

KUWAIT HALTS CELEBRATIONS, CONCERTS IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS



Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah leads Kuwait delegation to the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo on Wednesday.

FM slams Israel crimes, calls for 'global action'

Aid groups warn of worsening humanitarian crisis

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: In a significant gesture of support, the Kuwait Government has taken action by declaring the suspension of all celebratory events and concerts. This decision, outlined on the official website of the Government Communication Center, reinforces

es Kuwait's steadfast commitment to the Palestinian cause. It serves as a poignant demonstration of solidarity with the Palestinian people, who are currently bearing the brunt of a deeply distressing Israeli aggression. This move reflects Kuwait's unwavering dedication to the principles of justice and support for the oppressed.

This decision was taken in response to the calls made by a number of MPs including MP Hamdan Al-Azmi, MP Hamad Al-Obaid, and others.

Elsewhere, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reiterated strong condemnation of the inhumane practices being committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against "the brotherly people of Palestine."

Addressing the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Arab League Council on the developments of the situation in occupied Palestine on Wednesday, Sheikh Salem cited Israel's recurrent crimes and desecration of the sanctity of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque as "stark violation of the international law and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions."

"The State of Kuwait stresses the need of the international community in shouldering the responsibility of breaking the current vicious cycle of violence," Sheikh Salem said.

Urging all parties of the conflict to deescalate hostilities and exercise maximum restraint, he reminded the UNSC of its responsibility in providing international protection to the Palestinian people and putting an end to the Israeli violations.

The Kuwaiti minister underscored the need of finding a fair and durable solution to the 75-year long conflict and securing peace, stability and development for the peoples of the Middle East countries.

Noting that the fair question of Palestine is a central issue for all Arabs and Muslims, he renewed Kuwait's solidarity with brotherly people of Palestine in their struggle for retaining their legitimate rights based on the Arab peace initiative of 2002 and the relevant UN resolutions.

Cessation

In an emergency gathering convened at the Arab League's Cairo headquarters on Wednesday, Arab foreign ministers, under the leadership of Morocco, called for an immediate cessation of the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip. They also demanded the swift facilitation of humanitarian convoys to enter the besieged region.

The ministerial-level Arab League Council held an extraordinary session at the invitation of Morocco and the State of Palestine to address the escalating aggression against Gaza.

In their final statement, the ministers called for an immediate end to Israeli hostilities in the Gaza Strip and its surrounding areas. They emphasized the urgency of all parties showing restraint, highlighting the dire humanitarian and security consequences of continued escalation.

The ministers urged international action in compliance with international law to safeguard regional security and stability, emphasizing the need to prevent further cycles of violence.

The ministers strongly condemned the targeting and killing of civilians by both sides and any actions contrary to international law and humanitarian principles.

They stressed the imperative of protecting civilians in line with humanitarian values and international law and called for the release of all prisoners and detainees. Additionally, the ministers expressed their condemnation of the suffering imposed on the Palestinian people and the violations of their rights.

Furthermore, the ministers emphasized the necessity of lifting the Gaza Strip's blockade and immediate access for humanitarian aid, food, and fuel, facilitated by international organizations like the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). They also called for the reversal of Israel's decisions to halt electricity supply and water access to Gaza.

The ministers expressed their support for the resilience of the Palestinian people on their land

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Opinion

Stability needed in ministerial position

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN an official makes a mistake, he must be held accountable. Also, when he works hard and with sincerity, he must be applauded. This applies to all ministers, irrespective of whether they succeeded in their mandates or failed.

Therefore, if there is any ministerial reshuffle, as is being rumored, the successful ministers must be kept, and the failed ones must be removed. This is because the country can no longer tolerate failure. We need to avoid the instability of the ministerial position like the way it happened in the past.

Despite this, Fahad Al-Jarallah must complete his work on diversifying sources of income, increasing the national product, and having his say regarding opening the country and allowing entry for those who wish to invest. In fact, they must be granted the privileges they need, as other countries do, which have opened their doors to development projects and their doors to investors.

It is not reasonable for Kuwait to remain a single-income state and continue imposing high fees to balance the budget. This is like turning on a water tap on the ground to cool oneself.

Minister Mohammed Al-Aiban also issued a series of decisions, some of which were bold. The latest among them was a decision that allows companies and their subsidiaries to have a unified automated number only.

Nonetheless, stimulating the economic cycle requires a series of other creative measures in order to straighten the productivity cycle.

Among these measures is to provide opportunities for primary industries, granting industrialists privileges that qualify them to further reduce the import bill, relying more on the local product, putting an end to complex procedures that burden industrialists, and preventing the exploitation of judicial control for personal interests.

All of this led to obstructing a group of factories, and tampering with plots, because the most important factor in any development field is stability.

It is necessary to take into consideration a group of obstacles in the field of industry. The same applies to food security, which is controlled by the "vegetable market mafia".

If primary industries integrate with local products, there will be an important basis for enhancing food security.

In this regard, we must pay attention to the argument put forward by those who benefit from these two important elements, which is that Kuwait lacks sufficient water, due to which it cannot be wasted on agriculture. However, officials forget that there are many desalination plants in Kuwait, and increasing them could be an economic factor, similar to what many countries do.

For example, Egypt, although it is the gift of the Nile, is working on building seawater desalination plants to increase agricultural lands in new areas and provide fresh water to the population.

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NewsWatch

BERLIN: German authorities have arrested an Iraqi man accused of involvement in the killing of prisoners and the amputation of a person's hand in his homeland as a member of the Islamic State group.

The suspect, identified only as Abdel J.S. in line with German privacy rules, was arrested in the western city of Wuppertal, federal prosecutors said. He is accused of membership in a foreign terrorist organization and participation in war crimes.

Prosecutors said in a statement that he joined IS by June 2014 and in the following months participated twice in the extremist group's "draconian public punishments." In one case, they said, he was involved in the execution of at least six prisoners. In another, he is accused of providing security while the hand of an alleged thief was amputated.

He and other IS fighters also allegedly took a person prisoner and beat and kicked the captive to extract information, the German authorities said. (AP)

VIENNA: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced holding the 29th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC), next Monday in London, United Kingdom, with a high-level Ministerial panel.

The conference will be held from 16 to 21 October, bringing together prominent scientists, researchers, engineers, and other stakeholders representing both the public and private sectors to present a new IAEA publication providing authoritative information and updates on fusion energy, an IAEA statement said.

IAEA Director General Grossi is expected to present during the conference the first edition of the agency expectations on fusion energy, the statement added. (KUNA)

PATNA, India: A passenger train derailed in eastern India late Wednesday, killing four passengers and injuring dozens, a government official said on Thursday.

All 21 coaches of the North-East Express train, on its way to Assam state from New Delhi, derailed near Raghunathpur railway station in Buxar district of Bihar state, Magistrate Anshul Agarwal said. Two of them overturned and rested on their sides.

Local residents rushed to the scene and helped passengers exit the derailed coaches. Ambulances later arrived and hospitals were alerted to receive injured passengers, police officer Deepak Kumar said.

D.K. Pathak, a railroad official who was on the train when it derailed, said most injuries occurred in one of the derailed coaches.

The cause of the derailment is being investigated.

Early reports said 70 passengers were injured. (AP)



Palestinian children wounded in Israeli strikes cry outside a hospital in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. (AP)

MP urges minister to investigate map error

Costly expo participation sparks inquiry

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: MP Hassan Jawhar has called upon the relevant ministers especially the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Saad Al-Barrak to launch an investigation into the participation of Kuwait in the International Horticulture Expo 2023 held in Qatar.

The lawmaker revealed that he received information about the cost of the Kuwaiti participation ranging between KD 3 million and KD 4 million, thus making it the most expensive among the other 80 participating countries.

Jawhar said, "Even though the Doha Expo 2023 was inaugurated on October 2, 2023, the Kuwaiti booth has not yet been completed, and the members of the Kuwaiti delegation are not around."

He said he also wondered about the reason behind the absence of a Kuwaiti media team to cover the event and promote the Kuwaiti achievements.

Jawhar affirmed that this issue represents an important part of the oversight role of the parliament, indicating that he will follow up the procedures to be taken.

He revealed that he will submit parliamentary questions to the relevant ministers, adding that it may require a specific fact finding committee to be formed.

Furthermore, MP Hamdan Al-Azmi called upon the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi to open an investigation into the error committed by KUNA in citing a map drawn by the British traveller W.G. Palgrave in his book titled "Central and Eastern Arabia".

Al-Azmi explained that the map has shown one third of Kuwaiti space to be part of Saudi Arabia. This map was included in a report of KUNA on Abdullah Bay, but it has nothing to do with the defined and internationally accredited borders between Kuwait and Iraq.

In addition, MP Fayed Al-Jomhour submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and State Minister of Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula about the number of telecommunication towers in the country, and their locations.

He asked if the telecommunication companies had obtained the approvals of the relevant institutions including the Department of Radiation Protection at the Ministry of Health, and the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) to install mobile towers on the rooftops of private houses and cooperative societies.

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Day by Day

ONE who survives by deceit will die of starvation. These words are directed at the despicable thief who stole the plane and houses we entrusted to him for safekeeping, only for him to betray our trust.

The thief who pilfered the plane proceeded to sell it to his wife for a mere two dollars, and the houses were sold for a fraction of their value.

We warn the thief that forgery will not do him good. Personal accusations will only bring misfortune for you. The ill-gotten gains you devoured will metamorphose into a cancer in your intestines.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

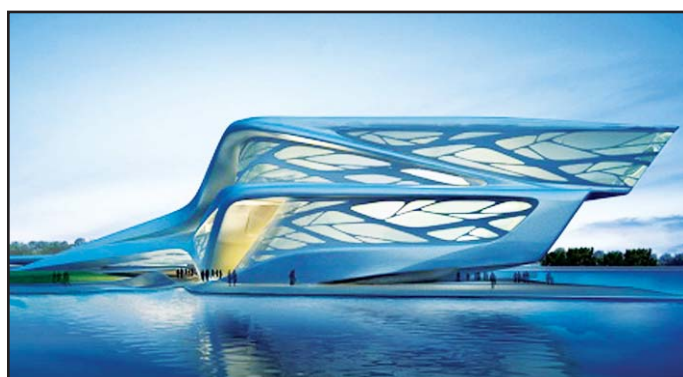


Photo shows Zaha Hadid's project of the Performing Arts Centre in Abu Dhabi. Zaha Hadid was chosen to design one of the hyper museums for the Abu Dhabi museum district on the Saadiyat Island.

