean Carroll in a department store dressing room.

In some ways, though, this new trial comes with higher stakes.

James, a Democrat, is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on doing business in New York.

Engoron's ruling of last week, if upheld on appeal, would also shift control of some of his companies to a court-appointed receiver and could force him to give up prized New York properties such as Trump Tower, a Wall Street office building, golf courses and a suburban estate.

Trump called it a "a corporate death penalty."

"I have a Deranged, Trump Hating Judge, who railroaded this fake case through a NYS Court at a speed never before seen," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

In his post Sunday night, Trump wrote that Engoron is "unfair, unheeded, and vicious in his pursuit of me."

After that visit, Schumer said that one sentence summed up Zelenskyy's message in his meeting with the Senate: "If we don't get the aid, we will lose the war," Schumer said.

McCarthy, pressured by his right flank, has gone from saying "no blank checks" for Ukraine, with the focus being on accountability, to describing the Senate's approach as putting "Ukraine in front of America."

The next funding deadline, which comes during the US-hosted meeting in San Francisco of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders, is likely to become a debate over border funding in exchange for additional Ukraine aid.

This was the scenario that Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader who has championed Ukraine aid, was trying to avoid back in summer when he urged the White House team not to tangle the issue in the government shutdown debate, according to people familiar with his previously undisclosed conversations with the administration who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks.



In this photo distributed by Dmytro Kuleba Twitter on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, (left) and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell shake hands at the opening of the informal EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine. (AP)

## Europe

## Felipe VI begins round of talks:

King Felipe VI on Monday began a new round of talks with Spanish political party leaders with a view to choosing the person in the best position to gather enough support in Parliament to form the country's next government.

All signs indicate that king will call on acting Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to try to do so following the failure by Alberto Núñez Feijóo, head of the conservative opposition Popular Party, to win sufficient parliamentary support last week.

The meetings take place Monday and Tuesday.

Sánchez's party finished second behind the Popular Party in July 23 elections. The elections produced a splintered parliament made up of 350 legislators from 11 parties, making the path to power difficult for any party.

If no government is in place by Nov. 27, another national election will be held on Jan. 14.

Feijóo's bid was rejected by a vote 177-172 on Friday. Sánchez, whose party holds 122 seats, hopes he can now persuade the legislators that voted against Feijóo to back him and capture at least the required 176 votes for a majority. (AP)

## 'Hold politicians accountable':

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption group said Monday that Cyprus needs to hold those at the highest echelons of executive power and law enforcement more accountable to counter an overwhelming public perception of widespread corruption.

The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) said in a report that Cypriot laws appear strong on paper but are undercut by institutional flaws including numerous anti-corruption bodies that lack coordination, resources and authority.

According to GRECO, Cyprus needs a stronger system of accountability in government to prevent influence-peddling and to stymie the risk of politicians serving the interests of big business and the wealthy.

Efforts to combat this relationship between government and private interests are "narrow in scope," it said, adding that more transparency is needed regarding politicians' assets and that people need better access to information. (AP)

## No troop buildup near Kosovo:

Serbia's president on Sunday denied US and other reports of a military buildup along the border with Kosovo, complaining of a "campaign of lies" against his country in the wake of a shootout a week earlier that killed four people and fueled tensions in the volatile Balkan region.

Both the United States and the European Union expressed concern earlier this week about what they said was an increased military deployment by Serbia's border with its former province, and they



Felipe VI



Vucic

about the presence of our military forces .... In fact, they are bothered that Serbia has what they describe as sophisticated weapons."

Associated Press reporters traveling in the border region Sunday saw several Serbian army transport vehicles driving away toward central Serbia, a sign that the military might be scaling down its presence in the region following calls from US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and others. (AP)

## Lat/Am

**10 dead after roof collapsed:** The roof of a church collapsed in northern Mexico during Sunday Mass, killing at least 10 people and injuring around 60, authorities said as searchers probed in the wreckage throughout the night and into Monday morning looking for survivors and more victims.

Approximately 30 parishioners were believed to have been trapped in the rubble when the roof caved in, officials said. Searchers crawled under the roof slabs and officials brought in dogs to help search for possible survivors.

The Tamaulipas state police said about 100 people were in the church at the time of the collapse.

The state security spokesman's office said early Monday that 10 people had been confirmed dead from the collapse, which it described as likely being caused by a structural failure. The office said 23 of the 60 injured remain hospitalized, with two in serious condition.

Tamaulipas state police said units of the National Guard, the state police and state civil defense office and the Red Cross were involved in the operation.

The Mexican Council of Bishops issued a statement saying that "we join in prayer at the tragic loss of life and those injured."

Bishop José Armando Alvarez of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tampico said the roof caved in while parishioners were receiving communion at the Santa Cruz church in the Gulf coast city of Ciudad Madero, next to the port city of Tampico.



Alvarez

The diocese later posted a list of people who had been injured, including a 4-month-old baby, three 5-year-olds and two 9-year-olds.

The number of young victims - police officers said three of the dead were children - may have been due to the fact that baptisms were to take place at the church. (AP)

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**10 migrants die in truck crash:** At least 10 migrants have died and about 15 other people were injured when a freight truck they were riding in crashed on a highway in southern Mexico near the border with Guatemala.

It was the latest in a series of migrant deaths in Mexico amid a surge in migrants traveling toward the U.S. border.

The civil defense office of the state of Chiapas said the truck crash happened Sunday on a highway near the town of Pijijapan, about 110 miles (175 kilometers) from the Guatemalan border.

The office posted photos showing a small truck with an open cargo box tipped on its side, and victims thrown onto the side of the highway.

The office did not confirm the nationalities of the victims, but an employee of the state prosecutor's office said they were largely Cuban migrants who had been hitchhiking rides on passing vehicles. The employee was not authorized to speak on the record.

It was also not clear how many of the 15 injured were migrants. There was no immediate information on their condition, or nationalities.

Mexican authorities generally prohibit migrants without proper documents from riding buses, so those without the money to hire smugglers often walk along the side of highways, hitchhiking rides aboard passing trucks.

There have been a number of migrant deaths over the last week.

A migrant from Ecuador died and 10 others from Colombia and Guatemala were injured in an crash Saturday that occurred while they were being taken for processing in a van operated by Mexico's immigration agency.

Mexico's National Migration Institute said the van was involved in a collision with a bus in the city of Mexicali, across the border from Calexico, California.

On Friday, two Mexican migrants were fatally shot on the Mexican side of the border and three others suffered gunshot wounds, the Migration Institute said. Rescue services found a group of 14 Mexican nationals at dawn on Cuchuma Hill near Tecate, a city between Mexicali and Tijuana. (AP)

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**Lula back at official residence:** Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was discharged from the hospital Sunday, two days after undergoing successful hip replacement surgery that will have him working from home while he recovers.

Lula, 77, underwent the operation Friday. Doctors also performed minor eyelid surgery.

He has returned to the official presidential residence in the capital, Brasília, and will work there during the coming weeks, Lula said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter. He previously said that he had suffered hip pains since August of last year.

"Thank you for all the prayers and the caring messages. I'm recovering to work even more for Brazil," Lula wrote on X, adding - as a joke, presumably - that he intends to run a marathon.

A medical bulletin from Lula's doctors earlier Sunday said that he had ascended and descended stairs with assistance.

Recovery for hip replacement surgery varies from patient to patient, but most can resume light, day-to-day activities within three to six weeks, according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Many patients initially use a cane, crutches or a walker until balance and strength improve to avoid falls that could jeopardize the surgery's success, the orthopedic organization said. (AP)

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**Police scuffle with justices:** Policemen shoved and wrestled with justices of Guatemala's top electoral tribunal Saturday, as prosecutors sought to seize the tally sheets of votes from the August presidential elections.

There were harrowing scenes of justices holding tight to boxes, as police tried to wrestle them away as part of raids to investigate spurious claims of voting fraud.

Observers at the time said they saw no evidence of any such fraud, and most in Guatemala see it as an attempt to weaken or disqualify the winning candidate, Bernardo Arévalo.

Seventy-year-old Justice Maynor Franco, wearing a suit and tie, refused to give up his grip on a vote box, even as a much younger agent tried to wrestle it away.

Justice Blanca Alfaro pleaded with officers not to take the boxes, because they represented the will of voters. She was shoved and briefly fell to the floor during the fracas.

Saturday's events came during the latest round of raids by Attorney General Conshelo Porras and prosecutor Rafael Curuchiche, efforts that international groups have said are aimed at overturning or tarnishing the electoral results.

Porras took over as attorney general in 2018 and in 2021 was sanctioned by the U.S. government for being an undemocratic actor and undermining investigations into corruption. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Porras' office has ongoing investigations into the way Arévalo's Seed Movement gathered the necessary signatures for its registration years earlier, as well as into allegations of fraud in the election that independent observers have said are unsubstantiated. (AP)

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**'31 transits per day':** The Panama Canal announced Saturday it will reduce the maximum number of ships travelling the waterway to 31 per day, from 32 in August, due to a drought that has reduced the supply of fresh water needed to operate the locks.

That compares to daily averages of 36 to 38 ships per day under normal operation.

Nine ships per day will be allowed to use the new, bigger NeoPanamax locks and 22 per day will be handled through the older Panamax locks.

The Canal Authority guaranteed a draft of 44 feet for ships, in part because 70% of ships using the waterway need at least that depth.

In August, the canal implemented a measure capping the number of ships passing through its locks daily to a maximum of 32.

Not enough rain has fallen to feed the watershed system of rivers and brooks that fill lakes, whose waters in turn fill the locks.

The watershed also supplies freshwater to Panama City, home to about half the country's 4 million people. (AP)



Rescue workers search for survivors amid debris after the roof of a church collapsed during a Sunday Mass in Ciudad Madero, Mexico on Oct 1. The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tampico said the roof caved in while parishioners were receiving communion. (AP)

## Asia

## 'Army will stop flying European-designed Taipan copters'

## Early voting begins in NZ's general poll

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Oct 2 (AP) - Early voting began on Monday in New Zealand for the nation's Oct 14 general election, with conservative contender Christopher Luxon casting his ballot.

Early voting also began in some parts of Australia in a referendum that would enshrine in Australia's constitution a mechanism for Indigenous people to advise Parliament on policies that affect their lives.

In New Zealand, the campaign of Prime Minister Chris Hipkins faced a setback on Sunday when he tested positive for COVID-19. He said he would isolate for five days or until he returned a negative test, but planned to continue with some engagements over Zoom.

Hipkins and his liberal Labour Party have been lagging behind the opposition National Party, led by Christopher Luxon, in opinion polls. "After a rough night I woke up this morning feeling pretty unwell and just got this test result," Hipkins wrote on Instagram, and said he'd work twice as hard when he got back out on the campaign trail.

## Rebuild

Luxon on Sunday released a 100-day action plan he said would deliver tax relief, rebuild the economy and restore law and order. "New Zealanders have waited six long years for a government that focuses on what matters to them, and gets things done," Luxon said.

In Australia, where voting is compulsory, some 98% of eligible Australians have signed up to vote in the referendum on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Early voting began in four states or territories Monday, and the remaining four will vote on Tuesday after observing a public holiday Monday.

The "Yes" campaign is lagging behind in opinion polls but Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who supports the potential change, said he remains hopeful.

"I know a lot of people have not made up their mind, and what I know is that the feedback, when people talk through these issues, they arrive at a 'Yes' vote pretty comfortably," Albanese told reporters in Melbourne. "I sincerely think the key to the next

fortnight is those one-on-one conversations with people to accept this request of the overwhelming majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Political opponents say the referendum effort should have been bipartisan and that many unanswered questions remain on the details of how the Voice would work in practice.

It's a coincidence the elections are taking place on the same day.

## Also:

**CANBERRA, Australia:** The Australian army will never again fly its fleet of MRH-90 Taipan helicopters following a crash in July that killed four soldiers, the defense minister said Friday.

Australia's fleet of more than 40 European-designed Taipans has been grounded since July 28 when one crashed into the Pacific Ocean during a nighttime training operation in the Whitsunday Islands off the northeast Australian coast.

Defense Minister Richard Marles told Nine Network television that permanently ending Taipan flying operations was the "only decision that makes sense."

"We're making this decision today. In many ways it was inevitable, but it's an important step to take so that we can get our Black Hawks in the air as quickly as possible," Marles said, referring to the U.S.-built helicopters that will replace Australia's Airbus-manufactured fleet.

The government announced plans in January to replace the Taipans with 40 UH-60M Black Hawks. The Taipans' retirement date of December 2024 would have been 13 years earlier than Australia had initially planned.

The government made the decision now to stop flying the Taipans because one of the four investigations into the crash will take another 12 months, Marles said. After the cause of the crash is explained and any faults in the Taipan fleet are rectified, that would have left only a few weeks for them to fly before they were retired, he said.

Since the January announcement, the Taipan fleet was grounded in March after a helicopter ditched off the southeast Australian coast during

a nighttime counterterrorism training exercise.

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**JAYAPURA, Indonesia:** Five Papuan independence fighters were killed in a clash between security forces and a rebel group in Indonesia's restive Papua region, police and rebels said Monday.

A joint military and police force killed the five fighters from the West Papua Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Free Papua Movement, in a battle on Saturday with dozens of rebels armed with military-grade weapons and arrows in the hilly Serambakon village in Papua Highland province, said Faizal Ramadhani, a national police member who heads the joint security force.

Security forces seized two assault rifles, a pistol, several arrows, two mobile phones, cash, more than 300 rounds of ammunition and a "morning star" flag - a separatist symbol - after the clash, Ramadhani said.

Clashes between the two sides began in mid-April when attackers from the liberation army ambushed dozens of government soldiers in Nduga district and killed at least six Indonesian troops who were searching for Phillip Mark Mehrtens, a New Zealand pilot who was abducted by the rebels in February.

Rebels in Papua have been fighting a low-level insurgency since the early 1960s, when Indonesia annexed the region, a former Dutch colony.

Papua was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a UN-sponsored ballot that was widely seen as a sham. Since then, the insurgency has simmered in the region, which was divided into five provinces last year to boost development in Indonesia's poorest region.

Sebby Sambom, a spokesman for the liberation army, confirmed the police claim but said that losing five fighters "would not make us surrender."

"They were the national heroes of the Papuan people," Sambom said in a statement provided to The Associated Press on Monday. "They died in defending the Papuan people from extinction due to the crimes of the Indonesian military and police who are acting as terrorists."