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'Ring of fire' from Oregon to Brazil

Solar eclipse to slice across Americas

NEW YORK, Oct 12, (AP): Tens of millions in the Americas will have front-row seats for Saturday's rare "ring of fire" eclipse of the sun.

What's called an annular solar eclipse - better known as a ring of fire - will briefly dim the skies over parts of the western U.S. and Central and South America.

As the moon lines up precisely between Earth and the sun, it will blot out all but the sun's outer rim. A bright, blazing border will appear around the moon for as much as five

minutes, wowing skygazers along a narrow path stretching from Oregon to Brazil.

The celestial showstopper will yield a partial eclipse across the rest of the Western Hemisphere.

It's a prelude to the total solar eclipse that will sweep across Mexico, the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada, in six months. Unlike Saturday, when the moon is too far from Earth to completely cover the sun from our perspective, the moon will be at the perfect distance on April 8, 2024.



SPECIAL REPORT



Zaha Hadid, Project of the Performing Arts Centre in Abu Dhabi.

From mathematics to masterpieces

By Andrea Lauria

In today's article I will tell you about one of my favorite archi stars, the most famous female archi star of the 21st century, Zaha Hadid. Dame Zaha Mohammad Hadid (Baghdad, 1950 – Miami, 2016) was an Iraqi-British architect, artist and designer, recognized as a major figure in architecture of the late-20th and early-21st centuries.

Zaha Hadid was born in 1950 in Baghdad, Iraq, to an upper-class Iraqi family. In the 1960s, Hadid attended boarding schools in England and Switzerland and after that she studied mathematics at the American University of Beirut before moving, in 1972, to London to study at the Architectural Association School of Architecture.

She was the first woman to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize, in 2004, besides receiving also the UK's most prestigious architectural award, the Stirling Prize, in 2010 and 2011. In 2012, she was made a Dame by Elizabeth II for services to architecture, and in February 2016, the month preceding her death, she became the first woman to be individually awarded the Royal Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects.

With the project for the MAXXI (the name comes from Italian: Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo, "national museum of 21st-century arts") in Rome Zaha Hadid won the Stirling Prize of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2010.

The MAXXI, a museum dedicated to the contemporary art and architecture of the 21st century, is a perfect example of a hyper-museum, a phenomenon that does not significantly affect Italy, where there is still the tendency to re-use pre-existing buildings or old buildings that are redeveloped and adapted as museums.

In Italy hyper-museums are rare but, although they are few in number, they are all valuable works. Examples are MART in Rovereto designed by Mario Botta and opened in 2002, Zaha Hadid's MAXXI in Rome opened in 2010 and MUSE in Trento designed by Renzo Piano in 2013.

MAXXI (Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo - National Museum of 21st Century Art) designed by architect Zaha Hadid is a museum center dedicated to the arts of the 21st century, divided into two sections: MAXXI art and MAXXI architecture. The museum also has an architecture archive, an auditorium, a library and a documentation center.

MAXXI is managed by the MAXXI Foundation of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities.



Prof. Andrea Lauria is an Italian museologist graduated from Rome's Academy of Fine Arts. He also holds a History of Art degree from University di Roma Tre in Rome. Andrea Lauria lectures a Masters course in museology at Rome's Universities Tor Vergata and American Temple University (Rome Campus). In 2020 he has become a published author of the book: "From the Renaissance studiolo to the contemporary museum" which is also his course manual. Lauria's field of research is the phenomenon of hyper-museums with special attention to the Arabian countries in comparison with the western world.

MAXXI presents itself as an open, barrier-free space where the museum's interiors and exteriors intertwine on several levels in a continuous, dynamic system, with no real pre-established museum itinerary. The visitor can navigate the spaces freely, without any division between the museum's interiors and exteriors.

With its spectacular and imposing volumes and the formal and aesthetic choices which aim to amaze the viewer MAXXI is - like other hyper-museums - also the collection's principal work of art. Zaha Hadid also proved herself up to the task, creating a building with highly regarded, sophisticated forms that looks more like a design object than a building. As well as an architect, Zaha Hadid was also a successful designer, as can be seen not only in MAXXI but in many of her other architectural creations.

MAXXI is made up of a combination of overhanging, complex, structured volumes at various heights, with curvilinear walls that diverge and inter-weave with each other. These create a building that, even though it is enormous, maintains an appearance that is harmonious and elegant and with its composite volumes that protrude and are never the same, it appears not to have facade or a main side, inviting the visitor to go around them.

Like many hyper-museums, MAXXI resembles a sculpture more than a building; a sculpture that deserves to be studied up close by walking the entire perimeter in order to discover its features and details.

In contrast to the sophisticated formal choices of the architecture, the sur-face of the walls of the building has been specifically left as exposed concrete. Likewise, the horizontal surfaces and the roof blades which are entirely covered in Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete, and most of the finishes (exposed surfaces, floors and furnishings) have been left exposed.

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Star architect redefines
 Dame Zaha Mohammad Hadid **modern** design



editor's choice



Zaha Hadid, The Heydar Aliyev Center, 2012, Baku, Azerbaijan.



Zaha Hadid, MAXXI, 2010, Rome, Italy.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:28	Asr	14:53
Sunrise ..	05:47	Maghrib ..	17:22
Zohr	11:35	Isha	18:38

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather

with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h.
Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 40 30
 Kuwait Airport 42 24

Abdaly	42	27
Jahra	43	28
Salmiyah	36	30
Ahmadi	36	30
Nuwaisib	40	22
Wafra	43	25

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

Furore over top job appointments

'Incompetent people to further deteriorate MoH status'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The health sources said "there is dissatisfaction within the Ministry of Health (MoH), as a number of medical and administrative staff expressed their surprise about the minister's choices for leadership and supervisory positions, considering that the ministry did not take into account the standards of competence, differentiation, technical performance, and administrative experience, and were tainted by political interests and satisfaction of representatives in the National Assembly."

The sources stressed "supporting the policies and intentions of the government that seeks to rebuild and develop the health sector without any doubt," noting "the necessity of adopting the thought of health governance and strategic planning and applying international standards to select competencies that are actually capable of dealing with current crisis management and choosing those with a future and reform vision who are familiar with the administrative and technical work."

The sources called on the government to "reconsider and be patient in approving senior appointments to avoid consequences, especially since the current general situation in the Ministry of Health is not healthy and cannot accept compromises," stressing "the necessity for the Ministry of Health in particular to keep away parliamentary appeasement and paying the bill for political stability. The health and lives of patients are above all these considerations, and the health condition should not be subject to experiments."

The sources told Al-Rai daily that "parliamentary circles expressed their intention to grill the Minister of Health, after seeing the observations made by the Audit Bureau and reports of financial and administrative transgressions, including the cost of treatment abroad over the past months, unnecessary appointments of expatriates, the shortage of medicines, and the appointments of senior positions

'Subsidies for deserving only': In a move to ease the financial burden on the state budget, informed sources revealed the government will set a trend to legalize subsidies, such as social assistance, electricity, water, and supplies, to the eligible citizens only.

The sources told Al-Seyassah that the government is considering establishing a social safety net similar to some Gulf experiences, pointing out that officials from government agencies have seen the role it plays in terms of delivering subsidies to eligible people with limited income.

The sources explained that under the new mechanism, there will be an account for every citizen showing his income, revenues, and property, in addition to ensuring that there are no commercial licenses or companies, and then the possibility of him benefiting from the support will be examined, noting that employees can benefit from the support.

The same sources pointed out that the social safety network will be under the management of the Ministry of Social Affairs with the participation of several government agencies, including the Ministries of Electricity, Water, Trade, Industry, Justice, Finance, and the General Secretariat for Planning.

According to the sources, a protocol will be signed with the World Bank, the Ministry of Finance, and a number of government agencies to begin implementing the project in 2025 or 2026 at the latest, adding that the World Bank will set the road map for the new project.

'Daytime hot, cooler night over weekend'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Weather in Kuwait will be 'tolerably hot' over the weekend amid relative humidity prevailing across coastal regions, with moderate temperature at night, the meteorology department reported on Thursday.

The department director, Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, said in a statement that the low depression would continue to taper off, coupled with hot air blows, along with unsteady southeasterly winds.

The heat today will hit the 41 degrees level and tomorrow will peak to 39-42 degrees, as well as on Saturday, but at nighttime it will drop to the 28-22 degrees range.

Registration begins for 'Imams' and 'muezzins'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' Technical Affairs Department announced the start of the registration process for applicants of the written test for the positions of Imam and muezzin (Kuwaitis only) starting from Sunday until Thursday, November 16, or until the required number is met, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Director of the Technical Affairs Department Dr. Bader Aba Dhira'a affirmed the keenness of the ministry to select qualified and distinguished people who have memorized Quran, have a "pure" voice, and have knowledge of Sharia sciences, in accordance with the controls set by the Committee for Testing and Selection of Religious Job Holders in the ministry, in order to work in these important jobs that serve society.

Dr. Aba Dhira'a explained that the ministry is keen to attract national cadres to work in mosques after they apply for religious positions and pass the prescribed tests.

The date of the written test will be November 19, and the following conditions apply: It is necessary to obtain a Sharia university qualification or above and memorize five parts of the Quran, including Juz' Amma (30th part), or obtain a non-Shari'a university qualification and memorize ten parts of the Qur'an, including Juz' Amma, or obtain a high school diploma from the Religious Institute qualifications and memorize the entire Quran, in addition to mastering the rules of recitation.

The applicant must be at least 21 years old and must pass the written test and oral interview.



KUNA photo

The Kuwait Winter Wonderland entertainment park.

Winter Wonderland opens Oct 15

Chief Executive Officer of the Touristic Projects Company Fadel A-Dousari announced on Thursday that the Winter Wonderland entertainment park will open to the public on Sunday, October 15, and will be ready to accommodate 15,000 visitors per day.

Al-Dousari speaking at a news conference declared that the first season was quite successful, as the number of visitors to the park had exceeded 600,000 within four months.

The project will proceed in the coming years with the goal to entertain more than three million people per year. (KUNA)

until the end of the school day. The bus driver, responsible for taking him home to the Sabahiya area, was surprised by his disappearance and promptly notified the school administration.

The uncle went on to say, "The Minister of Education, senior ministry officials, and the security personnel reassured us. Their involvement contributed to a heightened state of alertness, expediting the discovery of the student (around six o'clock in the evening)."