New Zealand National Party leader Christopher Luxon (right), casts his ballot at the Eastview Baptist Church in Auckland on Oct 2 as early voting began for the nation's Oct 14 general election. (AP)



Tinubu



Chiwenga

## Africa

**Nigeria leader ups wages:** Nigeria's leader increased the wages of some government workers in last-minute efforts to appease labor unions whose planned strike this week could shut down government offices in all sectors of Africa's largest economy.

Low-grade workers will in the next six months be paid an additional 25,000 naira (\$32) a month, President Bola Tinubu said Sunday in a nationwide broadcast to mark Nigeria's 63rd independence anniversary.

The increase expected to take effect this month takes the minimum wage to 55,000 naira (\$71), still far below the 200,000 naira (\$258) the unions had requested. The labor unions did not immediately comment on Tinubu's announcement.

The unions representing Nigeria's government workers announced they will go on an indefinite strike starting Tuesday to protest the government's austerity measures.

In office since May 29, Tinubu's policies aimed at fixing Nigeria's ailing economy have more than doubled the cost of living for more than 210 million people who already were grappling with a surging inflation. It hit an 18-year high of 25.8% in August.

After he ended the yearslong expensive subsidies for gas on his first day in office, the price of petrol more than doubled, resulting in a similar hike in the price of other commodities. (AP)

□ □ □

**Algeria expands English classes:** More than a year after Algeria launched a pilot program to teach English in elementary schools, the country is hailing it as a success and expanding it in a move that reflects a widening linguistic shift underway in former French colonies throughout Africa.

Students returning to third and fourth grade classrooms this fall will participate in two 45-minute English classes each week as the country creates new teacher training programs at universities and eyes more transformational changes in the years ahead. Additionally, the country is strengthening enforcement of a preexisting law against private schools who operate primarily in French.

"Teaching English is a strategic choice in the country's new education policy," Education Minister Abdelkrim Belabed said last week, lauding the move as an immense success.

English is the world's most widely spoken language, accounts for the majority of content on the internet and remains a lingua franca in business and science. And as France's economic and political influence wanes throughout Africa, Algeria is among a longer list of countries gradually

transitioning toward English as their main foreign language. (AP)

□ □ □

**Mine collapse death toll 13:** The death toll from a shaft collapse at a dis-

used gold mine in Zimbabwe was expected to rise to 13, the vice president said, according to state media.

State-run newspaper The Sunday Mail quoted Vice President Constantino Chiwenga as saying "we believe we have lost

about 13" in the mine disaster, which happened on Friday in the gold-rich town of Chegutu, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of the capital, Harare.

He said 21 out of 34 miners believed to be underground at the time of the collapse had been rescued. Eight have been confirmed dead, with three bodies removed from the mine and five located but not yet removed, Chiwenga said.

The remaining five people were presumed dead.

Chiwenga was speaking Saturday at a meeting of the ruling ZANU-PF party, The Sunday Mail reported. Chiwenga said the collapse happened at a disused German-owned mine that had not been properly sealed off, allowing unofficial artisanal miners to find their way in to search for any deposits left over.

Incidents of mine collapses, often involving artisanal miners, are common in the southern African country that is rich in gold, coal and diamonds. Zimbabwe also has Africa's largest reserves of lithium, a mineral in global demand due to its use in electric car batteries.

Zimbabwe's mineral-rich national parks, abandoned mines, rivers and even towns are often swarmed with people, including young children, seeking to find valuable deposits.

It is one of the few economic activities still going on in a country that has suffered industry closures, a currency crisis and high unemployment over the past two decades. (AP)



Schoolchildren attend a class in the Ben Omar district of Algiers, Algeria, on Sept 19. More than a year after Algeria launched a pilot program to teach English in elementary schools, the country is hailing it as a success and expanding it in a move that reflects a widening linguistic shift underway in former French colonies throughout Africa. (AP)

Twitter, now X. Corp, and Tesla CEO Elon Musk poses before his talks with French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday, May 15, 2023, at the Elysee Palace in Paris. (AP)



## Tesla Q3 sales rise 27% but fall short of expectations

Tesla's summertime deliveries of electric vehicles surged 27% from last year but still fell below analyst projections as Elon Musk's car company navigated through softening customer demand as well as factory upgrades.

The Austin, Texas, automaker sold 435,059 vehicles during the July-to-September period, up from 343,830 at the same time last year. Analysts had predicted Tesla would sell about 461,000 vehicles during the latest quarter, according to FactSet Research.

As usual, Tesla's sales consisted primarily of its Model 3 and Model Y vehicles, which have been made even more attractive by rounds of price cut-

ting that have eaten into the company's profit margins. The third-quarter sales also marked a step back from Tesla's 466,140 vehicle deliveries during the April-to-June period.

The company blamed the sequential sales decline on planned downtime to upgrade its factories. Tesla said it made 430,488 vehicles in the latest quarter, slightly below the number it delivered.

The company will need a big finish to 2023 to realize CEO Musk's stated goal of increasing its sales by 50% annually. To hit that target, Tesla will have to sell 1.97 million vehicles this year. Through the first nine months of the year, Tesla has delivered just over 1.3

million vehicles. Analysts are anticipating Tesla will sell 1.84 million vehicles for the full year.

Tesla has been slashing prices most of this year to keep attracting buyers who now have a wider selection of electric vehicles as more automakers shift away from gasoline-powered cars and trucks. The discounts range from \$4,400 on Tesla's top-selling vehicles to as much as \$20,000 on its most expensive models.

Just how much the latest round of cost cutting has trimmed Tesla's profit margins will be detailed Oct. 18 when it plans to release its third-quarter earnings. (AP)

## Market Movements

02-10-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+19.56	4,183.14	SAUDI - Tadawul	-34.23	11,005.94
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+411.56	46,663.58	JAPAN - Nikkei	-97.74	31,759.88
			PHILIPPINES - PSEi	-16.71	6,304.53
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-153.48	19,901.24

# Business

## SFD explores cooperation with San Marino on World Tourism Day 2023

# Saudi Fund for Development signs key agreements with Bahamas, Mauritius

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 2, (Business Wire): In the presence of the Saudi Fund for Development Board of Directors Chairman, H.E. Ahmed Al-Khateeb, the SFD Chief Executive Officer, signed today in Riyadh, two development loan agreements worth a total of \$140 million USD to support infrastructure development with the governments of The Bahamas and the Republic of Mauritius. The CEO also signed a letter of intent with the Republic of San Marino to explore potential cooperation in the economic, cultural, and transportation sectors. The agreements and letter of intent signed at World Tourism Day 2023, hosted in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The first development loan agreement, worth \$70 million USD, was signed with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Investments & Aviation of The Bahamas, Hon. Isaac Chester, to fund the Family Islands Airports Renaissance Project, which aims to develop and raise the capabilities of airports in the Exuma Islands and increase the number of visitors to the airports from 237,000 to 285,000 visitors annually.

The second development loan agreement, worth \$70 million USD, was signed with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Mauritius, Hon.

Louis Steven Obegadoo, to fund the "Construction of Riviere des Anguilles Dam Project". This project will protect the natural environment from floodings, and provide a reliable source of water for drinking, irrigation, and industrial use.

The letter of intent was signed with the Minister of Tourism of the Republic of San Marino, Hon. Federico Pedini Amati will enable the government and SFD to explore potential infrastructure development cooperation in the economic, cultural and transportation sectors. This signifies the beginning of a new development relationship between SFD and San Marino.

These latest development agreements were signed as part of the SFD's commitment to support sustainable development in developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) around the world. They will also contribute towards the realization of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 6, Clean water and sanitation, SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

In line with its mission to promote global sustainable development, SFD has funded more than 700 development projects worth US\$18.7 billion in over 90 countries around world.



In the presence of the SFD Board of Directors Chairman, H.E. Ahmed Al-Khateeb, the SFD CEO, H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad signing a letter of intent agreement, with the Republic of San Marino. (Photo: AETOS Wire)

# Kuwait plans to spend \$22.4 bn on oil and gas projects, ranks 5th among GCC states

Kuwait's share about 7%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The "Oil and Gas Report in the Middle East and North Africa - MENA 2023-2024" revealed that the planned spending in the Gulf countries on oil, gas and petrochemical projects is about \$325 billion, while Kuwait's share is about 7% of the total spending, at 22.4 billion dollars, reports Al-Anba daily.

The UAE topped the volume of future spending on oil and gas in the Gulf, accounting for about 29% of spending, amounting to \$93.9 billion, and Saudi Arabia came in second place, accounting for about 26% of

spending, amounting to \$84.4 billion.

Oman ranked third with a volume of planned spending on oil and gas projects amounting to about \$79 billion, representing 24.3% of the total future spending on projects in the region, while Qatar ranked fourth with about \$40.1 billion, representing 12.34% of the total spending. Bahrain ranked sixth with \$5.1 billion.

The report pointed out that the oil, gas and petrochemical sectors combined constitute the second largest sectors historically in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, as contracts worth more than \$280 billion were awarded during the past decade, while reviewing the size of active oil, gas and petrochemical projects in the region, specifically 14 countries, which reached a size of its projects amount to \$68.7 billion dollars, with the six Gulf states alone receiving about half the value

of those projects, amounting to 415.5 billion dollars.

Saudi Arabia topped the volume of active projects in the Gulf region with about \$176 billion, constituting in total more than 42% of the projects in the Gulf. The UAE came in second place with about \$82.9 billion in the volume of active projects, and Qatar came in third place in the Gulf with about \$79.6 billion. Oman ranked fourth with \$38.4 billion, Kuwait ranked fifth with \$22.3 billion, and Bahrain came in sixth place with \$16.3 billion.

At the regional level, Iran ranked second after Saudi Arabia with a project volume of \$141.9 billion, followed by Iraq with \$137.9 billion, and Egypt fourth with \$87.6 billion.

MEED stated that in light of the world abandoning its centuries-old dependence on fossil fuels, and since oil producers in the region are concerned with this matter as a result of the importance that hydrocarbon revenues pose to their economies, the global shift towards clean energy represents a fundamental change in their business model. Therefore, as their customers' tendencies change, they must also change.

In response to these developments, the leading national oil companies in the region are taking the initiative to implement new policies and investments that enable them to maintain their position at the forefront of the global energy sector. The policy focuses on diversifying investments in new technologies and types of fuel, on preserving hydrocarbon reserves, and on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through clean technology and reduced consumption.

At the same time, oil companies in the region are turning away from their traditional customers in the West towards new markets in China, India and Southeast Asia, which will bring new customers, suppliers and financiers to the region's oil and gas sector.

But even as such deep-rooted changes occur, the region's oil and gas producers know that hydrocarbons will remain the world's largest energy source for decades to come, even after oil demand growth begins to slow, and they know that low production costs give them a significant advantage. As a result, they are investing heavily to expand their production capacity, whether in the exploration and production sector or refining, distribution, storage and transportation.

## Announcement

### CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds and related Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (240) millions for (6) months with Rate of Return (4.500%).

## Ex-crypto king to face former lieutenants

# Bankman-Fried must now prove to a jury that he was not a crook

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): For a while, Sam Bankman-Fried tried to convince politicians and the public that he was the next J.P. Morgan. Now, he has to convince a jury that he wasn't, in reality, the next Bernie Madoff.

The trial of Bankman-Fried, the founder of the failed cryptocurrency brokerage FTX, will begin Tuesday with jury selection. Prosecutors from the Southern District of New York are expected to lay out a case against Bankman-Fried that shows he stole billions of dollars in FTX customer deposits and used the money to fund his hedge fund, buy real estate, and make millions of dollars of illegal campaign donations to Democrats and Republicans in an attempt to buy influence over cryptocurrency regulation in Washington.

While the case will involve the complicated world of cryptocurrencies, prosecutors are expected to try to boil it down to the simplest of terms for jurors: Bankman-Fried took money from customers and used it in ways he wasn't supposed to.

"Prosecutors are going to say, 'look at where the money went and how it was spent,'" said Michael Zweiback, co-founder of the law firm Zweiback, Fiset, & Zalduendo LLP, and a former federal prosecutor. "This case is less about the complicated investments and all about garden-variety fraud."

Before FTX collapsed and filed for bankruptcy last November, Bankman-Fried was one of the most powerful people in the cryptocurrency industry. "SBF" had an estimated net worth of \$32 billion last year, at least on paper. He interacted with former presidents, politicians on both sides of the aisle, celebrities, and CEOs. When smaller crypto firms started imploding in early 2022, Bankman-Fried told the public he would help prop up the market, prompting the comparisons with J.P. Morgan.

The 31-year-old Bankman-Fried founded FTX in 2019, and it grew rapidly. The son of Stanford University professors, who was known to play

the video game "League of Legends" during meetings, Bankman-Fried attracted investments from the highest echelons of Silicon Valley. FTX quickly became the second-largest crypto brokerage behind Binance.

Bankman-Fried and his inner circle of executives ran their then-growing crypto empire from The Bahamas, out of the luxury apartment complex Albany, where celebrities like Tiger Woods and Justin Timberlake have vacation homes.

FTX had effectively two lines of business: a brokerage where customers could deposit, buy, and sell cryptocurrency assets on the FTX platform, and an affiliated hedge fund known as Alameda Research, which took highly speculative positions in various cryptocurrency investments. As Alameda started to pile up losses during last year's cryptocurrency market declines, prosecutors allege Bankman-Fried directed funds to be moved from FTX's customer accounts to Alameda to plug holes in the hedge fund's balance sheet.

The house of cards that Bankman and his lieutenants built came crashing down in early November, when reports surfaced about the condition of Alameda's balance sheet. Spooked investors, who had already seen several crypto firms collapse during the year, quickly pulled their money out of FTX and within days the firm was bankrupt.

John Ray III, the restructuring expert who was tasked with cleaning up FTX in bankruptcy, described the conditions inside of FTX as worse than Enron, long considered the benchmark for corporate malfeasance in popular culture.

Bankman-Fried is expected come face-to-face with his former lieutenants at FTX for the first time since its collapse. Several of them have agreed to plead guilty to lesser crimes in exchange for testifying against him. This includes Caroline Ellison, who was the CEO of Alameda and Bankman-Fried's off-and-on girlfriend, as well as FTX co-founder Gary Wang. Ryan Salame, another top executive at FTX, pleaded guilty on Sept. 7 to making illegal campaign contributions to Republicans on behalf of Bankman-Fried, who was publicly making contributions to Democrats. It is not known whether Salame will testify against Bankman-Fried.