"We are grateful that he is in good health and extend our gratitude to everyone who played a role in searching for him and expressing concern."

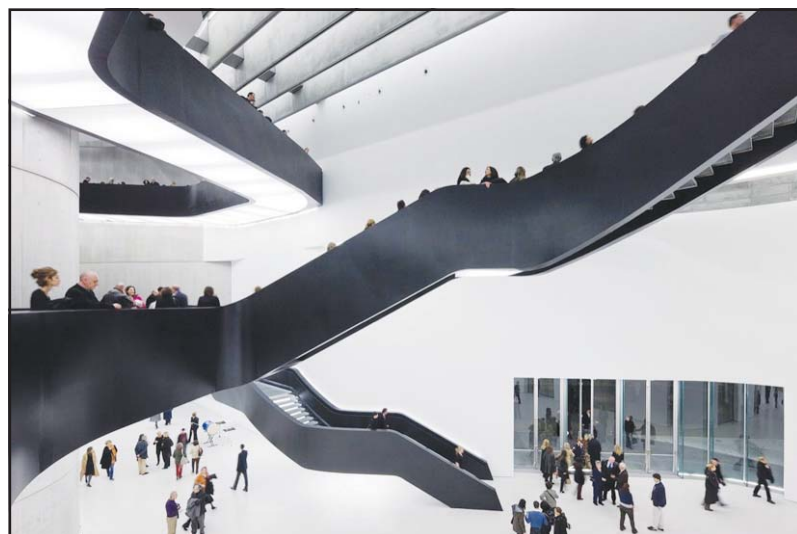
No one was aware of his whereabouts

Lost 'special needs' teen located

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The search efforts for the special education student, whose absence for nine hours raised concerns and triggered a security and educational alert, concluded with the finding of the student in good health at Al-Qadisiyah Sports Club, reports Al-Rai daily.

The student's uncle informed Al-Rai that his 16-year-old nephew, who has special needs and attends the eleventh grade at Al Raja Private High School in the Hawalli area, went missing during the second period (approximately at nine o'clock in the morning).

No one was aware of his whereabouts



Zaha Hadid, MAXXI, atrium and intersecting black iron stairs, 2010, Rome, Italy.

Starchitect

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Inside the building, a large atrium houses the reception services, the cafeteria and the bookshop, as well as the access to the auditorium and galleries devoted to the permanent collections and exhibitions. MAXXI's atrium is striking not only due to its height but also the intersecting black iron stairs and walkways that stand out in contrast to the museum's white interiors.

Zaha Hadid's style is noted for its distinctive architecture and flowing, curved style that eschews sharp angles as we can see in on of her last projects realized when she was still alive, the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, Azerbaijan completed in 2012. The center is named after Heydar Aliyev (1923-2003), the first secretary of Soviet Azerbaijan from 1969 to 1982, and president of Azerbaijan Republic from October 1993 to October 2003.

The project is intended to play an integral role in the intellectual life of the city. Located close to the city center, the site plays a pivotal role in the redevelopment of Baku.

This incredible building in Baku, 57,500 m² (619,000 sq ft), has fluid form has become a signature landmark of modern Baku due to its innovative and cutting-edge design. Its form emerges by the folding of the landscape's natural topography that gives a chance to connect the various cultural spaces whilst at the same time, providing each element of the Center with its own identity and privacy.

As it folds inside, the skin erodes away to become an element of the interior landscape of the Center. All functions of the Center, together with entrances, are represented by folds in a single continuous surface.

Zaha Hadid was not only a great artist and architect but she was also able to create building or museums which, due to their beauty, have a strong impact on the territory becoming significant landmarks.

It is therefore not surprising that also Zaha Hadid was chosen to design one of the hyper museums for the Abu Dhabi museum district on the Saadiyat Island.

The first museum to be inaugurated on the Saadiyat Island was the Louvre Abu Dhabi, but it is just the first one of an ambitious cultural project in Abu Dhabi, where there are plans to create several spectacular museums on Saadiyat Island. The project includes the Sheikh il Zayed National Museum, which is still under construction and is dedicated to the history of the country, and especially to Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

This museum was entrusted to another famous architect, Britain's Norman Foster. The other planned museums are the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi designed by Frank Gehry, which will be the largest Guggenheim of the world, exhibiting contemporary works together with masterpieces from the Guggenheim Foundation. The other museums which are still under development are the Performing Arts Centre designed by Zaha Hadid and the Maritime Museum by Tadao Ando.

The Hadid's Performing Arts Centre will be a building "with sculptural geometry that emerges from a linear intersection of pedestrian paths within the cultural district, and gradually grows, transforming into an imposing organism that develops a network of ramifications.

As soon as it insinuates itself into the site, the architecture becomes increasingly complex, increasing height and depth, giving shape to multiple peaks that host spaces for performances, spaces that emerge from the structure like fruit on a climbing plant and overlook the west side, towards the water." This is how the Anglo-Iraqi architect describes her project for the Abu Dhabi Performing Arts Centre.



KUNA photo

The Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Chairman of the British Parliamentary Working Group for Relations with the State of Kuwait, Rehman Chishti.

Deputy FM hosts top UK legislator

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday received the head of the parliamentary group in the British House of Commons with the State of Kuwait, Rehman Chishti. The Deputy For-

eign Minister held a luncheon in honor of the guest. It was attended by members of the Kuwaiti-British Friendship society, senior officials of the ministry of foreign affairs and the UK ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis. (KUNA)

Minister opens PAFN's new lab

'Public, private sectors partners'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed that the progression of penalties for the private medical sector is not the responsibility of the ministry, but rather follows the Medical Liability Agency and the independent and impartial specialized committees that are affiliated with many sectors in the country, including the Ministry of Justice, Kuwait University, the Faculty of Medicine, and other bodies.

Penalties

In response to a question about studying the gradation of penalties for the private medical sector, from Al-Seyassah during a press conference held yesterday morning to celebrate the initial and partial operation of the Food Inspection Laboratory of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), the minister said, despite his presidency of the Medical Liability Authority, it is an independent body like PAFN.

He stressed that its working mechanism is clear, and it works in accordance with the laws and decrees in force in Kuwait, due to which the Ministry of Health does not interfere with the sanctions and has no role in that aspect.

Regarding the work controls in the private medical sector and the decisions taken by the Ministry of Health in this regard, Dr. Al-Awadhi said, "We are not against the private sector, but rather partners with it. However, we are in favor of organizing work to preserve the health of the people."

The medical responsibility apparatus exists according to a law that was voted on. We refer to it for all violations and complaints that we receive, whether they are related to the Ministry of Health or the private sector, from various workers in the medical body from doctors, technicians, health professionals, and others.

The Medical Liability Agency is the body entrusted with investigating all complaints and reports, and it is the one that takes measures in accordance with regulations and laws.

The results of the investigations may conclude that there are no serious violations that do not exceed a warning, and there may be greater violations than that, and the Medical Liability Authority is the one who determines that."

Dr. Al-Awadhi praised the cooperation between government institutions represented by the Ministry of Health and the private medical sector, stressing that it is important and in line with the state's vision in the development plan (2035).

He highlighted the cooperation between the public and private sectors, explaining that, "From the time I took over work in the ministry almost a year ago, I have undertaken the responsibility and strived to renew and introduce ministerial decisions and protocols regulating work

in the private sector in order to make it as easy as possible for large institutions such as hospitals and health centers or small entities such as private clinics and dispensaries. I have also set standards to facilitate procedures by managing medical licenses and seeking to implement the electronic file instead of manual work."

Regarding the discussions held by the Ministry of Health delegation with the Board of Directors of the University Health Network in Toronto, Canada, Dr. Al-Awadhi said, "The delegation made multiple elaborate visits to some Canadian government institutions", highlighting the past cooperation over the years between the Ministry of Health and some Canadian and even British health institutions, such as Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Regarding the food testing laboratory, Dr. Al-Awadhi expressed his happiness with its operation.

He explained that the laboratory has begun its current phase by examining vegetables, fruits, and eggs as an initial operational phase. It is working 24 hours a day. In the near future, samples of meat, fish, and dairy will be examined until the system for examining foods is completed before they are traded in the local market, and ensuring their suitability for human use. The laboratory is among the largest laboratories in the area among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

He expressed appreciation for the efforts of the laboratory workers, and called for further expansion and rapid completion in light of quality assurance.

Cooperation

In addition, Director of PAFN Dr. Reem Al-Fulajj applauded the cooperation between the laboratory administration, the imported food administration, and the inspection departments in all governorates.

She said the laboratory includes 32 laboratories divided between chemistry and microbiology so that vegetables and fruits are examined by microbiology section, and meat separately in a manner that each laboratory is completely isolated from the other.

Dr. Al-Fulajj said, "The matter that is a source of pride is that the laboratory workers are young Kuwaiti talents with high qualifications", adding that the laboratory was received from the Kuwait Municipality and is gradually being operated according to the availability of equipment.

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Company joins panel at National Leadership Institute's Breaking Barriers conference

Zain drives change through digitization, empowering women leaders and DE&I

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Zain has recently joined the National Leadership Institute (NLI)'s Breaking Barriers conference, which featured a group of inspiring speakers and notable experts from local, regional, and international levels, covering key topics like digital transformation, emerging technologies, and diversity & inclusion. The company sponsored the event, which came under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Finance Fahad Aljarallah.

The conference's opening ceremony was attended by the representative of the event's patron, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Al Munaifi, as well as Zain Kuwait Chief Enterprise and Business Officer Hamad Al Marzouq, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, General Manager of National Leaders Company Mohammad Al Khulaifi, and many executives and officials from the public and private sectors.

Innovation

Zain's participation in this distinguished event stemmed from its strong belief in the key role such insightful gatherings play in promoting innovation and the growth of people in the community. And so, the company was keen on being among the first to support NLI and its mission since its first conference back in 2021.

Zain joined one of the event's main panels, where Zain Group Diversity & Inclusion Senior Manager Aysha Al Mudhaf shared some of the company's most notable insights, initiatives, and achievements in the topics discussed by the conference. The event's core themes were well-aligned with Zain's own corporate goals, like the impact of digital transformation and emerging technologies on the economy, women in leadership, and diversity & inclusion in



General Manager of National Leaders Company, Mohammad Al Khulaifi honors Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti in recognition of Zain's support.



Zain Group Diversity & Inclusion Senior Manager Aysha Al Mudhaf speaking at the panel discussion.



Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Al Munaifi, Zain Kuwait Chief Enterprise and Business Officer, Hamad Al Marzouq and top executives during the event.

the workplace.

Today, Zain continues to enjoy the leadership position in the local market. This is true thanks to the company's long-term strategic vision and early investment in digital transformation applications, were it empowered tens of state-level institutions to push forward their digital journeys, helping them bring better services and keep up with the fast-paced world of

technology.

In addition, Zain, being a national company, is part of Kuwait's wider Women Empowerment strategy, and the company takes special pride in reflecting the mature stage it has reached and the steps it has taken to translate its vision into objectives and achievements to empower more women in top executive management roles.

Zain is also proud of the fact that it is the first digital service provider and telecom operator in MENA to establish a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) department, where the company launches several awareness programs and initiatives and adopts new workplace policies to serve its strategic goals to become one of the most inclusive workplaces in the region.

The Breaking Barriers conference is the

third annual event from the National Leadership Institute and has offered guests invaluable opportunities to attend keynotes, panel discussions, and workshops facilitated by a unique set of notable speakers, experts, and specialists in entrepreneurship, business, innovation, and technology.

This year's conference had a diverse set of international and local speakers. Among them was Tom Bilyeu, co-founder of Quest Nutrition; Jo Malone, a successful entrepreneur who turned a small venture into a globally recognized brand; Calum Chace, a specialist in artificial intelligence; Daniel Hulme, a leading expert in AI, emerging technologies, and the Metaverse; Sara Sabry, the first female Arab astronaut; and Graeme Coddington, who specializes in the Future of Work, and much more.

The National Leadership Institute (NLI) is an institute fully owned by the National Company for Educational Services and Training (NEST), a subsidiary of the National Technology Enterprises Company (NTEC). The NLI Conference Series was launched in 2021 to offer organizations in Kuwait an innovative training solution. In 2022 the conference was attended by over 1,100 participants from various international and local industries and corporations.

By supporting this conference, Zain aspires to reflect its growing commitment to pursue its corporate sustainability strategy and serve the community's most vibrant sectors, including entrepreneurship, innovation, and youth. The company is keen on empowering intellectual growth by actively participating in academic forums and gatherings that bring about rich experiences and allow a constructive exchange of information for entrepreneurs, leaders, and community members.



KUNA photo Fahad Al-Ajmi, Second Secretary of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the UN.

Kuwait advocates 'multilateral approach' for global disarmament at UN General Assembly

Geopolitical changes a threat to international peace and security: Al-Ajmi

NEW YORK, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwait said that multilateral action is the best way to address the challenges related to disarmament and non-proliferation and to enhance international cooperation under the umbrella of the

UN and multiple disarmament mechanisms.

This came in Kuwait's speech delivered by the Second Secretary Fahad Al-Ajmi of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the UN Wednesday evening, before the UN General Assembly First Committee concerned with disarmament and international security.

The ideal common goal of complete disarmament is the human aspiration to achieve true peace and security as well as remove the danger of war, Al-Ajmi underscored.

He pointed to the many challenges and geopolitical changes that have begun to become a threat to international peace and security, saying that an alarming pace of the arms race is witnessed, the consequences of which will extend to all parts of the earth.

They are concerned about any failure to comply with agreed-upon obligations and the deliberate and continuous ignoring of the international community's repeated appeals calling for the implementation of global treaties and multiple agreements in this field, most notably the treaties on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the ban on nuclear tests, he said.

Nuclear weapons

The only way and best path to ensure that nuclear weapons are not used again is to get rid of them completely, he added, while expressing Kuwait's welcome of any progress made in the field of disarmament.

He called on member states to combine efforts, not to politicize the process, and to work hard on the challenges faced in an effort to find common solutions that will reach a final document during the 11th NPT Review Conference.

He highlighted Kuwait's successful experience in assuming the presidency of the second session of the conference entitled "Establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East," through which they adopted the rules of procedure of the conference and established an informal working committee concerned with continuing consultations between the formal sessions of the conference.

The UN's efforts in disarmament have been continuing since 1946, however progress in this field is minimal, he stated, stressing simultaneously with combined efforts, cooperation, and joint work, they can achieve progress in this regard.



KUNA photo Fatema Al-Mezayad, Kuwait's diplomatic attaché to the United Nations.

'World free of poverty'

Kuwait calls for global unity to fight poverty

NEW YORK, Oct 12, (KUNA): Kuwait called on the international community to combine efforts and enhance joint action to address poverty in light of the challenges the world is witnessing in global food and economic crises.

This came in Kuwait's speech delivered by diplomatic attaché Fatema Al-Mezayad of Kuwait permanent delegation to the United Nations, Wednesday evening, before the General Assembly Second Committee.

Kuwait has made great efforts to eradicate poverty, by providing government support based on justice aimed at enhancing social cohesion and focusing in particular on reaching all those in need in all segments of society, she said.

The country's constitution, emphasized social solidarity and guaranteed the right of wellbeing for all, which made the country keen to play an effective role in the field of social care and protection, Al-Mezayad added. In this regard, Al-Mezayad brought up the work of Kuwait Ministry of Social Affairs, as it is the body responsible in ensuring social care and development within the national program to reduce poverty, which includes providing grants and monthly social assistance, which reflects the country's efforts to achieve "a world free of poverty."

Stability needed

Continued from Page 1

When there is a will for change and reform, officials work to perform miracles. However, when the minister, the prime minister, or the parliamentarians are all concerned with appearing in front of the cameras and buying praise, then the state, no matter how strong it is, will fall into the swamp of failure.

What Kuwait lacks is will and determination as well as integration between ministries. This is because the main concern is the seat, not the person who sits on it. Irrespective of whether or not he is qualified to manage a ministry, it clearly seems that there is no conviction that managing countries is different from managing grocery stores.

There are ministers who proved their ability to reform, while others failed and caused many losses to Kuwait. This means that there are capable national leaders, but they need the opportunity. Am I the only one who realizes this fact?

Costly expo

Continued from Page 1

Al-Jomhour said he wanted copies of the issued licenses in this regard, as well as the list of mobile towers that were installed without obtaining the relevant licenses.

He asked about the procedures taken by Kuwait Municipality against the violating companies for exposing citizens' health to danger.

Al-Jomhour also asked if there are specif-

ic inspection teams assigned to find the violations and if yes, he wanted copies of their reports on the telecommunications towers.

The lawmaker wanted to know if any decisions have been issued by the Council of Ministers to follow up the violations of telecommunication companies; if yes, he wanted a copy of those decisions.

FM slams

Continued from Page 1

and warned against any attempts to displace them or exacerbate the refugee issue.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken vowed American support to Israel on Thursday as its military pulverized the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip with airstrikes and prepared for a possible ground invasion. As Palestinians tried to stock up on bread and groceries amid dwindling supplies, Israel said nothing would be allowed into Gaza until around 150 hostages taken captive by Hamas during a weekend attack are freed.

International aid groups warned of worsening humanitarian crisis after Israel stopped all deliveries of food, water, fuel and electricity to the tiny enclave of 2.3 million people and prevented entry of supplies from Egypt. The war has already claimed at least 2,700 lives on both sides.

"Not a single electricity switch will be flipped on, not a single faucet will be turned on, and not a single fuel truck will enter until the Israeli hostages are returned home," Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz said on social media.

Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesman, told reporters Thursday that forces "are preparing for a ground maneuver" should political leaders order one.

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Independence Days' greetings

HH Amir congratulates Spanish King and E. Guinea president

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Thursday a cable of congratulations to Spain's King Felipe VI on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. In the cable, His Highness the Amir

wished him everlasting health and further progress and prosperity for his country.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to King Felipe VI on the occasion of his country's Inde-

pendence Day wishing him good health and wellness.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to King Felipe VI on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent Thursday a cable of congratulations to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. In the cable, His High-

ness the Amir wished him everlasting health and further progress and prosperity for his country.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad also sent a cable of congratulations to the President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on the occasion of his

country's Independence Day wishing him good health and wellness.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf sent a cable of congratulations to President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on the occasion of his country's Independence Day.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Action vital, not just slogans for reforms'

"THE philosophy underpinning reform is built upon several fundamental considerations: desire, necessity, motivation, and impetus for initiating reform processes across all levels. These factors should be ingrained in the consciousness of anyone assuming a leadership role in an organization, institution, apparatus, or political system worldwide. There must be a deep-seated conviction regarding the vital and unavoidable significance of these considerations for both leadership and the team responsible for executing reform plans. This perspective should view reform as an imperative rather than a luxury or mere pursuit of perfection," columnist Dr. Abdullah Saud Al-Otaibi wrote for Al-Jarida daily.



Dr. Al-Otaibi

"These considerations can be succinctly summarized as follows -- the path to reform is riddled with obstacles and challenges that demand removal and overcoming, even if it comes at a high cost. The presence of obstacles incurs greater costs and harm than the price of overcoming them.

"Placing the public interest above all other interests, regardless of their influence and power -- leadership in reform should be held by those committed to public interests rather than by those prioritizing personal gains at the expense of the public, the institution, or the state. The opposite perspective breeds corruption, profiteering, and loss.

"Ensuring that the reform and development process is not exploited for personal gain -- funds allocated for advancing development, construction, and reform projects should be devoid of kickbacks, earnings, or personal benefits. Any saved funds should return to the treasury, to be utilized for further development and enhancement, rather than being diverted to commissions, intermediaries, or influential individuals.

"Enforcing robust legislation and imposing stringent penalties against anyone involved in embezzlement of public funds, engaging in suspicious profiteering, straying from the path of integrity, honesty, and probity, or leveraging influence and power for self-enrichment or the enrichment of others.

"By prioritizing individuals with competencies, creativity, ingenuity, and effective decision-making skills and utilizing their expertise and assigning them leadership roles within institutions, bodies, and ministries according to their capacities.

"By encouraging them to present their plans, aspirations, and programs conducive to achieving reform, monitoring progress, fostering an atmosphere of competition and challenge, offering material and moral incentives, commending achievements, and establishing a rigorous competitive system that showcases abilities and skills for assuming leadership positions.

"These considerations and principles define the roadmap for reform, emphasizing that no reform process can materialize without a profound conviction in its significance and the imperative to implement it."