## World shares mostly lower

# Most of Wall St slips as bond market 'cranks up' pressure

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): Most U.S. stocks are drifting lower Monday as the constrictor of higher interest rates tightens its coils around Wall Street.

The S&P 500 was 0.4% lower in midday trading, coming off its worst month of the year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 193 points, or 0.6%, as of noon Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.3% higher.

Slumps for oil-and-gas stocks weighed on the market after crude prices gave back some of their sharp gains since the summer. The majority of stocks fell alongside them, with 80% of S&P 500 stocks dropping, but gains for Apple and some other influential Big Tech stocks helped limit the market's losses.

Stocks have broadly given back about 40% of their strong gains for the year since the end of July. The main reason is Wall Street's growing acceptance that high interest rates are here to stay as the Federal Reserve tries to knock high inflation lower. That in turn has pushed Treasury yields to their highest levels in more than a decade, which makes investors less willing to pay high prices for stocks and other investments.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed again Monday, up to 4.69% from 4.58% late Friday, and is near its highest level since 2007. High yields send investors toward bonds that are paying much more than in the past, which pulls dollars away from stocks and undercuts their prices.

Stocks that pay high dividends with relatively steady businesses see particular pain because their investors are more likely to switch between stocks and bonds. That puts a harsh spotlight on utility companies. PG&E dropped 5.7%, and Dominion Energy sank 5.3% for some of the sharpest losses in the S&P 500.

High interest rates also make bor-



The American flag is shown at the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 in New York. Stocks shifted between gains and losses on Wall Street Wednesday, keeping the market on track for its fourth monthly loss this year. (AP)

rowing more expensive for all kinds of companies, which can pressure their profits. Since the Federal Reserve indicated last month it likely won't raise rates as much in 2024 as earlier expected, the value of the U.S. dollar has also climbed against other currencies. That can mean a painful hit for S&P 500 companies, which get a big chunk of their revenue from abroad.

More encouraging for Wall Street was that the report also indicated prices were easing in September. That could mean less pressure on inflation, which has been feeling heat recently from fast-rising oil prices.

Crude oil prices pulled back on Monday after charging mostly higher from \$70 during the summer. A barrel of U.S. crude fell 1.5% to \$89.44. Brent crude, the international standard, sank 1.2% to \$91.12.

The drop for oil dragged stocks lower across the energy sector. Exxon Mobil fell 2.1%, and Chevron lost 1.8%.

SmileDirectClub plunged 62% to 16 cents after the company that helps people straighten their teeth filed for Chap-

ter 11 bankruptcy protection. On the winning side of Wall Street, Discover Financial Services jumped 5.7% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500. The company gave details about a consent order it received from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp, requiring Discover Bank to improve its consumer compliance management system. Analysts pointed to how Discover did not receive a fine, which could be seen as a positive for the stock.

Congress over the weekend avoided a shutdown of the federal government, which threatened to hurt the economy and disrupt the publication of economic data Wall Street finds crucial. But Capitol Hill only temporarily delayed the threat, promising another shutdown. Plus, traders are well aware the stock market has held up rather well through past shutdowns.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were lower across much of Europe.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 slipped 0.3% despite a survey from the central bank showing business confidence is on the rise.



## BUSINESS

## 'Warba' presents the first interactive system for Fatwas

Warba Bank announced the launch of the first interactive system for Fatwas that makes it easier for users to access the Sharia ruling on products and rulings related to financial transactions and the Bank's activities and services in an innovative, easy and convenient way.

The Executive Manager- Sharia Department at Warba Bank, Dr. Essa Al-Qassar, explained that the Fatwas Book has been converted from a printed copy to an interactive version that facilitates access to information and copy it from its reference in the Fatwas Book, adding that the system provides a virtual copy of the book of fatwas. Users can search the fatwa can by writing any word contained in the

fatwa, the title, the question, or the answer, while documenting the content with a record number.

Al-Qassar stated that the user can access it through the Warba Bank application, and it is not necessary to be a Warba Bank client, explaining that once you open the application and enter the services page, the "Sharia Fatwas" icon will appear and it contains many of the following services:

- Access the final version in PDF format
- The fatwas are arranged in sections to facilitate browsing and viewing
- Search for a fatwa in any section of the book
- The fatwa can be copied and shared by clicking the share button

Al-Qassar pointed out that the introduction of the system comes out of the legal responsibility to transmit Fatwas and jurisprudential references upon which the bank relies in offering its products and services to the Bank's customers and to increase the legal culture in Islamic financial transactions.

Al-Qassar stated that the Sharia sector in Islamic banks, with all its specializations, is no longer just a tool for monitoring the institution's work; Rather, it has become a major contributor to all the products and services it provides, and all the activities it undertakes, and continuous work to develop them in accordance with the provisions of Sharia.



Essa Al-Qassar

# UK's Treasury chief raises the minimum wage

## Hunt angers some colleagues by ruling out tax cuts

**MANCHESTER, England, Oct 2, (AP): Britain's Treasury chief announced a hike in the national minimum wage on Monday, as the governing Conservative Party tries to persuade voters it is on the side of those who are struggling financially.**

But Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt ruled out tax cuts, saying they would fuel inflation.

"I do want us to have lower taxes," Hunt told Sky News before his speech. But he said "it's very difficult to see" it happening this year.

That message was not what many Conservatives at the party's annual conference wanted to hear. Hundreds of them packed a room to applaud as former Prime Minister Liz Truss - whose seven weeks in office last year plunged Britain's economy into crisis - demanded Hunt slash taxes in his fall budget next month.

Hunt told conference delegates that the hourly rate for workers 23 or older will rise in April from 10.42 pounds (\$12.70) to at least 11 pounds (\$13.40). The exact amount will be set after a recommendation by the Low Pay Commission, an advisory body. Hunt said that will mean a raise for more than 2 million workers.

Hunt also pledged to freeze civil service recruitment to cut costs and toughen the rules on social benefits in an attempt to stem the flow of working-age people out of the workforce, a trend that has accelerated since the coronavirus pandemic.

"It isn't fair that someone who refuses to look seriously for a job gets the same as someone trying their best," he said, in remarks that drew concern from anti-poverty groups.

The party is trying to sprinkle voter-pleasing measures such as the pay increase at the conference, which may be the last before a national election due in 2024. But the government's spending power is constricted by the U.K.'s sluggish economy and stubbornly high inflation that hit double digits last year and now stands just below 7%.

The result was a grab-bag of generally inexpensive policy announcements: a ban on children using cell phones in school, a curb on local authorities slapping "excessive fines on motorists," a push for "smarter regulation." site

### Opponents

Opponents see a government that has run out of big ideas and a party heading for defeat. The right-of-center Tories, in power since 2010, are lagging far behind the center-left opposition Labour Party in opinion polls. Voters are weary after years of political turmoil over the U.K.'s exit from the European Union, the coronavirus pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who took office just under a year ago, is facing grumbling - and even open rebellion - from some Conservative members and lawmakers.

Sunak steadied the economy after his predecessor Truss crashed the pound and trashed Britain's reputation for fiscal prudence with her tax-slashing economic plans. She left office after just 49 days.

Many Conservatives doubt whether Sunak - the party's fifth leader since 2016 - can restore its popularity to the level that saw the party win an 80-seat majority in the 650-seat House of Commons in 2019. The prime minister then, Boris Johnson, resigned in mid-2022 amid scandals over his ethics and judgment.

In recent weeks, Sunak has sought to take the initiative with a clutch of measures depicted as easing the economic burden on taxpayers. He has delayed a ban on selling new gas and diesel cars and watered down other green measures that he said imposed "unacceptable costs" on ordinary people. Critics say the measures will have little impact on people's pocket-books and will make it harder for Britain to reach its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 in order to limit climate change.

Hundreds of party lawmakers, activists and officials attending the four-day conference in Manchester, northwest England, are being wooed by rivals to Sunak, positioning themselves for a party leadership contest that could follow election defeat.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman and Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch are both addressing meetings and receptions as they vie for the support of the party's populist right wing, which wants tough curbs on irregular migration and a war on liberal social values derided as "woke." Foreign Secretary James Cleverly is popular with more centrist Conservatives.

Even Truss, who resigned in disgrace less than 12 months ago, is on hand to offer her opinion, keep her name in the headlines and make life difficult for her successor.

At a packed meeting attended by several high-profile lawmakers on the party's right wing, Truss, called for everyone to "unleash their inner Conservative" and back a platform of lower taxes, less environmental regulation - including removing a ban on fracking - and a smaller state.

Truss, whose plan for billions in unfunded tax cuts spooked the financial markets last year, got loud applause for her mantra that "government is too big, that taxes are too high and that we are spending too much."

"Let's stop taxing and banning things," she said.

## Nation's biggest visual performance

# Zain main partner of 'A Night with Miami' musical spectacle



Zain Miami Concerts 2023

Tourism arrivals nearing pre-pandemic levels

## Manufacturers upbeat about economy, BoJ survey shows

**TOKYO, Oct 2, (AP):** Business sentiment among big Japanese manufacturers improved in July-September for the second straight quarter, according to a central bank survey released Monday.

The Bank of Japan's "tankan" quarterly survey measured business sentiment among major manufacturers at plus 9, up from plus 5 in June.

Sentiment among major non-manufacturers rose four points to plus 27, in the sixth consecutive quarter of improvement and the most positive result in about three decades.

The tankan survey, conducted every three months, measures corporate sentiment by subtracting the number of companies saying business conditions are negative from those replying they are positive.

Tourism, which has lifted the world's third largest economy in recent years, was hit by the pandemic. But incoming travelers have gradually returned to near pre-pandemic levels.

The negative effects of COVID-19 on supplies of computer chips and other key parts for manufacturers have also gradually eased, with production recovering, according to analysts.

"The recent cheap yen that came on top of the gradually improving supply chain is believed to have worked as a fac-

tor to brighten sentiments among big manufacturers," said Toshihiro Nagahama, chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Group.

For non-manufacturers, the return of foreign tourists and healthy domestic tourism during the summer holidays likely boosted sentiments, he said.

For the past decade, the Japanese economy has stagnated overall, with slow wage increases. Another negative has been soaring energy prices due to Russia's war in Ukraine. That's tough for Japan, which imports almost all its oil, at a time when the Japanese yen is weakening.

But the weak yen has worked as a positive, too, boosting the value of overseas earnings by exporters like Toyota and Nintendo. The dollar has been trading recently at about 149 yen, up from below 130 yen in January.

For the tankan's projection of business sentiment three months from now, large manufacturers are expecting an improvement of 1 point at plus 10.

What the Bank of Japan will do to interest rates in coming months is being closely watched. The central bank has kept interest rates at zero or in minus territory for years to wrest Japan out of its economic doldrums. The BOJ is targeting stable price rises of 2%.

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2:** Zain announces that it sponsored the recently concluded spectacle, A Night with Miami, as a Main Partner. The nation's biggest musical and visual performance of its kind, held at the Arena Kuwait, was produced by Free Jabriya and innovated by a group of national talents and global entertainment industry experts. For five consecutive nights, the popular Kuwaiti band Miami entertained thousands of fans in a one-of-a-kind experience.

During the first night of the performance, Zain Kuwait's Corporate Relations Department Manager Hamad Al Musaiibeh presented an appreciation trophy to Miami stars Khalid Al Randi and Meshal Laili in recognition of their amazing talents and efforts to make this spectacle a success. The grand event attracted thousands of Kuwaiti fans from all age groups, including the 90s generations that grew up listening to Miami songs, to new generations that are experiencing the band's enduring tracks for the first time.

Zain sponsored this event as part of its strong belief in the private sector's key role in supporting the local entertainment industry by being a part of outstanding performances that bring Kuwait's most prolific artists to the biggest stages. By supporting such projects, the company contributes to boosting domestic tourism and unveiling the creativity of local talents who work hard to bring world-class shows to fans.

Zain had a special presence at the event through its dedicated booth, where it welcomed guests before the show and during intermission. The booth was designed with a special nostalgic touch to evoke memories of old cassette tapes and reflected the concert's vibe in its colors and lighting, giving fans a wonderful opportunity to take pictures and make memories.

'A Night with Miami' featured magical performances of the band's most popular songs, combining performing arts, interactive lighting, striking digital visuals, interior design, fashion, and other factors that all synced in harmony to bring about a truly spectacular show. Not only that, but the concerts also told the band's origin story, giving the show a special nostalgic vibe.

Zain is always keen on supporting programs that add to the local art scene, and the company will spare no efforts to shoulder any project with a creative vision that serves the community and contributes to the local entertainment industry.

## TDCX grows in Europe with two new clients

**SINGAPORE, Oct 2, (Business Wire):** TDCX, (NYSE: TDCX), an award-winning digital customer experience (CX) solutions provider for technology and blue-chip companies, has continued its growth trajectory with the addition of two new clients in Europe. Ms. Sophie Chelmick, Executive Vice President, EMEA, TDCX (Photo: Business Wire)

The new clients are both from the healthcare technology (healthtech) sector, a vertical that TDCX is making inroads into. For one client, TDCX will be providing customer support to individuals with specific medical needs and for the other, helping medical practitioners understand how to use sophisticated medical devices. TDCX will also be supporting both clients in customer feedback management, process improvement, and training and development.


TDCX's ability to break into new verticals such as health-

tech stems from its specialization in managing complex customer interactions, ability to deliver CX outcomes through its high-performing talent and agility in meeting client requirements. In just 12 weeks, TDCX will put together a team of skilled multilingual CX professionals and train them to serve customers across four European countries, namely the United Kingdom, France, Norway and Denmark.


Mr. Laurent Junique, Founder and CEO of TDCX said, "Europe is a strategically important market for us. It not only has the right conditions for an outsourcing location but also several tailwinds. This includes the growth in sectors such as healthtech, gaming and e-commerce and a desire among companies to focus on their core business for greater efficiency."

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## BUSINESS

## Malaysians urged not to panic-buy local rice

Malaysia's government on Monday reassured the country there is sufficient rice in the market and urged people not to hoard locally produced rice after recent panic-buying led to empty shelves in supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Mohamad Sabu said the government will increase distribution to rural areas to address a supply issue sparked by a hike in the price of imported rice. Malaysia and many countries are grappling with rising rice prices and low supplies after India's

curb on rice sales cut global supplies by a fifth.

Mohamad said Malaysia's locally produced rice is capped at 2.60 ringgit (\$0.55) per kilogram (2.2 pounds), the cheapest in the region. So when sole importer Padiberas Nasional Berhad raised the price of imported white rice by 36% on Sept. 1, it prompted many Malaysians to switch from imported rice to cheaper local rice.

He said the higher price of imported rice cannot be helped after after 19 countries,

including India, restricted rice exports to cater for domestic needs. Malaysia imports about a third of its rice supply.

"Actually, we don't have a shortage of rice in the country. It's just that the price of imported rice has risen sharply. ... Many people have shifted to buying cheaper local rice," he said, adding that the government is taking steps to address this issue.

"I want to remind the people again to keep calm and just buy what you need. Don't panic-buy."

Mohamad said the government will increase distribution of local rice to rural areas. He said the government will also subsidize the price of imported rice to two poorer states on Borneo island to ensure adequate supply. From Tuesday, he said, authorities will step up surveillance of rice wholesalers and shops to ensure there is no hoarding of local rice.

He said samples will also be taken to ensure that sellers are not repackaging local rice as imported rice or mixing the grains for higher profits, warning that

stern action will be taken against anyone found to be doing so.

Mohamad's press conference was held ahead of this week's meeting of Southeast Asian agriculture and forestry ministers that begins Wednesday. He said the rice crisis and food security will be discussed at their meeting. The minister of the 10-member bloc, known as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, will also meet their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea. (AP)



Cutting the ribbon to declare the hypermarket opened.

## LuLu opens 15th Hypermarket in Kuwait

Lulu Group opened latest Hypermarket at Hawally in the State of Kuwait. The store which is also 15th in the country was officially inaugurated by Dr. Ali Merdhi Ayyash Alenezi, in the presence of Yusuff Ali MA Chairman of Lulu Group, Mariam Ismayil Jumaah Al Ansari and other officials.

Ambassadors, Diplomates, Government Officials and other Dignitaries from various countries including Kuwait, UAE, India, Spain, South Africa, Vietnam, Kenya, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Malawi, Yemen & Tanzania at-

tended the grand inauguration ceremony.

The sprawling 83,000 square feet store is located in Hawally, a major commercial hub offers grocery, non-food, H&B, fresh food (chilled and dairy, frozen, fruits and vegetables, meat, and fish), in-house kitchen and delicatessen services.

Furthermore, a wide range of household items, home furnishings, toys, luggage, party seasonal items, mobiles & accessories, IT and accesso-



Guests being shown some of the items on display in the hypermarket.

# KFH sees steady growth in the use of 'digital services'

Services offered through KFHonline on mobile and website

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) makes great strides in its digital transformation strategy, with customers executing millions of digital banking transactions through KFHonline on mobile and website.**

The steady growth in the volume of customer use of digital banking services confirms KFH's leadership in providing innovative digital financial solutions that enhance the customer banking experience and give it a competitive advantage.

KFH's digitalization efforts have encompassed electronic payment services, online account opening and card issuance with distinguished privileges. KFH has also improved its hardware performance to include novel features such as instant card printing, selling, and buying gold in addition to the many branchless banking transactions. KFH's efforts signify its goal to meet customers' aspirations, enhance their banking experience and service quality, rationalize operational costs and increase financial inclusiveness. This is achieved by expanding access to bank accounts and benefiting from technology to offer customers a wide range of services they can enjoy anywhere and anytime. These efforts have also led to the advancement of benefits offered to customers with greater impact on their businesses, affirming KFH's digital excellence at the banking level with high global and competitive standards. Customers can access KFH's digital banking services through many alternative channels, such as KFHGo smart branches, KFHonline (mobile application and website), self-service devices (XTMs) and social media channels.

## KFH Go Branches

KFH Go branches contribute to meeting the growing needs of customers and keeping pace with the latest modern technologies at the highest quality standards, which confirms the bank's leadership in digital transformation and adopting innovation in introducing digital banking and financial solutions.

KFH continues to enhance the role and services of KFH Go smart branches as one of the most important means of providing technical services for customers, as well as representing a qualitative advance in the concept of the branch in its traditional form.

KFH has 10 KFH Go smart branches distributed as follows: KFH Auto-Shuwaikh showroom, the Avenues, Abdullah Al-Salem, Jabriya, AlSalam, Ishbiliya, Kuwait Airport, Abu Fatira, Mangaf and Sabah Al-Ahmad." KFH seeks to increase the number of these smart branches to meet the needs of customers in most areas of Kuwait due to their continuous success of KFH's services. KFH continues its efforts to enhance service delivery channels, whether through KFHGo, KFHonline, social media channels, robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and many other alternative channels.

KFH Go smart branches allow



KFHGo



Inauguration of the 35th branch of Lulu exchange in Hawally.

## 35th customer engagement center opened Hawally

# LuLu Exchange expands presence in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: LuLu Exchange Kuwait – one of the nation's most trusted names in cross-border payments and foreign currency exchange, today opened its 35th customer engagement center in the commercial region of Hawally.**

The opening marks the 302nd Global Customer Engagement Center under LuLu Financial Holdings and is aligned with the company's expansion strategy for Kuwait, as the country navigates an era of growth and progress toward achieving financial inclusion.

The engagement center was inaugurated by HE Dr. Matar Hamed Hlais

customers to benefit from a diversified range of interactive banking services round the clock including instant cheque book and banking cards issuance without prior request, receiving 10g gold biscuit, opening account (Gold, saving, AlRabeh, Self-Service), selling and buying gold, printing IBAN certificates, requesting commercial transactions (Murabaha), requesting credit and prepaid cards, updating information and phone number, acti-

ating banking cards, opening deposits and accounts, cardless cash withdrawal through self-service or a video call with KFH agent using the civil ID, cardless cash deposit using the civil ID through a video call with KFH agent. In addition, KFH Go smart branches allow customers to deposit cheques by self-service or through a video call with KFH agent, transfer funds between own accounts and to KFH or other banks' beneficiaries.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Mr. Adeb Ahamed said, "We are delighted to open our newest customer engagement center in Kuwait's Hawally region which is known for its residential

and commercial appeal. This new center will be a bridge to our diverse services, nurturing a hub of engagement and simplifying our customers' seamless adoption of digital payment solutions. Kuwait remains a key market for our operations, and we are thankful to our valued customers and partners for their continued support toward our growth."

Established in 2011, LuLu Exchange Kuwait is one of the country's leading financial services providers, charting a path of digital transformation that has seen it implement several industry-first initiatives to better serve retail and corporate customers.

KFH also launched a new service that allows customers to request part of their salaries in advance electronically through KFHonline without the need to visit branches, and the required amount will be settled from next month's salary according to the terms and conditions. As part of its corporate social responsibility, KFH provided this service to support customers suffering from financial instability to ensure a more stable economic environment.

## Clients' expectations exceeded

# 'WISE' digital investment platform returns: G.Bank

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2:** As part of its continuous efforts to provide the best investment services to its clients, Gulf Bank organized a two-day workshop for the WISE digital investment platform, with the aim of providing market updates, and enhancing their capabilities and skills to professionally manage the portfolios of clients and potential investors. This is also meant to provide employees with the right tools, to help clients achieve their financial goals and grow their wealth within the specified time period.

Gulf Bank's Deputy General Manager of Investments, Mr. Tareq Al-Saleh, said in a press statement following the workshop, that thanks to the digital platform's competitive advantages, WISE continues to achieve returns that meet clients' objectives, despite market fluctuations.

Al-Saleh explained that WISE Investments is an advisory and portfolio management service that follows an innovative investment strategy, providing Gulf Bank clients with the opportunity to invest in international markets in an easy, transparent and cost-efficient way. The principle of WISE Investments is to invest through international, diversified portfolios, while achieving the ideal risk-adjusted return in the long term.

He added: "WISE provides distinguished investment opportunities for customers to start investing in various global markets, and to access and follow-up, on the performance of their investments with ease, from anywhere and at any time."

## The Ideal Solution

Gulf Bank's Investment Manager, Mr. Ahmad Al-Fuwairis, said that Gulf Bank's WISE Investments is the ideal solution to invest in global markets easily, transparently, and at a low cost. It enables investors to achieve their investment and saving goals, through carefully selected and diversified investment opportunities, considering the geographical diversity of the financial markets.

He added: "The platform allows us to build portfolios specifically designed for clients, based on their financial goals, investment horizons, and risk appetites. This includes providing diverse investment alternatives, and the best services and financing tools that meet the clients' objectives, and in compliance with the Shariah law. This ensures that clients achieve their investment goals and increase their wealth."

## Competitive Advantages

Speaking on the competitive advantages of WISE, Gulf Bank's Investment Manager, Ms. Hanan Al-Ashwak said: "WISE enjoys great competitive advantages, both in terms of the minimum investment, and at a low cost. WISE also allows customers to withdraw profits and reinvest within seven days."

Al-Ashwak pointed that customers can take full control of their investment portfolios, increase investment,



Gulf Bank officials

and/or withdraw their portfolios based on their needs. In addition to being able to monitor the performance of portfolios at any time, and from anywhere, through their mobile phones.

Furthermore, she indicated that as a digital investment tool, WISE provides its clients with the opportunity to invest in a globally diversified portfolio with a long-term approach. By filling out a simple questionnaire, WISE determines the customers' financial goals, risk appetite, and investment horizon, to recommend a portfolio that is customized to their needs. Over the course of the investment period, Gulf Bank's investment managers continuously monitor and review their clients' portfolios, to safeguard and increase their wealth. In addition to having periodic meetings with clients to ensure the alignment between the investment performance and the client's goals.

Moreover, Al-Ashwak noted that investment through the WISE platform is available to Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis, who have accounts with Gulf Bank. The minimum amount to open a portfolio is USD10,000.

As part of Gulf Bank's 2025 strategy of expanding the Bank's offering to cater for the high-net worth individuals, the Bank provides private and distinctive products to meet the customers' aspirations. These offerings include the WISE investment services- the Bank's flagship digital advisory and portfolio management platform- in addition to several alternative investments. With the completion of the establishment of an independent investment subsidiary- Gulf Capital Investment Company, an array of a full suite of investment products and services will be offered to clients.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.



Oliver cheerily delivers a recap of stories from last 5 months

# Late-night talk shows back on air as writers' strike eases

LOS ANGELES, Oct 2, (AP) — Late-night talk shows are returning after a five-month absence brought on by the Hollywood writers strike, while actors will begin talks that could end their own long work walk-off.

CBS's "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" were the first shows to leave the air when the writers strike began on May 2, and now will be among the first to return on Monday night.

Comedian John Oliver got his first take on the strike out, exuberantly returning Sunday night to his "Last Week Tonight" show on HBO and delivering full-throated support for the strike.

Oliver cheerily delivered a recap of stories from the last five months before turning serious, calling the strike "an immensely difficult time" for all those in the industry.

United Auto Workers strikes spread as 7,000 more workers at two plants join the picket line.

"To be clear, this strike happened for good reasons. Our industry has seen its workers severely squeezed in recent years," Oliver said. "So, the writers guild went to strike and thankfully won. But, it took a lot of sacrifices from a lot of people to achieve that."

"I am also furious that it took the studios 148 days to achieve a deal they could have offered on day (expletive) one," Oliver said. He added that he hopes the writers contract would give leverage to other entertain-

ment industry guilds — as well as striking auto workers and employees in other industries — to negotiate better deals.

Warner Bros. Discovery, which owns HBO, is among the studios on the other side of the table in the writers and actors strikes.

Network late-night hosts will have their returns later Monday.

Colbert will have Astrophysicist and author Neil deGrasse Tyson on his first show back. Kimmel will host Arnold Schwarzenegger. Matthew McConaughey will be on Fallon's couch.

All the hosts will surely address the strike in their monologues.

## Agreement

"I'll see you Monday, and every day after that!" an ebullient Colbert said in an Instagram video last week from the Ed Sullivan Theater, which was full of his writers and other staffers for their first meeting since spring.

The hosts haven't been entirely idle. They teamed up for a podcast, "Strike Force Five," during the strike.

The writers were allowed to return to work last week after the Writers Guild of America reached an agreement on a three-year contract with an alliance of the industry's biggest studios, streaming services and production companies.

Union leaders touted the deal as a clear win on issues including pay, size of staffs and the use of artificial intelligence that made the months

off worth it. The writers themselves will vote on the contract in a week of balloting that begins Monday.

Meanwhile, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists will begin negotiations with the same group, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, for the first time since they joined writers in a historic dual strike on July 14.

Actors walked off the job over many of the same issues as writers, and SAG-AFTRA leaders said they would look closely at the gains and compromises of the WGA's deal, but emphasized that their demands would remain the same as they were when the strike began.

It was just five days after writers and studios resumed talks that a deal was reached and that strike ended, though an attempt to restart negotiations a month earlier broke off after a few meetings.

The late-night shows will have significant limits on their guest lists. Their bread and butter, actors appearing to promote projects, will not be allowed to appear if the movies and shows are for studios that are the subject of the strikes.

But exceptions abound. McConaughey, for example, is appearing with Fallon to promote his children's book, "Just Because."

And SAG-AFTRA has granted interim agreements allowing actors to work on many productions, and with that comes the right of actors to publicly promote them.

Television

Variety



This image released by Disney shows, (from left), Iman Vellani as Ms. Marvel, Brie Larson as Captain Marvel, and Teyonah Parris as Captain Monica Rambeau in a scene from 'The Marvels.' (AP)

Film

Young filmmaker aims for fresh, daring superhero films

## DaCosta shines in Marvel's 'The Marvels'

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP) — Nia DaCosta, director of the upcoming "The Marvels," has a diagnosis for the recent struggles of superhero movies. It basically comes down to, she says, "Mo' money, mo' problems."

Success inevitably breeds bigger budgets. Box-office expectations get inflated. Even superhero spandex can't sustain endless cycles of wash, rinse and repeat.

"Growth has to stop at some point," says DaCosta. "As you make more and more films, you want those films to be more interesting, more dynamic and to appeal to different audiences. But that requires risk. And there's a conundrum where you're so big that you can't take risks. I think that's what the audience is feeling. They're like: 'I've seen it before, and I liked it the first time.'"

When "The Marvels" opens in theaters Nov. 10, it will be debuting in uncommonly uncertain times for superhero films. There's talk of over-saturation. DC and Warner Bros. are in makeover mode. Box office-dominance this year has been ceded to Barbie and Mario.

While no one's doubting the supersized place of superheroes in Hollywood, mass success for Marvel no longer seems quite so automatic. For DaCosta, whose two previous films were the Jordan Peele-produced horror remake "Candyman" and the acclaimed 2018 indie crime drama "Little Woods," it's imperative that superhero movies aspire to be fresh and daring — like "Across the Spider-Verse."