Also:

"Education must maintain a neutral stance, devoid of influences from partisan conflicts, particularly those driven by ideological orientations and narrow intellectual fanaticism. Such ideologies often breed followers who believe in their infallibility while viewing others as misguided. Loyalty for them lies with their ideological party and its leaders. They commit to serving this ideology unconditionally, following orders without question and utilizing any means necessary to achieve their party's goals, believing that the end justifies the means," columnist Dr. Abdul Mohsen Hamada wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Entrusting education to individuals steeped in this opportunistic mindset and elevated to leadership positions poses a

significant danger. Education is a national endeavor, and a primary objective is to instill in individuals a love for their country and loyalty to it above all else. To accomplish this, it's vital to study the history of the nation and its founding, understanding the trials and tribulations faced by the forebears, encouraging future generations to cherish and respect that historical period.

"However, should education be led by individuals subscribing to this ideology, they might swiftly transform the educational process into a tool to serve their objectives. They may manipulate scholarship and promotion committees, controlling appointments in higher education, favoring those aligned with their ideology.

"In public education, they may dominate curricula, educational planning, and school administration. This could shift education from a national initiative serving the state's objectives to partisan propaganda, ultimately resulting in a decline in the quality of education.

"Various Arab and Gulf countries have recognized the peril posed by this group to the state and have expelled them. For instance, in Egypt before Abdel Nasser's revolution, certain Egyptian parties were alarmed by this group's aspirations for control and dominance.

"They responded by raising a slogan, 'Religion is for God, and the homeland is for all,' advocating for the separation of religious beliefs from citizenship rights and duties.

"In contrast, this group insisted that 'Religion is for God, and the homeland is for God,' asserting their divine mandate to wield power and implement religious dictates.

"Egypt eventually curtailed their activities, recognizing their danger and confiscating their assets due to their violent actions, including assassinations and bombings.

"Across Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia, this group faced expulsion due to perceived threats. Kuwait, however, offered significant support to this group, with some believing they played a role in elevating specific individuals to positions of power."

"Maritime navigation is the dominant means of international trade activity. It is considered an essential contributor to the economies of countries because of its contribution to supporting the development of global trade exchange and linking countries economically in a smooth way that is directly reflected in the size of the national income of those countries in terms of the direct and indirect industries associated with maritime shipping operations, in addition to the possibility of establishing economic and logistical zones near those seaports to enhance the tourism and commercial sector, with the aim of obtaining sustainable income", columnist Tahani Al-Thufairi wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"Here lies the importance of exploiting Khor Abdullah as a vital channel in international trade by developing its infrastructure and increasing its operational efficiency to accommodate many large marine tankers and transforming it into a navigational attraction point linking the Asian market with the African and European markets. This can happen by executing a project to establish a waterway linking Khor Abdullah with the Kuwaiti islands of Warba and Boubyan to the port of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is witnessing the development of coastal areas with global economic destinations, thus achieving great economic benefits locally.

"The project includes creating infrastructure for energy transmission and the construction of railway lines to facilitate and secure commercial transportation operations. This is what gives Khor Abdullah global diplomatic and economic importance and a strategic advantage in international relations, which reinforces the necessity to adhere to Security Council's resolution No. 833 related to the demarcation of borders internationally."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

India shares historical ties with Kuwait: Ambassador Dr Swaika

'Bilateral trade reaches \$14 bln last year'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12, (KUNA): Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Adarsh Swaika affirmed Thursday on the profitability of economic and investment opportunities between Kuwait and India which reached USD 14 billion last year.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Dr. Swaika said that the two countries enjoy traditionally friendly relations, which are rooted in history and have stood the test of time. Kuwait and India had signed more than 30 different agreements of understanding but on the economic level, it is still a "fertile venue which needs more support and continuous exploration", the ambassador added.

He noted that there are great initiatives, particularly in the Indian exports to Kuwait and a huge interest from the Kuwaiti side to diversify its interest in fields such as food, medical equipment, electrical appliances and heavy mechanical equipment and other sectors which India is "developing to produce and export to the world." Indian economy is the fifth largest economy in the world with stable growth of 6 % annually and is heading to be the third in the world according to latest reports from International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, he added.

The GCC countries, especially



KUNA photo

Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika

Unite Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are considered one of the countries that trade most with India, ranked third and fourth, respectively, Dr. Swaika said.

As to mutual investment between the two countries, the ambassador said that there is a great mutual interest to increase the pace of investment with many Indian companies which have already completed many infrastructure projects in Kuwait. Such projects include road laying projects, electricity transmission, oil supply lines, and various computer and software engineering fields that India excels at in banks and ministries, he added.

The ambassador said the embassy seeks to encourage the involvement of Indian companies in the Kuwaiti government's vision for developing

the country (2024-2040). He noted that Kuwait investment in India via Kuwait Investment Authority and a number of private Kuwaiti companies surpassed the USD five billion; centered in infrastructure, road and airport projects. He stressed on India's quest in attracting foreign investment by issuing new laws that support the increase of electronic cooperation.

Investment

The Indian embassy is keen on organizing events that shed light on investment venues one of which is the upcoming conference on technology and programing to be held in Kuwait by October 26th with the participation of 26 Indian companies. The embassy is also aiming to entice a delegation

from pharmaceuticals companies to build a direct contact with the Kuwaiti side in hopes to enhance trade in such field. As to the Indian community in Kuwait, Dr. Swaika noted that the Indian work force is highly trusted by Kuwaitis which explains the one million Indians living in Kuwait working in many fields and sectors.

On the cultural and touristic field the ambassador said that India and its 28 states provide a great destination for tourism with its great natural resources and cultural history. On the topic of India hosting the 2023 G20 New Delhi summit last September, Dr. Swaika said that the summit came out with many agreements and initiatives such as including membership of the African Union into the grouping in addition to launching the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

The ambassador thanked the Kuwaiti political leadership on their congratulations on the success of the Indian Space Research Organization which achieved many goals this year, most important of which is Indian lunar lander Chandrayaan-3 successful touch down on the lunar surface last August making India the fourth nation to successfully land on the Moon and the first to land in the south pole region. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is getting set for yet another major spaceflight endeavor: Gaganyaan a mission, which translates from Sanskrit to "celestial vehicle," will be India's attempt to launch at least three astronauts to low-Earth orbit before the end of 2024, he concluded.

Tobacco retail co shut down

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Inspectors from the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shut down a tobacco retail company and confiscated over a quarter of a ton of expired honey and sizable quantities of electronic cigarettes from its premises and storage facility that did not meet the stipulated usage standards.

Reliable sources informed Al-Rai daily that the ministry inspectors discovered within the company's stores and warehouse a total of 236 packs of electronic cigarettes in various flavors, which were being offered for sale at varying prices, despite being expired for 15 months, specifically since June 2021.

Additionally, they found 12 cartons of dates that had expired a year ago, along with another type of product that had expired 8 years ago. The combined weight of all the confiscated items amounted to approximately 273 kilograms.

The sources further revealed that it became evident that the violator was repackaging the products by using plastic containers designated for tobacco and assorted boxes of different weights within the company's warehouse, intentionally concealing the expiration date to mislead consumers.

Trade inspectors also unearthed that the violator was distributing and selling the adulterated products through the company's outlets. Subsequently, the seized quantities were confiscated, and an official report was documented against the company.



Tobacco retail store shut.

Online booking for mammogram test

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Ministry of Health launched a service for booking through the "Kuwait Health" application a mammogram test in five specialized centers - Shaikh Al-Farsi in Surra, Al-Naeem, Egailla, Zahraa, and South Khaitan.

The Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said the launch of the digital service for booking mammogram test is aimed to facilitate and encourage women to detect breast diseases at an early stage, especially those over the age of forty, as this is one of the most important strategies for prevention and for improving therapeutic results.

He explained that a woman wishing to undergo the test can enter through the "Kuwait-Seha" application, follow the instruc-

tions, and respond to inquiries regarding booking an appointment for a mammogram test. In addition, the test is scheduled to be conducted in any of the five health centers distributed in different parts of the country.

These centers are South Khaitan Health Center, Egailla Health Center, Zahraa Health Center, Naeem Health Center, and Shaikh Al-Farsi and Sharifa Al-Awadhi Center in Surra.

In this regard, Head of the National Program for Early Detection of Breast Diseases Dr. Asmaa Hussein issued a press statement on the sidelines of the National Program for Early Detection of Breast Diseases' celebration of World Breast Cancer Day, under the slogan "Your test now... means safety", in which she said the service is intended for Kuwaiti women over the age of 40 who are not pregnant or breastfeeding.

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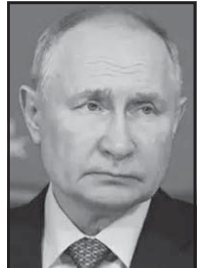
Charles to visit Kenya

Putin in Kyrgyzstan on 'rare trip' abroad

MOSCOW, Oct 12, (AP) President Vladimir Putin arrived in Kyrgyzstan on Thursday on a rare trip abroad for the Russian leader who was indicted earlier this year by the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Ukraine.

Putin met with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov and was to take part on Friday in the Commonwealth of Independent States summit, which Kyrgyzstan is hosting. Leaders of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will also attend the summit.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will skip it, as Yerevan's relationship with Moscow has frayed amid mutual accusations.



Putin

It is the first time this year that Putin has traveled outside Russia and Russian-held territories of Ukraine. Earlier this year, he visited the partially occupied Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson, as well as the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

In March, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Putin over the deportation of children from Ukraine. Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute, which created the ICC, are now bound to arrest the Russian leader if he sets foot on their soil.

The move caused Putin to skip an economic summit in South Africa in August and further strained Moscow's ties with Armenia after it moved to ratify the Rome Statute earlier this month, even as Armenian officials sought to assure the Kremlin that the Russian leader would not be arrested if he entered the country.

The Kremlin has said that Russia doesn't recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC and considers the warrant null and void.

Kyrgyzstan is not a signatory of the Rome Statute. In Central Asia, only Tajikistan is. Putin traveled to both countries last year after the invasion of Ukraine and amid increasing international isolation. He also visited other Central Asian nations in 2022, as well as Armenia, Belarus, China, India and Iran.

Later this month, Putin is expected to travel to China again. Last month, he also accepted an invitation to visit North Korea, although it remains unclear when that might happen.

Charles to visit Kenya: King Charles III will travel to Kenya later this month for a state visit full of symbolism: His mother, the late Queen Elizabeth II, learned she had become queen while visiting a game preserve in the East African nation in 1952.

The trip, announced Wednesday by Buckingham Palace, will be Charles' first to a Commonwealth nation since he succeeded his mother last year, underscoring the king's commitment to an organization that has been central to Britain's global power and prestige since World War II.