"The more we can do that as an industry, the better," DaCosta said in a recent interview, praising the originality of that animated Marvel movie released earlier this year. "I also think you have to not set your sights on such a big box-office return so then you can comfortably take risks."

"The Marvels," which stars Brie Larson, Teyonah Parris, Iman Vellani and Samuel L. Jackson, isn't anyone's idea of going far out on a limb. It's loosely a sequel to 2019's "Captain Marvel," which

surpassed \$1.1 billion worldwide. By any measure, "The Marvels" is one of the fall's most anticipated titles.

But it's also a big-budget attempt to try some new things. It's the first Marvel movie to feature not just all-female leads but a female villain (Zawe Ashton plays Dar-Benn), as well. DaCosta, 33, is the youngest filmmaker to helm an MCU release. She's also the first Black woman to do so.

"Day to day, I don't really think about it. But it is nice to finally have a Black woman directing one — it just happens to be me," DaCosta says, laughing. "What was cool about realizing that, I was sort of like: Wow, I'm the first Black woman. But I'm also the third woman and the fourth or fifth person of color. It was cool to see that I wasn't just stepping into an all-white, all-male world."

## Powers

"The Marvels" brings together Carol Danvers/Captain Marvel (Larson), Monica Rambeau/Photon (Parris) and Kamala Khan/Ms. Marvel (Vellani). While originally conceived as a post-"Endgame" follow-up to "Captain Marvel," Marvel chief Kevin Feige was drawn to the chance to unite Captain Marvel with Rambeau from "WandaVision" and Ms. Marvel of her standalone Disney+ series.

In "The Marvels," the trio has become linked. Every time they use their powers, they swap places with each other, causing their worlds to collide in comic and surreal ways.

"When I was reading the outline that they sent me initially before I was pitching, I was like, 'This is insane,'" DaCosta says. "It felt so comic book-y. I was like, 'Wow, they're really going for it.'"

DaCosta was drawn to what she calls "a really crazy, sci-fi space opera" that was wacky and tonally different from most MCU films.

"I wanted to honor what they set out to do, which is make something very frankly strange," she says.

The heart of the film for DaCosta is about the di-

chotomy of Danvers and Ms. Marvel. While Danvers has been tirelessly doing the solitary work of Captain Marvel out in deep space, Ms. Marvel's foundation is her family.

DaCosta, a self-described workaholic, can relate. "I mean, this my third film in six years and I'm onto my fourth," she says. "I'm from New York City and my family's mostly there and I've never shot there since I've been working. My mom once forgot to invite me to a family thing because she forgot I was in town. Stuff like that makes me go, 'I need to connect more.'"

That's hard, though, when you're one of Hollywood's fastest rising directors. DaCosta's ascent has been meteoric but steady, even though she's more comfortable with self-deprecation than self-promotion. Instead, her level-headed filmmaking talent — particularly for conjuring atmosphere and playing with perspective — has fueled her success.

DaCosta was speaking from London where she's preparing to make an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler," with "Little Woods" star Tessa Thompson. With the SAG-AFTRA strike holding up all studio productions, DaCosta was itching to get going — and only occasionally pacified by her half-Yorkie, half-Maltese dog named Maude.

After making "Candyman," a Marvel movie was, DaCosta says, "definitely not in my near future." But it also wasn't entirely off her radar. She's wanted to direct one since she started making films and traces her interest directly to Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man." She saw it when she was 12. "And I still love it," she says.

When DaCosta was tapped to helm "The Marvels," Feige encouraged her to reach out to other Marvel movie directors for advice. The bit that most stuck with her came from "Black Panther" director Ryan Coogler. He said simply: "Be yourself."

"I was like, 'Wait, what?' Then I kind of got it," says DaCosta. "He was like: Just bring yourself to it. It's a big thing. It's really a Kevin Feige movie, it's a Marvel film. But they chose you for a reason."

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

movie financed by New Regency and distributed by Disney's 20th Century Studios, was easily the biggest film to launch in theaters over the weekend but struggled to catch on. It grossed a modest \$14 million at 3,680 theaters while adding \$18.3 million internationally.

The film, directed by Gareth



Dano



Rock

Edwards, stars John David Washington as an undercover operative in an AI-dominated future. "The Creator" drew mostly positive reviews and a B+ CinemaScore from audiences. Sony Pictures' "Dumb Money," expanded nationwide after two weeks of limited release but failed to ignite the kind of

populist movement it irreverently dramatizes. The film, directed by Craig Gillespie, came away with a disappointing \$3.5 million in 2,837 locations.

"Dumb Money," starring an ensemble of Paul Dano, Pete Davidson, Seth Rogen, American Ferrera and Anthony Ramos, turns the GameStop stock

frenzy into a ripped-from-the-headlines underdog tale of amateur traders rattling Wall Street. While all of the weekend's new releases were hampered by the ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike, "Dumb Money" would have especially benefitted from its cast hitting late-night shows and other promotions. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Books

## Beats censorship

## Japanese feminist's book tops in China

HONG KONG, Oct. 2, (AP) — In the last few years, China's government has promoted increasingly conservative social values, encouraging women to focus on raising children. It has cracked down on civil society movements and made laws to drive out foreign influence.

So a 75-year-old Japanese feminist scholar who's not married and does not have children is an unlikely celebrity on the country's tightly censored internet.

But **Chizuko Ueno**, a professor emerita at the University of Tokyo, is a phenomenon. She leapt to fame in China in 2019 with a speech that criticized social expectations for women to act cute and the pressure they face to hide their success.

Ueno's popularity reflects a surge in interest in women's rights, said Leta Hong Fincher, a research associate at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute who has written about gender discrimination and feminism in China.

About a decade ago, China had a rambunctious feminist movement that staged protests like occupying a men's restroom to demand more toilets for women, or marching in wedding dresses spattered with fake blood to draw attention to domestic violence. But that movement has been silenced as President Xi Jinping's administration has tightened controls on civil society and promoted conservative family values in a bid to boost child-births.

Ueno declined multiple requests to be interviewed for this story.

In mainland China, Ueno's books sold more than half a million copies in the first half of 2023, according to sales tracker Beijing OpenBook, and 26 were available in Chinese bookstores as of September. They cover topics ranging from "misogyny" in Japanese society to feminist approaches to elder care issues in an aging society.

"Starting From the Limit," a collection of letters between Ueno and Suzumi Suzuki, a writer who used to act in Japanese porn, topped the 2022 Books of the Year list on the popular Chinese review platform Douban.

Fans said Ueno's openness about choosing not to marry or have children makes her a role model.

## Retaliation

Edith Cao, a writer who spoke on the condition of being identified by her English nickname due to fear of government retaliation, said seeing an East Asian woman succeed without a family helped her decide not to marry. Yang Xiao, a graduate student, said Ueno's example helped assuage her anxieties about being single and inspired her to start booking holidays alone to build confidence.

Relationships are a divisive issue even among Ueno's Chinese fans. Earlier this year, fans attacked a Chinese video blogger who asked Ueno if she hadn't married because "she'd been hurt by men," saying the blogger had reinforced traditional assumptions. That started a series of online conversations about marriage and feminism that lasted for months, with related hashtags drawing some 580 million views on the Twitter-like social media platform Weibo.

Ueno doesn't write about China, and that's probably one key reason her books have escaped censorship, said Hong Fincher.

Feminist ideas are not banned in China, but authorities view all activism with suspicion.

Police regularly summon owners of bookstores and cafes and pressure them to cancel feminism-themed events, several organizers and founders told The Associated Press. Online, posts that refer to the #MeToo movement are deleted, and nationalist bloggers attack feminism with a public presence as foreign agents.

Chinese journalist and activist Huang Xueqin, who helped spark China's first high-profile #MeToo case, was tried last week for allegedly inciting subversion of state power. According to a copy of the indictment published by supporters of Huang, she was accused of publishing "seditious" articles and facilitating training activities on "non-violent movements."

Protest and campaigning are no longer possible, said Lü Pin, a Chinese feminist activist based in the U.S., meaning feminism is confined to individual action and small groups. The Ueno boom, she said, has helped keep feminist ideas in the "lawful" mainstream.

Megan Ji, a 30-year-old financial analyst, said it wasn't until she read one of Ueno's books that she began taking an interest in the ideas of feminists.

That helped her confront her boss when he began caressing her back at an after-work karaoke party with colleagues and potential business partners. She works in a competitive industry in which fitting in at after-work parties is widely considered vital to her job, and another woman hadn't said anything when a drunken manager placed his arm over her shoulder.

But when her boss began badgering her to sing, she shouted: "Do you respect me? Who do you take me for?" Her colleagues were shocked, but Ji's boss apologized, both on the spot and again the next day. Ji said she didn't suffer retaliation, and no awkward parties have happened in the office since then.

The AP could not independently verify Ji's account, and she requested to be identified by her English name to avoid repercussions from her company.

Guo Qingyuan, a 35-year-old copywriter, said that reading Ueno led him to question how he saw women. He stopped talking about women's looks with his buddies, he said, and sought out children's books for his daughter that didn't promote stereotypical gender roles.

## Also:

**NEW YORK:** The Pulitzer Prize Board has revised its longtime rules on eligibility for many of its arts and letters awards and will now allow those not born in the US and other non-citizens to compete.

The board announced Tuesday that permanent residents and those who have made the US their longtime primary home will be eligible in the categories for books, drama and music. The changes go into effect for the 2025 awards cycle, which begins next spring.

"The Board is enthusiastic about ensuring that the Prizes are inclusive and accessible to those producing distinguished work in Books, Drama and Music," board co-chairs **Tommie Shelby** and **Neil Brown** said in a statement. "This expansion of eligibility is an appropriate update of our rules and compatible with the goals **Joseph Pulitzer** had in establishing these awards."



Ueno



Helen Mirren wears a creation for the L'Oréal Spring/Summer 2024 womenswear fashion collection presented Sunday, Oct. 1, in Paris. (AP)

## Fashion

## Burton bids farewell at McQueen

## Valentino visits Les Beaux-Arts with a twist

PARIS, Oct. 2, (AP) — Valentino took a sentimental journey to Les Beaux-Arts this Sunday, revisiting the prestigious Parisian art school where its founder, Valentino Garavani, was once a student.

Dive into the highlights of this Spring/Summer 2024 ready-to-wear collections from Paris, including the end of an era at Alexander McQueen as its lauded designer Sarah Burton presented her final show.

Amid the backdrop of Mannerist statues and the names of great artists gracing the storied walls of Les Beaux-Arts, where Garavani, 91, once honed his craft, the runway was - in contrast - unmistakably contemporary. Strategically positioned boxes filled with rocks, sand, and earth transformed into platforms for a troupe of sinewy, scantily clad contemporary dancers - who writhed alongside a performance by British singer FKA Twigs.

Designer Pierpaolo Piccioli's collection focused on the body - in a vivid "celebration of femininity and creativity." Bursting onto the scene were fresh, sporty minidresses adorned with intricate white florals and foliage. The elegance of an open tuxedo baring flesh, and the simplicity of flowing silk caped dresses made a statement, but there was a sense of familiarity. A pastel gray cape minidress captured attention with its minimalist charm. A chainmail disco mesh-dress shimmered and revealed inches of body.

Yet, the dynamic dance performances often drew eyes away from the fashion. Could it be that the collection, while undeniably modern, needed that extra dose of novelty to truly captivate?

While Piccioli's designs were a testament to Valentino's evolving aesthetic,

some elements felt reminiscent of past collections or even lacking in fresh ideas, a point that's been leveled by critics at the designer in the past. Nonetheless, spring marked a blend of the brand's intrinsic elegance and a desire to pare down styles to their essentials.

As the Parisian runway glinted under the weight of expectation, Sarah Burton, with a profound respect for legacy and an unmistakable innovative touch, presented her magnum opus for Alexander McQueen Saturday night. Her task had always been titanic - to step into shoes left empty by the enigmatic genius of Lee Alexander McQueen.

The fashion maestro's unexpected departure wasn't just a personal loss; it marked the end of an era of theatrical, emotion-laden masterpieces. But Burton, rather than just filling a void, lit it up. She wielded her tapestry of design, interweaving McQueen's audacious spirit with her softer, more feminine aesthetic.

## Collection

This dance of duality was evident in her farewell collection, where each piece told its story. The slashed bodices, the evocative blood-red laced spines, and the influence of Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz's work showcased an artistry that was both fierce and tender.

The shimmer of glossy leather corsets contrasted with the ethereal shredded gossamer skirts, while other designs teased at deconstruction, with trailing embroidery and dripping silver organza that echoed McQueen's rebellious early days.

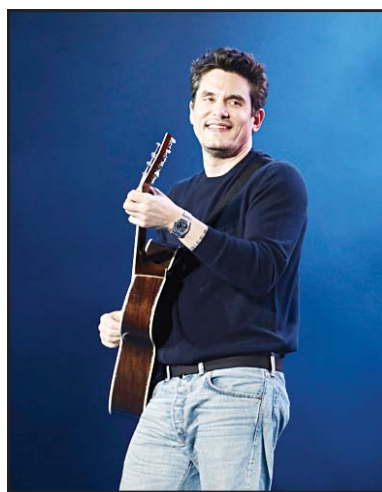
No detail was left untouched. From the profound artistry of Kate Middleton's wedding gown - a garment that

transcended royal expectations - to her final collection's poignant motifs, Burton proved her mettle time and again. The iconic rose, emblematic open-heart embroidery, and the magnetic close by Naomi Campbell in a sculpted silver bugle bead dress, all converged in a collection that was both homage and evolution.

And as the last piece sashayed down the runway, the room -- filled with powerful editors and actresses like Cate Blanchett and Elle Fanning -- rose in a rousing standing ovation, not just for Burton's final act but for a legacy beautifully continued and enriched under her stewardship.

## Also:

**MILAN:** During the 2023 Fashion Week, Harper's Bazaar's global design & cultural brand "Bazaar Design Awards" held "House of the Future - Bazaar Design Awards International Parallel Exhibition Milan 2023" at the Mediateca Santa Teresa in Milan from September 20th to 24th. Harper's Bazaar joined hands with its chief partner, Douyin Mall and Aokang, Septwolves, Errol, Yaya, and Gofans, five major Chinese clothing brands, to jointly present an exhibition area. Douyin Mall's 2023 autumn and winter clothing new product show and industry partners Oppo, Avatr, Ji Cheng x Chu Xiong Yi Embroidery, and Yowant Technology jointly brought Chinese fashion, intelligent manufacturing, and culture to Milan. International design and lifestyle brands Max Mara, Poltrona Frau, and oriental cosmetics brand Florasis together participated in the exhibition, presenting China's first dialogue between consumer design and international fashion.



John Mayer performs on day two of Sound on Sound Music Festival on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, at Seaside Park in Bridgeport, Conn. (AP)



Reynolds



Swift

## Variety

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.:** Taylor Swift couldn't just shake off another chance to watch **Travis Kelce** on the football field.

The 12-time Grammy Award winner arrived at MetLife Stadium about 40 minutes before kickoff Sunday night to watch Kelce and his Kansas City Chiefs defeat the New York Jets 23-20.

SNY posted video of Swift, wearing blue jean shorts, a long-sleeved black top and leather jacket, entering the stadium's security area with actors **Ryan Reynolds**, **Blake Lively** and **Hugh Jackman**. NBC's telecast cut to Swift several times during the game, including a shot of the pop superstar with her arm around Kelce's mother, **Donna**, who was wearing her son's No. 87 jersey.

Swift's appearance comes a week after she was at Arrowhead Stadium - decked out in red and white - to watch the Chiefs' 41-10 rout of the Chicago Bears at home in a suite alongside Donna Kelce. Swift took advantage of an invitation from the All-Pro tight end to watch the game, and apparently had to see more of Kelce and the Chiefs in action.

Swift is on a break from her Eras Tour, which resumes Nov. 9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. NBC played a commercial for the tour about 20 minutes before kickoff.

MetLife Stadium is a familiar spot for Swift, who performed three sold-out concerts there in May. Among those in attendance for two of those shows was Jets quarterback **Aaron Rodgers**, who returned to the team this weekend after tearing his left Achilles tendon on the fourth play of his debut with New York on Sept. 11.

Rodgers attended a team meeting Saturday night and was at the stadium watching player warmups from the sideline Sunday night.

Neither Swift nor Kelce have revealed any details about their relationship. Kelce said on his "New Heights with Jason and Travis Kelce" podcast earlier this week that Swift "looked amazing" at the game.

"Everybody was talking about her and in a great light," Kelce said of her time spent in the suite. "And on top of that, you know, the day went perfect for Chiefs fans. Of course, we script it all, ladies and gentlemen."

Kelce had invited Swift to that game after trying - and failing - to give her a friendship bracelet when her Eras Tour made its stop in Kansas City. (AP)

**TOKYO:** The Japanese entertainment company that has acknowledged its founder sexually assaulted hundreds of boys over the span of half a century, took a new name on Monday: Smile-Up. It also vowed to focus on compensation for victims of the abuse.

Tokyo-based Johnny & Associates, founded in 1975, will eventually fold, but its performers can join an independent company that is being set up, said **Noriyuki Higashiyama**, the company's new leader and a former star at Johnny's, as the company is known.

Higashiyama, tapped last month to head

the old Johnny's, will now be president of both Smile-Up and the new company. The new company's name will be put to public vote by Johnny's fans.

"All things with the Johnny's name will have to go," Higashiyama told reporters at a Tokyo hotel. "A wounded heart isn't easy to heal. Compensation on its own will never be enough."

In recent months, dozens of men who were performers and backup dancers as teens and children at Johnny's have come forward, saying they were sexually assaulted by **Johnny Kitagawa**.

Kitagawa, who died in 2019, was never



American actress Jessica Chastain receives the Golden Icon Award during the 19th Zurich Film Festival (ZFF) in Zurich, Switzerland, on Sunday, Oct. 1. The Zurich Film Festival festival will run until Oct 8, 2023. (AP)

charged.

So far, 325 people have applied to the company's compensation program, and that number may grow. Payments will begin next month, Higashiyama said. How the monetary amount will be decided was not yet clear.

Last month, Kitagawa's niece **Julie Keiko Fujishima** resigned as chief executive at Johnny's and apologized for his past. She still owns 100% of the unlisted company but will not be part of the new unnamed company, whose capital structure is still being worked out.

Fujishima did not appear at Monday's news conference and had a letter read aloud. The letter said she was "brain-washed" by her mother **Mary**, who insisted Kitagawa was innocent, even after the Japanese Supreme Court ruled two decades ago that the sexual allegations against him were accurate.

"I want to erase all that remains of Johnny from this world," she wrote. "I do not forgive what Johnny has done."

Some victims say they have suffered for decades in silence, unable to confide in family or friends, while experiencing flashbacks.

Most of the attacks took place at Kitagawa's luxury apartment, where several youngsters were handpicked to spend the night. The following morning, he would thrust 10,000 yen (\$100) bills into their hands, according to various testimony.

Rumors about Kitagawa were rampant over the years, with several tell-it-all books published. A recent U.N. investigation has said that a number of victims is at least several hundred, and called on the Japanese government to act. When BBC did a special on Kitagawa earlier this year, the scandal jumped into the spotlight. (AP)

Health

Cheaper, more effective

UN OKs second malaria shot, but doubts persist

LONDON, Oct 2, (AP) — The World Health Organization authorized a second malaria vaccine on Monday, a decision that could offer countries a cheaper and more effective option than the world's first shot against the parasitic disease.

WHO Director-General **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said the UN health agency was approving the new malaria vaccine based on the advice of two expert groups, recommending its use in children at risk of the disease.

"As a malaria researcher, I used to dream of the day we would have a safe and effective vaccine against malaria. Now we have two," Tedros said.

Oxford University developed the new three-dose vaccine with help from the Serum Institute of India. Research suggests it is more than 75% effective and that protection is maintained for at least another year with a booster. Tedros said the shot would cost about \$2 to \$4 and could be available in some countries next year.

Earlier this year, regulatory authorities in Ghana and Burkina Faso approved the vaccine.

"This is one more tool we will now have, but it's not going to replace bed nets and spraying insecticides," said John Johnson with Doctors Without Borders. "This is not the vaccine that's going to stop malaria."

Johnson was not part of the WHO expert group that gave the Oxford vaccine the green light.

In 2021, WHO endorsed the first malaria vaccine in what it described as a "historic" effort to end the devastating toll the mosquito-transmitted disease has on Africa, home to most of the world's estimated 200 million cases and 400,000 deaths.

But that vaccine, known as Mosquirix and made by GSK, is only about 30% effective, requires four doses and protection fades within months.

Recommend

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the vaccine's biggest backers, stepped back last year from financially supporting Mosquirix's rollout, saying it was less effective than officials would like and that funding would be better used elsewhere.

"The big difference with these two vaccines is access," Johnson said, noting that only about a dozen countries are scheduled to get limited quantities of the GSK vaccine in the next few years.

GSK has said it can only produce about 15 million doses a year. The Serum Institute has said it could make up to 200 million doses of the Oxford vaccine a year.

Alister Craig, an emeritus professor at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, said he would recommend countries trying to get the GSK vaccine switch to the Oxford vaccine instead. Craig noted that no big funders have yet agreed to buy the Oxford vaccine for poor countries and it's still unclear how effective the shot might be in the long term.

If the new vaccine is rolled out widely across Africa, it could dramatically reduce the amount of severe illness and deaths caused by malaria in a few years, Craig said.

Neither of the malaria vaccines stop transmission so immunization campaigns alone won't be enough to stop epidemics. Efforts to curb the disease are also being complicated by increasing reports of resistance to the main drugs used to treat malaria and the spread of invasive mosquito species.

"You would be foolish to think that this vaccine is going to be the end of the malaria story," Craig said.

In a separate decision, WHO's expert group also authorized the dengue vaccine made by Takeda, which was previously approved by the European Union drug regulator.

There is no specific treatment for dengue, common in tropical Latin American and Asian countries. While most infections are mild, severe cases of the mosquito-spread disease can lead to internal bleeding, organ damage and death.

WHO's expert groups advised that the Takeda dengue vaccine be used in children aged 6 to 16 in countries with a high prevalence of the disease.

Previous studies have showed Takeda's vaccine was about 84% effective in preventing people from being hospitalized with dengue and about 61% effective in stopping symptoms four years after getting immunized.

Nearly 1,000 people have been killed by dengue this year in an ongoing epidemic in Bangladesh, the country's worst outbreak of the disease.



Tedros



Thomas Perlmann, secretary of the Nobel Assembly, right, announces the winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, seen on screen, at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Monday Oct. 2. The Nobel Prize in medicine has been awarded to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman for discoveries that enabled the development of effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19. (AP)

Nobels

Karikó, Weissman performed research together

2 win Nobel for work on COVID vaccine

STOCKHOLM, Oct 2, (AP) — Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for discoveries that enabled the development of mRNA vaccines against COVID-19 and could be used in the future to create other shots.

Katalin Karikó, a professor at Sagan's University in Hungary and an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and Drew Weissman, of the University of Pennsylvania, were awarded the prize for "their groundbreaking findings, which have fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system," the panel that awarded the prize said.

"The laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," the panel added.

Karikó said her husband was the first to pick up the early morning call, then handed it to her to hear the news. "I couldn't believe it," she said. "I was very much surprised. But I am very happy."

Before COVID-19, mRNA vaccines were already being tested for other diseases like Zika, influenza and rabies - but the pandemic brought more attention to this approach, Karikó said.

"There was already clinical trials before COVID, but people were not aware," she said.

Thomas Perlmann, the secretary of the Nobel Assembly who announced the prize, said both scientists were "overwhelmed" by news.

Traditionally, making vaccines required growing viruses or pieces of viruses - often in giant vats of cells or, like most flu shots, in chicken eggs - and then purifying them before next steps in brewing shots.

The messenger RNA approach is radically different. It starts with a snippet of genetic code that carries instructions for making proteins. Pick the right virus protein to target, and the body turns into a mini vaccine factory.

Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at Britain's University of East Anglia, described the mRNA vaccines as a "game changer" in helping to shut down the coronavirus pandemic, crediting the shots with saving millions of lives.

Technology

"If it hadn't been for the mRNA technology, COVID would have been much worse," he said. "Vaccines generally were the turning point in slowing down COVID and the mRNA vaccines were just so much better than all the others," he said, noting that the main vaccine used in the U.K., made by AstraZeneca, is barely in use anymore.

"We would likely only now be coming out of the depths of COVID without the mRNA vaccines," Hunter said.

Karikó was a senior vice president at BioNTech, which partnered with Pfizer to make one of the COVID-19 vaccines. The BioNTech website says that since 2022 she has been an exter-

nal consultant. She is the 13th woman to win the Nobel Prize in medicine. Weissman is a professor and director of the Penn Institute for RNA Innovations at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bharat Pankhania, an infectious diseases expert at Exeter University, said that a major advantage of mRNA technology was that vaccines could be made in extremely large quantities since their main components are made in laboratories.

Pankhania predicted that the technology used in the vaccines could be used to refine vaccines for other diseases like Ebola, malaria and dengue, and might also be used to create shots that immunize people against certain types of cancer or auto-immune diseases like lupus.

"It's possible that we could vaccinate people against abnormal cancer proteins and have the immune system attack it after being given a targeted mRNA shot," he explained. "It's a much more targeted technology than has been previously available and could revolutionize how we handle not only outbreaks, but non-communicable diseases."

The Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine was won last year by Swedish scientist Svante Paabo for discoveries in human evolution that unlocked secrets of Neanderthal DNA which provided key insights into our immune system, including our vulnerability to severe COVID-19.



A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a neighborhood of Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, Oct. 2. (AP)

Discovery

**Season's 1st snow forecast:** The first snowfall of the season is expected this weekend in the central Sierra Nevada, including Yosemite National Park, where as much as 10 inches (25 centimeters) is possible at the highest elevations.

The National Weather Service in Reno, under its Governor of California **Gavin Newsom**, issued a winter weather advisory on Saturday effective through 8 p.m. Sunday for California's Mono County along the Nevada line. Slick conditions could make travel difficult over eastern Sierra mountain passes, especially over Tioga and Sonora Passes on the edge of Yosemite, the service said.

Late-season backcountry enthusiasts should anticipate light snow accumulations over area trails and campgrounds, with up to a half foot of snow (15 cm) in some areas and as much as 10 inches (25 cm) above 10,000 feet (3,048 meters).

Rain is forecast to move into the Lake Tahoe area Saturday with some thunderstorms and a dusting of snow above 8,000 feet (2,438 meters). Overnight lows are expected to drop below freezing at lake level. (AP)

**Pakistan starts anti-polio drive:** Pakistan launched its second nationwide anti-polio campaign of the year Monday in an effort to inoculate 44 million children under the age of 5 amid signs the country was close to eradicating the disease.

Caretaker Prime Minister **Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar** launched the five-day vaccination campaign in the capital, Islamabad, and urged parents in a televised address to cooperate with the 350,000 health workers

who are going door-to-door to administer vaccine drops to children.

The campaign was taking place under heavy security. The government deployed police and security forces to ensure the safety of the inoculation drive workers.

Vaccine providers and the police assigned to protect them have been attacked during past anti-polio campaigns, which militants falsely claimed were a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

Pakistan has registered two new polio



Kakar



Newsom

cases since January, a blow to the goal of eradicating a disease that affects the nervous system and can cause severe paralysis in children.

Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where polio continues to threaten the health and well-being of children.

Pakistan came close to eradicating polio in 2021, when only one case was reported, and last year reported about two dozen cases. (AP)

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## Osasuna end five-game winless streak

## Resilient Atletico earn 3rd consecutive win

MADRID, Oct 2, (AP) — Atletico Madrid rallied from a two-goal deficit to win their third straight game and move into the Champions League spots in the Spanish league.

With a brace from Ángel Correa and a goal by Nahuel Molina, Atletico went from 2-1 down at halftime to beating Cadiz 3-2 at the Metropolitan Stadium.

The victory moved Diego Simeone's team to fourth place behind Girona, Barcelona and leader Real Madrid. Atletico have a game in hand and were coming off wins at Osasuna and against Madrid in the first city derby of the season.

Cadiz, winless in three matches and sitting in 12th place, got off to a fast start with Lucas Pires scoring in the 12th and Roger Martí in the 27th. Atletico pulled closer with Correa's goal in the 32nd, and Nahuel Molina equalized for the hosts early in the second half before Correa got the winner from inside the area in the 66th.

Atletico has won 12 straight home matches at home in the league going back to last season, and it has not lost

in 16 consecutive home matches against Cadiz, with 15 wins and a draw.

Cadiz remain winless in their last nine away league matches, since a 2-0 win at Real Betis in April.