During the Oct. 31-Nov. 3 visit, Charles plans to meet with Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto and to visit Nairobi National Park, where he will have a chance to demonstrate his concern for environmental preservation and fighting climate change.

Britain's royal family has long ties to Africa. In 1947, the future queen pledged lifelong service to Britain and the Commonwealth on her 21st birthday. Charles himself visited Kenya in 1971, and he attended the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Rwanda in 2022.

2 killed in car accident: Two people were killed and six were injured in a car accident in Hungary early on Thursday after a vehicle suspected of transporting migrants entering the country illegally hit a tree and overturned.

The accident occurred around 3 a.m. near Kiskunmaja, in southern Hungary near the border with Serbia. Police said the driver of the vehicle, a Renault with French license plates, sped away after police attempted to perform a traffic stop and lost control in a bend in the road.

As it evaded police, the car swerved and hit a tree and then overturned, police said. Jozsef Hangai, a spokesperson for the Hungarian National Ambulance Service, said that two of those in the vehicle died at the scene, while six other injured people were taken to local hospitals for treatment.

Police said initial information suggested the vehicle was driven by a human smuggler who was transporting the migrants.

Former agent charged: A former member of communist East Germany's secret police has been charged with murder over the killing of a Polish national at a border crossing in divided Berlin in 1974, prosecutors said Thursday.

The indictment against the 79-year-old man, whose name wasn't released, was filed at the state court in the German capital.

It relates to an incident on March 29, 1974, in which a 38-year-old Polish man took a fake bomb to the Polish Embassy to try to force an unhindered exit to West Berlin, prosecutors said in a statement.

East Germany's secret police, the Stasi, allegedly decided to feign authorizing the man's exit. Its employees provided him with exit documents and accompanied him to a border crossing at the Friedrichstrasse railway station in East Berlin, prosecutors said.

They said that the suspect, age 31 at the time, was tasked with rendering the Polish man "harmless."

Kiska convicted of tax fraud: A court in Slovakia found Wednesday former President Andrej Kiska guilty of tax fraud and gave him a two-year suspended sentence.

The county court in the city of Poprad also handed him a fine of 15,000 euros (about \$16,000).

The verdict is not final and his legal team said he planned to appeal it. Kiska, 60, had pleaded not guilty.

The case dates back to 2014 when Kiska was running for president. At the time, he was a successful businessman-turned-philanthropist and a political newcomer.

According to the court, Kiska illegally included tax receipts from the presidential campaign in the books of his KTAG family company.

Such activities were not part of the firm's business. KTAG through Kiska's associate Eduard Kuckovsky then claimed a tax return worth more than 155,000 euros (about \$165,000). Kuckovsky also received a suspended sentence and a fine.



Spain's monarchy in the center and from left to right: Princess Leonor, King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia attend the military parade on the national holiday known as 'Dia de la Hispanidad' or Hispanic Day in Madrid, Spain Oct 12. Spain commemorates Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World and also Spain's Armed Forces Day. (AP)

Politics

'We have a lot of work to do'

US Republican Scalise seen as a fighter

WASHINGTON, Oct 12, (AP) : Having won the nomination to be the next House speaker, Rep Steve Scalise is heading straight into a familiar Republican problem - skeptical GOP colleagues are reluctant to give their support, denying him the majority vote needed to win the gavel.

On Thursday, the House was to open at midday in anticipation of floor action to elect the speaker. But it's requiring Scalise to peel off more than 100 votes mostly from his chief rival, Rep. Jim Jordan, the Judiciary Committee chairman favored by hardliners as they dig in for a fight to replace Rep. Kevin McCarthy after his historic ouster from the job.

"We have a lot of work to do," Scalise said after Wednesday's internal party election.

With his walker positioned on the mound, Scalise threw out the ceremonial first pitch at Washington Nationals ballpark, a breathtaking comeback for the Republican congressman who just months earlier was fighting for his life after a gunman had opened fire on lawmakers at their own charity baseball game practice.

An "American hero," is how Republican colleagues describe Scalise after the 2017 shooting and on Wednesday, a narrow majority of them nominated him as their next House speaker following the unprecedented ouster of the former speaker, Rep. Kevin McCarthy.

Scalise, 58, and recently diagnosed with blood cancer, spent the rest of the day holed up in the stately Speaker's office at the Capitol, vigorously working to secure the support he will need from his detractors to lead the divided Republican majority ahead of a full House vote to take the gavel.

"As we've all witnessed, he is a fighter," said Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky. "He has proven against all odds he can get the job done and come back from adversity."

A steady stream of some of the Republicans filed into Scalise's office late into the evening, bringing their complaints, criticisms and demands as he

worked to shore up support.

The scene is not fully different to the start of the year when McCarthy faced a similar backlash from a different group of far-right holdouts who ultimately gave their votes, then engineered his historic downfall.

Now entering week two without a speaker, and the House essentially unable to function, the pressure is on for Republicans to reverse course, reassert majority control and govern. The House was briefly gavelled in then closed Wednesday, an expected vote abandoned by nightfall.

Concerns

"Steve's going to have to talk to them all and see what their concerns are," said McCarthy, who said he would be voting for Scalise.

What's unclear is whether lawmakers who supported Jordan, the hardliner backed by Donald Trump, will throw their support to Scalise in what is sure to be a close vote of the full House. Democrats are set to oppose the Republican nominee, easily nominating their leader, New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries.

Jordan said little after the 113-99 internal party ballot, only that the GOP majority "is divided."

But Jordan did offer to give Scalise a nominating speech on the floor, in what would be a show of support during a vote. And Jordan himself plans to vote for Scalise, and is encouraging his colleagues to do the same, said a person familiar with the private talks and granted anonymity to discuss them.

A centrist leader, Rep. Don Bacon, R-Neb., said, "We do need to get a speaker in place so we can govern."

"What we should have heard today after the vote count was: 'I will heartily support Steve. Let's get behind him,'" Bacon said. "We did not hear that."

In a floor vote, Scalise would need to amass votes from almost all Republicans to overcome the Democratic opposition in the House that is narrowly split 221-212. Usually, the majority

needed would be 218 votes, but there are currently two vacant seats, dropping the threshold to 217.

Many Republicans want to prevent the spectacle of a messy House floor fight like the grueling January brawl when McCarthy became speaker.

Behind closed doors, the Republicans voted to set aside a proposed a rules change that would have tried to ensure a majority vote before the nominee was presented for a full floor vote.

Without the rules change, the Republican lawmakers would be expected to agree to a majority-wins process. But several lawmakers announced they were not supporting Scalise.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., said she backed Jordan in the private ballot and would do so in the floor vote. Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., said he let Scalise know "he doesn't have my vote on the floor."

But Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., emerged from a meeting with Scalise saying he had guaranteed she could "aggressively" pursue her committee role investigating President Joe Biden, and had secured her vote.

Americans are watching. One-quarter of Republicans say they approve of the decision by a small group of Republicans to remove McCarthy as speaker. Three in 10 Republicans believe it was a mistake, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said, "We want to see the chaos be done with so that we can deliver for the American people."

Neither Scalise nor Jordan was seen as the heir apparent to McCarthy, who was removed in a push by the far-right flank after the speaker led Congress to approve legislation that averted a government shutdown. The next deadline to fund the government is Nov. 17, again threatening federal closures.

All three men have been here before. In 2018, they were similarly vying for leadership, with McCarthy and Scalise extending the rivalry to this day.

replaced by a three-count indictment.

The president's son is charged with violating measures against drug users having guns when he bought and kept a revolver for about 11 days in 2018, a period where he has acknowledged struggling with addiction.

He pleaded not guilty earlier this month as the case moved toward a potential trial with the 2024 election looming. His lawyers have said he did not break the law and they planned to push for dismissal of the indictment.

Hunter Biden, 53, was originally expected to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax counts in an agreement with prosecutors and avoid prosecution on a single gun possession charge related to the 2018 purchase if he stayed clean and out of trouble. (AP)

Tiny home project unveiled:

An abandoned office park in Sacramento will be the site of the first group of 1,200 tiny homes to be built in four cities to address California's homelessness crisis, the governor's office announced Wednesday after being criticized for the project experiencing multiple delays.

Gov Gavin Newsom is under pressure to make good on his promise to show he's tackling the issue. In March, the Democratic governor announced a plan to gift several California cities hundreds of tiny homes by the fall to create space to help clear homeless encampments that have sprung up across the state's major cities. (AP)



US House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., speaks to reporters after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans where he was chosen as the GOP candidate for Speaker of the House on Capitol Hill on Oct 11 in Washington. (AP)



Biden



Newsom

America

Woman held for stabbing: A woman was in custody after she allegedly stabbed three people at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, police said.

Officers assigned to the airport encountered a woman armed with a knife outside of a security checkpoint walking toward the airport's south terminal about 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, police said in a statement on Facebook.

"Officers engaged the female, attempting to talk her into dropping the knife and working to restrict her movement and move travelers from the area," according to the statement.

During the encounter, the woman stabbed another woman and then a police lieutenant as he tried to take her into custody. Another officer tackled and disarmed her before arresting her, police said. (AP)

Officer fatally shoots man: A police officer fatally shot a man who charged at authorities with two swords on Long Island, New York, and the police commissioner said Wednesday that the shooting appeared to be justified.

Alan Weber, 54, was pronounced dead at a hospital after Tuesday night's shooting in Elwood.

Police responded to a 911 call reporting a man acting violently inside a home. Weber was screaming and breaking items when officers arrived and refused to come outside, police said in a statement.

The Suffolk County officers entered and Weber confronted them with the swords while wearing a fencing mask. Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison said, adding that Weber did not obey commands to drop the swords and an officer shot a stun gun at him but it had no effect. (AP)

Police release sketch of man: Vermont State Police on Wednesday released a sketch of a person of interest in the killing of a retired college dean who was shot dead last week while walking on her favorite trail near the Vermont State University campus.

The crime has shaken the small college town of Castleton as police warn the public to remain vigilant and said they don't yet know if the shooting was random or

targeted.

The composite sketch was created from witnesses' accounts of a man they saw on the trail before they came across Honoree Fleming's body, said Capt. Scott Dunlap, commander of the Vermont State Police major crime unit. (AP)



Queen Silvia of Sweden, (left), waves as she walks next to Bettina Countess Bernadotte, (center), and Bjoern Count Bernadotte, (right), during her visit on the occasion of the christening of the newly bred 'Mentor Rose' in the castle courtyard of Mainau Island in Insel Mainau, Germany on Oct. 11. (AP)

Africa

Algeria denies accusations

UN's HRC 'launches' Sudan abuses probe

CAIRO, Oct 12, (AP) — The United Nations' top human rights body voted Wednesday to establish a fact-finding mission to probe allegations of abuses in Sudan's monthslong war.