Last-place Almeria couldn't hold on to a three-goal

## SOCCER

lead at halftime after a hat trick by Luis Suárez in five minutes, drawing 3-3 with second-to-last Granada at home.

Suárez scored Almeria's goals in the 41st, 44th and in the first minute of first-half stoppage time but the Colombian forward had to leave the game late in the second half with a leg fracture. He was taken to a hospital in an ambulance after being substituted.

Granada rallied with goals from Bryan Zaragoza in the 66th, Ricard Sánchez in the 70th and Myrto Uzuni in the 86th.

Almeria, which were led by interim coach Alberto La-

sarte after Vicente Moreno was fired this week, remain the only team without a win in the league this season. They have three points from three draws. Granada have five points from a win and two draws.

Real Betis ended their four-game winless streak in all competitions with a 3-0 win over Valencia.

Assane Diao scored in the first half, and Marc Roca and Ez Abde added second-half goals for the hosts.

The win moved Betis to seventh place, with midtable Valencia winless in three matches.

The game at Benito Villamarín Stadium was moved to a night slot because of high temperatures in the southern Spanish city of Seville.

Osasuna ended a five-game winless streak in all competitions with a 2-0 victory at promoted Alaves, with José Arnaiz and Ante Budimir scoring a goal in each half.

Osasuna's last win had come at Valencia in August. They next visit league leaders Real Madrid.

Alaves, winless in four matches, played a man down from the 49th because of a red card for midfielder Antonio Blanco.



Hae Ran Ryu holds up the trophy after winning the LPGA Walmart NW Arkansas Championship golf tournament in Rogers, Ark. (AP)

## Ryu clinches 1st LPGA Tour title

Hae Ran Ryu completed a wire-to-wire run to her first LPGA Tour title, a three-shot victory Sunday at the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship.

The 22-year-old rookie from South Korea had four birdies and an eagle in her last nine holes at Pinnacle Country Club to shoot a 5-under 66 and finish at 19-under 194 in the 54-hole event. Ryu, the LPGA Q-Series medalist last year, earned \$345,000 and is projected to climb into the top 10 in the Race to CME Globe. (AP)

## Ryan advances in NASCAR playoffs

## Blaney beats Harvick in drag race at Talladega

TALLADEGA, Ala., Oct 2, (AP) — Ryan Blaney beat Kevin Harvick to the Talladega Superspeedway finish line by 0.012 seconds Sunday to advance into the round of eight of NASCAR's playoffs and

keep Harvick winless in his final season before retirement.

Blaney used a crossover move from the outside lane to the inside to nudge ahead of Harvick with two laps remaining. Blaney in his Ford for Team Penske and



Ryan Blaney celebrates with a burnout on the track after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. (AP)

now at Talladega. Blaney joined William Byron as the two drivers locked into the round of eight. The field of 12 will be pared next Sunday to eight following the race on The Roval at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Harvick finished second and was followed by Byron in a Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports. Denny Hamlin rallied from a lap down to finish fourth in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Hamlin led three laps during the second stage but was flagged for speeding

on pit road - a troubling habit of the three-time Daytona 500 winner considered the best driver to never win a Cup championship - and the penalty contributed to him falling a lap off the pace. It took him most of the race to earn his position back on the lead lap and then drove through the field to secure his finish.

Corey LaJoie, who is not in the playoffs, finished fifth in a Chevrolet for Spire Motorsports. Blaney teammate Austin Cindric was sixth, Justin Haley of Kaulig Racing was seventh in a Chevrolet, defending race winner Chase Elliott was eighth for Hendrick, and were followed by the Fords of Ryan Preece and Riley Herbst. None of the drivers who finished fifth through 10th are in the playoffs.

The race had 70 lead changes among 24 drivers and was fairly clean. Ross Chastain was in an early crash that caused last year's championship runner-up to finish last. Brad Keselowski was in a later crash with 28 laps to go that ended the race for Keselowski, caused damage to Talladega's outer wall and stopped all action under a red flag.



Atalanta's Charles De Ketelaere (left), vies for the ball with Juventus' Danilo during a Serie A soccer match between Atalanta and Juventus at the Gewiss stadium in Bergamo, Italy. (AP)

## Lukaku helps crisis-hit Roma blank Frosinone

Juventus, Atalanta draw

MILAN, Oct 2, (AP) — Juventus and Atalanta fell further behind the Serie A leaders as they played out a 0-0 draw.

Both teams had chances and Atalanta hit the woodwork but neither could find the breakthrough in Bergamo.

Juventus remained fourth, four points behind second-place AC Milan and Inter Milan at the top after seven rounds. Atalanta are a point behind Juventus.

Troubled Roma beat Frosinone 2-0 for only their second league win of the season.

Both Atalanta and Juventus were in form heading into match. Atalanta had won their last three matches in all competitions without conceding a goal, while Juventus had three victories in their past four matches.

There were few chances in a tight first half. Davide Zappacosta should have given Atalanta the lead in the 14th minute but his first attempt was blocked by Juventus defender Danilo and he fired the rebound wide of the right post from close range.

Juve's best chance came early in the second half when Federico Chiesa's fierce attempt was palmed away by Atalanta goalkeeper Juan Musso.

His counterpart, Wojciech Szczesny, did even better 15 minutes from time as

## SOCCER

he managed to fingertip a stunning free kick from Luis Muriel onto the crossbar. The ball then bounced down and hit the goalkeeper on the back before going out.

Romelu Lukaku was again on target to set Roma on their way to a vital victory.

Jose Mourinho's team were in crisis after just one win in their six league matches and had lost 4-1 at promoted Genoa midweek.

Roma were playing another promoted side in Frosinone, which have been enjoying an impressive start back in the Italian top flight.

Lukaku, who spent last season on loan at Inter, had netted three times in five matches for Roma since joining from Chelsea and he scored again in the 21st minute following an assist from Paulo Dybala.

Dybala also set up Roma's second with a free kick for Lorenzo Pellegrini to volley home with seven minutes remaining.

Riccardo Orsolini scored a hat trick to fire Bologna to a 3-0 win over hapless Empoli.

That ended a run of three goalless draws for Bologna. Empoli, which recorded their first points and first goal midweek, have lost six of their seven matches.

Albert Gudmundsson almost scored a first-half hat trick but Genoa were held to a 2-2 draw at Udinese after a stoppage-time own-goal.

Gudmundsson had the ball in the back of the net three times but one of his strikes was ruled out for offside.

## Bayern looking for 'consistency' before visit to Copenhagen in CL

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Oct 2, (AP) — Bayern Munich are still looking for consistency as they prepare to visit Copenhagen for their second group game in the Champions League on Tuesday.

The Bavarian powerhouses were somewhat fortunate to draw at Leipzig 2-2 in the Bundesliga on Saturday, while they endured a nervy finale against Manchester United before prevailing 4-3 in its Group A opening game in the Champions League last month.

Both games - along with a 2-2 draw against Bayer Leverkusen - showed that Bayern have yet to master the art of dominating opponents from start to finish.

"We've problems against top teams at the moment," Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich said after the draw in Leipzig. "We didn't manage it against Leverkusen, now we haven't managed it against Leipzig - and it was also erratic against Man United. We simply have problems performing consistently well over 90 minutes against top teams."

Teammate Jamal Musiala agreed. "It happens too often we need a little push and where we have phases in the game where we're not doing what we want to do," the Bayern midfielder said.

Coach Thomas Tuchel had previously complained about Bayern's hot-and-cold approach, and he has seemed at a loss to explain why his team suffer from periods of poor play.

Copenhagen might offer a chance to do better, given the Danish champions conceded two late

goals to draw at Galatasaray 2-2 in their Champions League opener.

Bayern are unbeaten in a competition record 35 group games (3 draws) while they have won each of their last 14 group games, also a record.

Meanwhile, Manchester United defender Lisandro Martinez will undergo surgery on his right foot for an injured metatarsal, manager Erik ten Hag said Monday.

## SOCCER

Martinez has already been ruled out for an "extended period" after a recurrence of the injury that saw him miss the end of last season. He will have a second operation on his foot, having initially had surgery in April to repair his fractured metatarsal.

"That's really sad, disappointing news," Ten Hag said ahead of United's Champions League game against Galatasaray on Tuesday. "He has to go through the same process and I'm really sorry for him."

"The squad will miss him. As you know, we have more injuries, so we always have to deal with it as a squad ... He has to be strong. He will fight back, I'm sure. He is a character."

Ten Hag is also without defenders Tyrell Malacia, Sergio Reguilon, Luke Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

Ten Hag also said Antony would be in contention to play again after returning from a leave of absence to address allegations of domestic abuse.

Udinese forward Lorenzo Lucca scored his team's first equalizer with his first Serie A goal and the home side

snatched a point when Genoa defender Alan Matturo repaired the ball into his own net.



Frosinone's Matias Soule' (center), fights for the ball with Roma's Leonardo Spinazzola (left), during the Serie A soccer match between Roma and Frosinone, at the Rome Olympic stadium. (AP)

## Change Name

I, Rachael Samantha Rodrigues (current name), holder of Indian passport no. S0587047 having permanent address in (state, country & pin code) Karnataka, India 560 011, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under (Given name) Rachael Samantha (surname) Brank

## MOTOR CAR RACING

Harvick in a Ford for Stewart-Haas Racing finished essentially in a drag race with both drivers refusing to lift as a crash broke out behind them.

"Pretty wild last restart, let alone last couple laps, losing momentum, getting it back, drag racing it out with Kevin," said Blaney, who has won three times

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## SPORTS



Left to right: Some of the participants pose for the camera.

## 'ABK is committed to investing in employees' health through a supportive work environment'

## ABK organizes padel tourney to foster employee engagement and wellness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently held its highly-anticipated annual employee padel tournament, reaffirming its commitment to promoting employee well-being, team building, and fostering a healthy work-life balance. The event took place at Ocean Padel Academy, attracting 16 teams, each showcasing their exceptional skills and enthusiasm for the sport.

ABK recognizes the value of recreational activities in enhancing employee morale, camaraderie, and performance. The annual staff padel tournament provided an excellent opportunity for employees to come together, have fun, and engage in healthy competition. Padel, a racket sport that combines elements of tennis and squash, is renowned for encouraging teamwork, quick thinking, and strategic decision-making, making it an ideal choice for ABK's

staff event.

Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, expressed her delight in organizing this impactful event. She stated, "ABK is committed to investing in employees' health through a supportive work environment. The annual padel tournament is a testament to our dedication towards promoting a healthy lifestyle and building strong relationships within our workforce."

The tournament witnessed great competition, with each team showcasing their skills, determination, and sportsmanship throughout a series of intense matches. Participants displayed an incredible level of teamwork and passion, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere and captivating the audience with their remarkable display of talent and perseverance. Upon completion, both first and second place winners were applauded and awarded

cash gifts.

Al Arbash emphasized the benefits that such events bring to both employees and the organization as a whole. She stated, "Engaging in sports not only enhances physical fitness but also boosts mental wellbeing, improves productivity, and strengthens team dynamics. At ABK, we recognize the positive influence of sports on overall job satisfaction and employee retention, which ultimately leads to greater business success."

The GM concluded by expressing her pride in participants for their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to the event. She said, "The tournament not only provided a platform for friendly competition but also served as a catalyst for team-building and the development of strong relationships among our employees."

The tournament demonstrated the Bank's unwavering commitment to



Ms. Afrah Al Arbash GM of Human Resources at ABK.

employee engagement, promoting work-life balance, and providing opportunities for personal and professional growth. By supporting activities

that encourage physical fitness and friendship, ABK strives to continue to a positive work culture to reinforce its position as a leading employer in Kuwait.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial

Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's "Let's Be Aware" awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk\_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.



Iran's Hossein Rasouli celebrates after winning the men's discus throw final at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

## China relentless in domination of medals

## Japan complete sweep of triathlon gold medals

HANGZHOU, China, Oct 2, (AP): China is simply relentless in its domination of the Asian Games.

At the games five years ago in Jakarta, Indonesia, the country won 132 gold medals and 287 medals overall. This time, into Day 9 with five full days remaining, China has already broken its mark for gold medals and is very close to matching the overall total from five years ago.

With 305 gold medals awarded, China has won almost half - 146. Its overall total stood at 269, just short of the 287 mark set in 2018.

Host nations typically get a "home field" bounce when hosting the Olympics or a large multi-sport event like the Asian Games. China has emphasized this year's games, partially to show the country has opened up after the severe restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ASIAN GAMES

Skater Jung Cheolwon crossed the line in Monday's 3,000-meter relay and began to celebrate thinking he'd won the gold medal for South Korea.

But he was shocked when the scoreboard showed South Korea had finished second to Taiwan, which clocked 4 minutes, 05.692 seconds. South Korea finished in 4:05.702.

Jung apologized to his teammates for his costly error.

"I made a rather big mistake," the 27-year-old Jung said. "I didn't come at full speed to the finish line. I let my guard down too early. I am very sorry."

South Korea defeated neighbor North Korea 4-1 on Monday in a best-of-seven series to take the gold medal in women's doubles in table tennis. Shin Yu-bin and Jeon Ji-hee teamed up to beat Cha Su Yong and Pak Sug Yong.

In an all-China final in men's singles, Fan Zhengdong defeated Wang Chuqin 4-3.

Uzbekistan failed to completely dominate the ancient martial art of kurash, which has its roots in the Central Asian country. The sport debuted in the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.

Uzbekistan won four of the seven gold medals available. But



Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Abkar Mohammed, (second left), and Japan's Koki Ueyama, (right), cross the finish line to win silver and gold respectively during the men's 200-meter final at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

China picked up two gold and Iran added another.

On Monday on the closing day, Liu Yi of China defeated Zahra Bagheri of Iran 3-0 in the women's 87-kilogram division, and Sadeh Azarang of Iran defeated Kim Ming-yo of South Korea 10-0.

On Sunday, Yu Dan of China won the women's 70-kilogram final against Donya Aghaei of Iran.

Yu is a former judoka that China has moved into kurash because of its similarities to other martial arts.

"In terms of throws and grips, there are many similarities between wrestling, judo and kurash," Yu said. "It has helped me a lot."

Japan completed its sweep of the triathlon gold medals by winning the mixed relay on Monday.

Kenji Nener won the men's gold on Friday and Yuko Takahashi added the women's title on Saturday. Both ran on Monday in the winning team event, which saw China take the silver and Hong Kong the bronze. "It was tough," Takahashi said.