Sudan was engulfed in chaos in mid-April, when simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group exploded into open warfare in the capital, Khartoum, and other areas across the east African nation.

The UN Human Rights Council narrowly adapted the resolution, with 19 out of the council's 47 members voting in favor of establishing the mission. Sixteen members opposed it, while 12 countries were absent.

Proposed by the UK, the UK and Norway, the resolution says the mission will "investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law" in Sudan's war.

The conflict in Sudan has turned Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields, wrecking civilian infrastructure and an already battered health care system. Left without basic supplies, many hospitals and medical facilities have



Rosas

closed. More than 9,000 people have been killed in the conflict, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data project, which tracks Sudan's war.

Seek

The fighting has forced over 4.5 million people to flee their homes to other places inside Sudan and more than 1.2 million to seek refuge in neighboring countries, the UN migration agency says.

In the first weeks of the war, fighting centered in Khartoum, but it then moved to the western region of Darfur, which was the scene of a genocidal campaign by Arab militia groups, known as *jajaweed*, against ethnic Africans in the early 2000s. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and its allied *jajaweed* militias have again attacked ethnic African groups in Darfur, say rights groups and the UN, which has reported mass killings, rape and other atrocities in Darfur and other areas in Sudan.

"Civilians in Sudan are bearing the brunt of the ongoing devastating conflict," Erika Guevara-Rosas, a senior director with Amnesty International, said a day before the vote. "Parties to the conflict have also committed war crimes, including sexual violence and the targeting of communities based on their ethnic identity."

The International Criminal Court's prosecutor announced in July an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the latest fighting in Darfur.

Also:

NAIROBI, Kenya: Kenya's government announced Wednesday it would not be renewing a 6-year-old deal that saw Cuban doctors employed in Kenya while those from the East African country travelled to Cuba for specialized training.

The program was unpopular with Kenya's main doctors union, partly because the Cuban doctors received more than double the average salary of their Kenyan counterparts. Critics argued that money would be better spent on Kenya's medical infrastructure and on its own doctors.

Health Minister **Nakumicha Wafula** announced the end of the Cuba deal at a meeting with health industry workers in the capital, Nairobi, and was met with applause and shouts of "yes, yes!" Wafula said the ministry would ensure that the country's health workers are "well taken care of."

Under the deal signed in 2017, 50 Kenyans were sent to Cuba to undergo specialized training, while 100 Cubans were dispatched to county level hospitals in Kenya to help improve services.

The move was heavily criticized at the time by legislators and the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union, which said it was a waste of resources when the country was struggling with thousands of unemployed doctors and specialists.

The union said the money used to pay the Cuban doctors' high salaries could have been used to hire Kenyan doctors or to buy medical equipment for local hospitals which often lack basic facilities and medicines.

Kenya's Salaries and Remuneration Commission has said that each Cuban doctor was paid a monthly salary of about \$5,300, while local doctors in the same category received between \$1,600 and \$2,300. The Cuban doctors also had better travel and housing allowances.

Doctors and nurses Kenya have often gone on strike demanding better pay and working conditions.

ALGIERS, Algeria: Amid broad debate about French language's place in France's former African colonies, Algeria is denying that efforts to force Francophone private schools to adopt the country's national curriculum constitute hostility toward French.

Education Minister **Abdelkrim Belabed** said that no languages were being "targeted" in Algeria and noted that multilingualism was among the education system's major achievements.

"All languages are welcome," he said Saturday. Algeria has more French speakers than all but two nations - France itself and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Nearly 15 million people out of the country's population of 44 million speak it, according to the International Organization of the French Language. But Algeria is among the many nations throughout Africa placing a greater emphasis on English and Indigenous languages and, in the process, reevaluating French's role in school and society.

Neighboring Mali changed its constitution to remove French from its list of official languages and Morocco made English classes compulsory in high schools.

This year, Algeria is expanding English language courses in elementary schools and doubling down on efforts to enforce a law requiring that private schools - including ones that have taught almost exclusively in French - abide by the predominantly Arabic national curriculum.

Enforcement efforts against private schools that prepare students for higher education in French aren't new. They date back to 2019. But authorities hadn't until this year aggressively pursued enforcing them. Their efforts provoked headlines and outcry in French media and among Algerian families who can afford tuition.



US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is escorted as it arrives in Busan, South Korea, Oct 12. (AP)

US aircraft carrier arrives in South Korea

A US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea on Thursday in a demonstration of strength against North Korea, as the North's leader reaffirmed his push to bolster ties with Russia.

The USS Ronald Reagan and its battle group came to the southeastern South Korean port of Busan after participating in a trilateral South Korean-US-Japanese maritime exercise in international waters off a southern South Korean island earlier this week, the South Korean Defense Ministry said.

The aircraft carrier is to stay in Busan until next Monday as part of a bilateral agreement to enhance "regular visibility" of US strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear program, according to an earlier

Defense Ministry statement.

It's the first arrival of a US aircraft carrier in South Korea in six months since the USS Nimitz docked at Busan in late March, the statement said.

The arrival of the USS Ronald Reagan is expected to enrage North Korea, which views the deployment of such a powerful US military asset as a major security threat. When the USS Ronald Reagan staged joint military drills with South Korean forces off the Korean Peninsula's east coast in October 2022, North Korea said the carrier's deployment was causing "considerably huge negative splash" in regional security and performed ballistic missile tests.

The US carrier's latest arrival comes as concerns grow that North Korea is pushing to get sophisticated

weapons technologies from Russia in exchange for supplying ammunitions to refill Russia's conventional arms stores exhausted by its protracted war with Ukraine. Such concerns flared after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Russia's Far East last month to meet President Vladimir Putin and inspect key weapons-making facilities.

Many experts say Kim would want Russian help to build more reliable weapons systems targeting the US and South Korea. Washington and Seoul have warned that Moscow and Pyongyang would pay a price if they move ahead with the speculated weapons transfer deal in breach of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trading with North Korea. (AP)

Lat/Am



A migrant shows her ID to Panamanian immigration officials upon arrival to Bajo Chiquito, Darien province, Panama on Oct 4 after walking across the Darien Gap from Colombia. (AP)



Abe



Cheng

Asia

Journalist thanks Australia: A Chinese-born journalist credited the Australian government for her return to Australia "in one piece" after her three-year detention in China in an espionage case that strained bilateral ties.

Cheng Lei's comments broadcast on Thursday challenged Beijing's version that she was deported this week under normal judicial procedures without political considerations. The 48-year-old former Chinese state television anchor spoke to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese by phone from Melbourne Airport on Wednesday after her arrival from Beijing.

"Hello, prime minister. It's because of you and all the team at DFAT that I'm able to make it here in one piece," Cheng said in a video recording released by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong welcomed Cheng to Melbourne, where Cheng's two children, 11 and 14, have been raised by their grandmother. Wong's staff handed Cheng the phone to speak with Albanese.

Wong also took credit for Cheng's freedom, saying improved bilateral relations had paid dividends since her center-left Labor Party government was elected last year after nine years of conservative rule.

"We've made clear since we were elected that we wanted to stabilize our relationship with China, we wanted to engage and I think you've seen some of the benefits of engagement," Wong said. Albanese plans to visit Beijing this year at a date yet to be set. He would become the first Australian prime minister to visit China in seven years. Albanese said he had had "good, constructive" meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang about Cheng's case. (AP)

'Revoke church legal status': Japan's government said Thursday it would ask a court to revoke the legal status of the Unification Church after former Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe's** assassination raised questions about the group's fundraising and recruitment tactics.

Education Minister Masahito Moriyama said the ministry proposed seeking the revocation after interviewing more than 170 people allegedly harmed by the fundrais-

El Salvador sends 4K security forces into 3 communities

DomRep partially reopens border with Haiti

DAJABON, Dominican Republic, Oct 12, (AP) — The Dominican Republic partially reopened its border with Haiti on Wednesday to limited commercial activity nearly a month after shuttering the frontier in a continuing spat over construction of a canal targeting water from a shared river.

Vendors in Dominican border cities are allowed to sell basic goods like food and medicine, but exporting electronic products and construction materials, including cement and metal rods, is prohibited.

Wednesday marked the first time since Sept. 15 that the border partially reopened, although Dominican President Luis Abinader maintained a ban on issuing visas to Haitian citizens that he implemented last month and will keep the border closed to all migrants, regardless of whether they're seeking entry for work, tourism, health or education purposes.

While the gates at the northern Dominican border city of Dajabon opened late Wednesday morning, the gates on the Haitian side remained closed, and it wasn't immediately clear why. Meanwhile, dozens of trucks and containers were lined up nearby, filled with goods.

The Dominican border reopening was delayed after a pre-dawn fire at the main marketplace in Dajabon destroyed dozens of stalls. Authorities said they were investigating what caused the blaze.

The marketplace remained largely empty and quiet as a handful of vendors reopened their stalls nearly a month after they were forced to close.

"There's been a heavy loss here," said Santo Rodriguez, who sells pasta, butter, mayonnaise, ketchup and other items in his stall and condemned the border closure. "How are you expected to survive?"

ing tactics and other problems. The church failed to respond to dozens of questions during the seven inquiries, he said.

If its legal status is stripped, the church would lose its tax exemption privilege as a religious organization but can still operate.

Rodriguez, who first opened his business in 1995 and earns some \$176 a week, said that despite Abinader promising to help Dominican business owners affected by the border closure, he hadn't received any aid.

The most recent diplomatic crisis stemmed from construction of a canal on the Haitian side that aims to collect water from the Massacre River that runs along the border that both countries share on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The river is named after a bloody 18th-century battle between French and Spanish colonizers.

Also:

UNITED NATIONS: Colombian President **Gustavo Petro's** commitment to transform long-marginalized rural and conflict areas and new peace efforts were the highlights of his first year in office, the UN special envoy for the South American country said.

But **Carlos Ruiz Massieu** condemned the killing of nearly 400 former combatants who signed a 2016 peace agreement and called for "urgent and concrete measures from the authorities for their protection, as well as that of social leaders and human rights defenders."