## Al-Hilal face Nasaji in high-stake Asian CL clash

TEHRAN, Oct 2: Al-Hilal Saudi Arabia face a formidable challenge as they take on Nasaji Mazandaran, their Iranian opponents, at Azadi Stadium in the second round of the AFC Champions League's fourth group stage.

Nassaji currently lead the group standings with 3 points, while Al-Hilal and Navbahkor have only managed to secure 1 point each. Meanwhile, Mumbai City are yet to score any points in the group.

Despite the significant disparities favoring Al-Hilal, relying solely on these advantages may prove costly,

particularly considering the challenging playing conditions on Iranian stadium surfaces.

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Al-Hilal fought hard to earn a point in the first round, playing at home in front of their fans against Uzbekistan's Navbahkor. However, the team displayed improved technical prowess in their recent domestic league match against Al-Shabab Saudi Arabia, where they secured a 2-0 victory.

Al-Fayhaa, on the other hand, will utilize the home advantage and the support of their fans as they attempt to rectify their course in clash against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor. In the first round, they suffered a defeat to Turkmenistan's team (0-1).

In the first group, Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates lead with 3 points, having secured a convincing victory over Pakhtakor in the opening round (3-0). They currently hold the top spot, ahead of Al Turkmani based on goal difference.

Esports wrapped up Monday as one of the most talked about events at the Asian Games.

Going into bronze- and gold-medal games, China led the medal table with three gold and four overall. South Korea had two gold and also four overall.

Thailand was the only other nation with gold and also had four overall. Tawian had four overall but failed to win gold. Malaysia won the bronze on Monday in Dota 2, defeating Kyrgyzstan 2-0. China played Mongolia for the gold medal.

## Kuwait &amp; Al-Wahdat set for pivotal clash

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Al-Kuwait Club welcome Jordan's Al-Wahdat in a highly anticipated showdown at 7 PM in the second round of the AFC Cup competition's second group stage. Simultaneously, another thrilling match in the same group is set to unfold between Iraq's Al-Kahraba and Syria's Al-Ahly Aleppo at 9 PM.

While "Al-Abyad" have been flourishing on the domestic front, leading the Zain Premier League with an impressive 9 points after three rounds, their journey in the AFC Cup started with a modest goalless draw against Al-Kahraba. Consequently, they are eager to secure a win to boost their chances of securing a direct qualification ticket to the second round.

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Their Serbian coach, Boris Bunjak, acknowledged the challenge posed by a formidable Al-Wahdat side, a strong contenders in the group. However, he places his faith in a group of experienced and talented players, including Tunisians Yassin Al-Khanisi and Yassin Amri, as well as Bahrainis Muhammad Marhoon, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Faisal Zayed, Ali Hussein, Muhammad Dahham, Fahd Al-Hajri, and Ahmed Al-Zenki.

Unfortunately, Al-Kuwait will be without the services of the injured Mahdi Barahma and Ibrahim Kamil, but Amr Abdel Fattah is ready to contribute after recovering from his recent injury setback.

On the opposing side, Al-Wahdat aim to maintain their upward trajectory in the tournament and compete for their first continental title. Having secured a convincing 2-0 victory against Al-Ahly Aleppo in the first round, they look to solidify their position atop the group standings.

Coached by Omani Rashid Jaber, Al-Wahdat faces the challenge of missing four key players in the Jordanian squad: Angolan Eto'o, Bahaa Faisal, Fadi Al-Natour, and Muhammad Kahlani. Although Eto'o and Bahaa Faisal have recently rejoined training, they require more time to reach optimal readiness.

Despite these absences, the team boast several talented individuals capable of filling the void, including Firas Shalbaya, Arafat Al-Hajji, Daniel Afana, Anas Al-Awadat, Ahmed Samir, Youssef Abu Al-Jazar, Hassan Zahrawi, Henry, Saleh Rateb, Mahmoud Zaatara, Amer Jamous, Muhammad Abd al-Mutalib, and Malik Allan.



Winners with officials after the awarding ceremony.

## Sheikh Al-Mohammad honors Kuwait bowling champs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, President of the International and Asian Bowling Federations and the Bowling Club, proudly presided over the award ceremony for the champions of the "Kuwait Bowling" event. He expressed his immense satisfaction with the resounding success of the Kuwait International Open Bowling Championship, which served as a remarkable prelude to the forthcoming World Championship, scheduled to be hosted by Kuwait this October.

During the awards presentation, Sheikh Al-Mohammad commended the substantial positive impact that the tournament had on the development of Kuwaiti bowlers. He highlighted the

significant interaction between Kuwaiti players and their counterparts from various Asian and international backgrounds. Sheikh Al-Mohammad emphasized that this tournament, featuring over 100 male and female participants and fierce competitions, played a pivotal role in enhancing the technical and physical prowess of Kuwaiti bowlers who secured top positions in several categories. He expressed hope that this achievement would elevate their performance to an exceptional level in the upcoming tournament.

The tournament culminated with outstanding results: Swedish athlete Pontus Andersson clinched the top spot in the men's division, followed by compatriot William Svensson in second place. The women's competition

was dominated by Colombian bowlers, with Juliana Franco securing the first position and Maria Rodriguez taking second place.

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In the youth category, Kuwait showcased its bowling talent, securing the top three spots with Abdul Razzaq Muhammad in first place, Omar Al-Safran in second place, and Adel Abel in third place. In the Class A category, Kuwait's prowess was evident, as Adel Abel and Youssef Al-Mansour claimed the first and second positions, while Emirati athlete Abdullah Al-Marri secured third place.



Issa Al-Zankawi in action at Asian Games.

# Sports

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## Al-Youha stars for Kuwait with hurdles gold

Al-Muzain advances to squash quarters as handball eye final against Qatar

HANGZHOU, China, Oct 2: Yaqoub Al-Youha clinched the gold medal in the 110m hurdles at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, which is scheduled to run until October 8. His impressive victory secured Kuwait's second gold medal in the competition. Al-Youha completed the men's 110m hurdles event in just 13.41 seconds, demonstrating his exceptional athleticism.

Al-Youha's triumph followed his top finish in the qualifying race, ultimately leading to a gold medal win in the final. He faced stiff competition from Japan's Takayama, but his determination and skill prevailed. With this achievement, Kuwait has garnered a total of six diverse medals with five days remaining in the tournament.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, the President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, commended Al-Youha's remarkable performance in securing the gold medal in the 110m hurdles race at the Asian Games. This victory added to Kuwait's medal tally, which also includes two silver medals in shooting events. Sheikh Al-Nasser attributed these successes to the inspirational words and support of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, as well as the efforts of the athletes.

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Badr Abbas, the National Athletics Coach, dedicated this historic achievement to Kuwait's wise leadership and its people. He expressed immense joy in seeing Yaqoub Al-Youha crowned with the gold medal, emphasizing the fruitful collaboration between coach and athlete, dating back to Yaqoub's junior years. Abbas highlighted that Al-Youha became the first Kuwaiti athlete to secure a gold medal in the 110m hurdles race at the Asian Games, underlining the intense competition with the Japanese player that had everyone anxiously awaiting the final result.

In other events, Issa Al-Zankawi finished fifth in the discus throw competition, recording a distance of 60.13 meters. Meanwhile, Abdullah Al-Muzain from the Kuwaiti squash team advanced to the quarter-finals by defeating a Pakistani opponent with a score of 3-2. Unfortunately, Ammar Al-Tamimi was less fortunate and faced a 0-3 loss to an Indian national team player.

Badr Al-Shalabi, Ahmed Al-Shatti, and Hanan Al-Mayas concluded their participation in the individual compound arch competition at the round of 16. Additionally, Ali Al-Zaid, Abdullah Taha, Reem Al-Naqeeb, and Souad Al-Bahr concluded their participation in the individual Olympic arch competition at the 32nd round.

In handball, the first national team is set to compete against Qatar in the semi-final match of the Asian Games, aiming to secure a place in the final and earn another medal for Kuwait in the Masters category. Fans are eagerly anticipating Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri's performance in the 800m race, scheduled for 3:45 p.m. Kuwait time. Squash champion Abdullah Al-Muzain faces a challenging match against Malaysian national team player Mega New at 11 a.m., while cyclist Latifa Al-Yassin competes at 4 a.m. The national athletics team player, Amal Al-Roumi, participates in the 800-meter race qualifiers, and Nasser Bourjib is part of the climbing qualifiers.

## Kuwait defeat Qatar in Asian qualifiers for Cricket WC

DOHA, Oct 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's cricket team secured a thrilling victory on Monday against Qatar's national team, edging them out with a narrow score of 130-129 in the Asian competition hosted in Doha. This win places Kuwait in contention for the 2024 Cricket World Cup to be held in the United States.

This remarkable victory marked Kuwait's third triumph in the qualifiers, catapulting their total points to six. Prior to this pivotal match, Kuwait had clinched back-to-back victories



Gold medalist Kuwait's Yaqoub Al-Youha (left), compete with bronze medalist China's Xu Zuoyi during the men's 110-meter hurdles final at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. Inset: Al-Youha celebrates on the podium. (AP)



The Kuwaiti team crowned runners-up in the Arab Padel Championship.

## Battling Kuwait finish second in Arab Padel Championship

ABU DHABI, Oct 2: In a thrilling finale at the first edition of the Arab Padel Championship 2023 in Dubai, the Kuwaiti Padel team clinched the second-place position on . The competition concluded with the Kuwaiti national team facing off against their Egyptian counterparts.

The Kuwaiti team was crowned runner-up in the Arab Padel Championship

In an intense final match consisting of two closely contested games, the Kuwaiti team ultimately yielded to their Egyptian rivals. The first match concluded with a score of (7-6) and (6-2) in favor of the Egyptian team, while the second match saw a score of (6-2) and (6-2) again in favor of the Egyptians.

Omar Al-Zanki, President of the Kuwaiti Specialized Padel Club, shared his thoughts after the match. He praised both teams for their exceptional performances, characterized by tre-

mendous enthusiasm. Al-Zanki acknowledged that the Egyptian team displayed a superior performance, which resulted in their victory.

Al-Zanki also expressed his gratitude to all the players and the technical staff for their dedication and extensive preparations that led them to the final match. He recognized that in sports, victories and

### PADEL

losses are an inherent part of the journey.

Despite the loss in the final, Al-Zanki highlighted the Kuwaiti team's remarkable journey in the tournament. They achieved outstanding results in the group stages and overcame several strong teams to reach the final. He emphasized the team's determination to strengthen their position and achieve success in future competitions.

The winner of each match earns two valuable points, and the team with the highest accumulated points will advance to the second stage of the qualifiers, which will take place in Nepal.

Kuwait's triumphs include a closely contested match against the host team from Qatar, ending with a score of 124-123. They also secured victory against the Maldives with a score of 103-100, while falling short in a hard-fought match against Saudi Arabia with a score of 174-175.

## 3rd Higher Education Games commence on Oct 22nd

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Third Higher Education Games are set to kick off on the 22nd of this month. Organized by the Kuwait School Sports and Higher Education Federation, these games will feature a variety of competitions. Approved events for this new edition include boys' and girls' volleyball, boys' turf football, boys' and girls' basketball, men's triple basketball, boys' and girls' gymnasium activities, and boys' and girls' padel.

During the initial preparatory meeting, the committee discussed various aspects of the upcoming session. This included setting the schedule, reviewing proposals from college and university officials participating in the event. One of the proposals was to establish a commitment pledge for all participants. The meeting also addressed the changes introduced in the third edition, such



The 3rd Higher Education Games logo.

as new games, hosting arrangements by universities and colleges, conditions for the official sponsor, the for-

mation of a new Disciplinary Committee, registration procedures, and the selection of sports uniforms for the participating teams.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the School Union and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the session, emphasized the significance of the event continuing for the third consecutive year. He acknowledged the tremendous efforts put forth by the Supreme Committee members and subcommittees, as well as the unwavering support from participating colleges, universities, and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. Together, they are dedicated to ensuring the success of these competitions, recognizing their role as essential partners in the execution of the Federation's activities and events.

## VAR was supposed to cut out errors, now integrity of Premier League is in question

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 2, (AP): VAR was supposed to put an end to all of this.

The fallout from Luis Diaz's wrongly-disallowed goal in Liverpool's 2-1 loss at Tottenham on Saturday resulted in the Merseyside club issuing a statement, saying it would "explore the range of options available given the clear need for escalation and resolution."

It is not clear what those "options" are and The Associated Press has contacted Liverpool and the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL), the referees' governing body, for clarification.

But the tone of Liverpool's statement on Sunday revealed the club's frustration after Video Assistant Referee (VAR) Darren England failed to award Diaz's goal, despite replays clearly showing the forward was on-side.

The PGMOL later acknowledged the mistake was a case of "significant human error" and England and his assistant Dan Cook were stood down from further duty over the weekend.

Diaz's goal would have put Liverpool 1-0 up against Tottenham and a win would have seen Jurgen Klopp's team move to the top of the standings, above defending champions Manchester City.

"It is clear that the correct application of the laws of the game did not occur, resulting in sporting integrity being undermined," Liverpool said. "We fully accept the pressures that match officials work under but these pressures are supposed to be alleviated, not exacerbated, by the existence and implementation of VAR."

Saturday's error appears to have been one of concentration and communication.

The mistake was reportedly the result of the VAR believing Diaz's goal had been given. Upon review the verdict was to say the check was complete, meaning it was correct for the goal to stand.

But as the original on-field decision was to adjudge Diaz offside, the response of "check complete" appeared to confirm the offside decision was correct.

VAR was introduced to the Premier League at the start of the 2019-20 season after a long-standing debate over the use of video replays.

But while the technology allows officials to review incidents frame by frame on a TV monitor, the potential for human error still remains.

Last season VAR failed to rule out an Ivan Toney goal

### SOCCER

against Arsenal, which earned Brentford a 1-1 draw and cost the Gunners the chance to go seven points clear at the top.

"It wasn't human error, it was not understanding your job," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said at the time and his team ended the season five points behind Man City in second place.

Earlier this season Wolverhampton was denied a clear penalty against Manchester United when Andre Onana crashed into Sasa Kalajdzic in stoppage time at Old Trafford.

Wolverhampton manager Gary O'Neil said he received an apology from the PGMOL.

Apologies, however, do not make up for costly errors. "We will not get points for it so it doesn't help," Klopp said Saturday. "Nobody expects 100% right decisions on field, but we all thought when VAR comes in that it might make things easier."

The PGMOL said it would conduct a full review into the incident.



Klopp