He told the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday that lagging progress in implementing rural reforms has limited the transformation in rural and conflict areas that the 2016 peace accord between the government and Colombia's then-largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, was expected to bring.

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador: El Salvador sent more than 4,000 security forces into three communities on the outskirts of the capital to root out gang members Wednesday, as President

Nayib Bukele prepared to request another extension of emergency powers to combat crime.

Bukele announced the pre-dawn operation in a slickly produced video posted to the platform X. Soldiers and police were sent to surround the densely populated communities of Popotlan, Valle Verde and La Campanera outside San Salvador, the president said.

"We are not going to stop until we capture the last terrorist that remains," Bukele wrote, using a phrase that typically refers to members of gangs who have been accused of drug trafficking, protection rackets and extortion. "We won't allow small remnants to regroup and take away the peace that has cost so much."

PANAMA CITY: Panama and Costa Rica announced a plan to quickly bus thousands of migrants through Panama to the Costa Rican border, as the countries continue to grapple with a steady increase in the number of migrants moving through the jungle-clad Darien Gap.

Panama estimates that 420,700 migrants have crossed the Gap from Colombia to Panama so far this year, making it likely the full-year number will top a half million.

Industrial-scale smuggling operations in Colombia have now reduced the dangerous crossing to a little over two days for the strongest walkers. The expedited bus service in Panama will likely decrease further the amount of time migrants take to reach the U.S. border, now down to about two and a half weeks.

Panama hopes the new plan will disrupt the smuggling networks that charge migrants to get through the country, as well as reduce crowding at reception camps in Panama where migrants stay once they exit the Darien Gap trail.

allegedly told police he was motivated by the former prime minister's links to the church, which had bankrupted his family due to his mother's excessive donations. (AP)

2 senior generals get life: A military tribunal in strife-torn Myanmar has sentenced two high-ranking generals to life imprisonment after they were found guilty of high treason, accepting bribes, illegal possession of foreign currency and violating military discipline, state-run media reported Wednesday.

The sentences appeared to be the harshest so far for the senior members of the military's administrative bodies that were set up after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi more than 2 1/2 years ago. The country has been in turmoil since then, with widespread armed resistance to military rule.

The officers include Lt. Gen. Moe Myint Tun, who had been army chief of staff, served as a member of the military's ruling State Administration Council and chaired three major economic supervisory bodies. He was sentenced "to suffer transportation" for a 20-year term equal to a life sentence.

"Transportation" is an archaic legal term meaning banishment to a remote place, usually a penal colony. Yan Naung Soe, a brigadier general who served as a joint secretary of one of the committees that Moe Myint Tun chaired, received the same prison sentence, according to the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper. (AP)



A passenger train derailed in eastern India late Wednesday, killing four passengers and injuring dozens, a government official said Oct 12. Rescuers and others gather around coaches of the North-East Express passenger train that derailed near Raghunathpur railroad station in Buxar district of Bihar state, India, Thursday. The train was on its way to Assam state from New Delhi. (AP)

What's On



Photos from the event.

LuLu Hypermarket organizes 'Taste of Spain' promotion

To mark Spain's National Day, LuLu Hypermarket, the prominent retail chain in the region, organized an enticing 'Taste of Spain' promotion, running from October 11th to October 17th across all its branches in Kuwait.

The week-long promotion was inaugurated on 11 October at the LuLu Qurain outlet by the Spanish Ambassador, H.E. Miguel Moro Aguilera, along with LuLu Kuwait's top management. A major draw of the event was the amazing offers on all Spanish-branded products.

The inauguration also witnessed a lively performance by a talented Spanish music band, and an energetic display of traditional dances by a

special dance troupe. Attractive displays and cutouts of traditional Spanish monuments, and large creative displays of Spanish products, as well as a decor that reflected Spanish themes, added to the promotional atmosphere.

Other highlights of the seven-day Spanish product festival included food stalls selling delicious Spanish street-food, and free food sampling booths that offered a taste of various Spanish dishes.

Among the prime products offered at very special prices were items from leading Spanish brands, including Acanto Botanical Olive Oil, Mueloliva Olive Oil, and Hutesa Olive that showcased the variety and richness of Span-

ish olive cultivation. Along with the superb olive oils, other exemplary items were the ClouDEM sparkling beverages that offered a refreshingly fizzy touch to any occasion, as well as the renowned Spanish Gullon Biscuits. And, from the realm of spices was the Taj Mahal Saffron, which stands as a symbol of Spain's culinary heritage, with its exquisite aroma and vibrant color elevating dishes to new heights.

The 'Taste of Spain' promotion, which left shoppers with a new-found appreciation for Spanish products, once again highlighted LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to stocking its shelves with some of the finest products from around the world at very competitive prices.



A combo photo from the event.

Pakistani ambassador praises Forum

PWF presents 'Flavors of Pakistan' at the 5th Asian Bazaar in Kuwait

By MahRukh Omer

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Under the auspices of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait, the Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF) proudly presented Pakistani culture at the 5th Asian Bazaar held at Al Salam Mall in Salmiya on Friday, October 6th, 2023. This exciting event was organized by Masterclass Com. Kuwait, inviting the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait and Patron of PWF, graced PWF's stall with his presence and commended the team's dedication in presenting traditional Pakistani snacks. Distinguished representatives from various embassies also explored the Asian Bazaar and visited the stalls.

The Embassy of Pakistan extended its encouragement to PWF to participate in the event and contribute to the promotion of a positive image of Pakistan. His Excellency, Malik Muhammad Farooq, the Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait and Patron of PWF, graced PWF's stall with his presence and commended the team's dedication in presenting traditional Pakistani snacks. Distinguished representatives from various embassies also explored the Asian Bazaar and visited the stalls.

The event witnessed a remarkable turnout, with cultural stalls taking the spotlight. PWF, represented by a dedicated team including Mrs. Nighat

Tariq (President), Mrs. Sara (General Secretary), Mrs. Arusa (Treasurer), and MahRukh (Media Person), collaborated to promote Pakistani culture. The stall's decor was adorned with vibrant Pakistani Truck Art, and it beautifully showcased Pakistani food culture under the name "Flavors of Pakistan." The menu featured beloved traditional Pakistani snacks, including wholesome "Punjabi samosas," delectable "Namak Parey" crackers, mouth-watering "Gulab Jamun" desserts, the ever-popular "Karak Chai" beverage, and "GolGappa Shots" in collaboration with Mahrs Multiverse by MahRukh, a renowned YouTube artist and PWF's Media Person.

PWF's team generously offered food samples to visitors, who couldn't resist applauding the flavors and asking for more. Alongside the Pakistani food stall, several Pakistani boutiques seized the opportunity to represent Pakistani culture through traditional clothing, handbags, shawls, and traditional jewelry. Some of the featured brands included Elegance Couture, Malaabis Boutique, SK Charms, Color of Brands, Noreen Collection, Ravia Jewels, Anaya "Adoring your Dreams," Binte e HinaClothings, and Mahrs Multiverse.

Diverse

H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika, the Ambassador of India, emphasized the immense potential for tourism in India. He highlighted India's 'complete tourism experience' and stressed on the abundance of natural beauty and diverse tourist destinations, world-class tourism infrastructure, Indian cultural ethos, convenient travel facilitated by digital applications, and cost-effectiveness compared to similar offerings in other countries, adding India is 'The Country' - home to as many as 42 UNESCO World Heritage Sites and many more are yet to be included.

He disclosed, today, India can boast of world-class tourism infrastructure whether it is the luxury hotels, luxury trains, luxury cruise, air connectivity or road transport. The latest sector to join in this category is rail transport. And the statistics itself speak for it - around 200 5-star hotels, 150 airports and 8,500 railway stations. Road connectivity with 6 lane-highways practically covers the length and breadth of the country. The introduction of modern high-speed Vande Bharat trains has opened up travel by rail as an attractive option.

World apart destination choice and world-class infrastructure, the soft dose of Indian cultural ethos and seeing unity in diversity, India can offer such

HE Dr Swaika highlights India's 'complete tourism experience'

Indian Embassy in Kuwait holds 'Exploring Incredible India' event to promote tourism

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The Embassy of India in Kuwait organized a significant B2B event titled 'Exploring Incredible India' to promote tourism to India, at the Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre.

The symposium showcased presentations from esteemed Destination Management Companies and well-known hoteliers from renowned Indian hotel chains like Taj, Oberoi, and Leela.

The Tourism Symposium garnered substantial participation, particularly from various stakeholders, notably heads and representatives of over 150 travel agencies from Kuwait. Eminent travel bloggers and travelers from Kuwait also shared their enriching experiences of visiting India during the event.

Moreover, the event provided a vibrant and information-packed interaction through engaging panel discussions, presentations, videos, and dedicated B2B networking sessions.



Indian Ambassador to Kuwait H.E. Dr. Adarsh Swaika addresses the 'Exploring Incredible India' symposium.



A section of the audience

a varied experience in terms of all this encompasses Indian culture - festivals, traditions, language, food, shopping etc.

This comes with the sheer ease of travel with the digital transformation that has taken place in India - pay for almost everything from ticket bookings to hotel to shopping to entry tickets through mobile apps without the need to carry currency notes or credit cards, he said.

The Indian envoy also emphasized on the ease of obtaining an Indian tourist visa, particularly the provision of a six-

month multiple-entry tourist visa within a single day by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

Representatives from the Indian travel and hotel industry vividly described various tourism options, luxury destinations, and theme-based circuits such as summer, winter, adventure, spa and wellness, nature, culture, and shopping.

They also presented end-to-end travel solutions and packages. The Kuwaiti tour operators were briefed comprehensively about these options and were provided with informative brochures and

booklets for dissemination.

To maximize outreach, the event was live-streamed on Embassy social media platforms for the broader Kuwaiti audience.

Additionally, an e-brochure detailing different facets of Indian tourism was unveiled by the Ambassador and is now available on the Embassy's website and social media platforms.

The Embassy intends to sustain efforts to disseminate information about tourism to India through subsequent follow-up events and activities.

USD stable

The US dollar remained stable vis a vis the Kuwaiti Dinar on Thursday trading at KD 0.308 and the Euro rose by 0.23 percent to reach KD 0.328 compared to Wednesday's exchange rates.

The Central Bank of Kuwait said the sterling pound climbed by 0.20 percent trading at KD 0.380, the Swiss franc moved up by 0.44 percent to settle at KD 0.342 and the Japanese yen remained stable at KD 0.002.

Exchange rates declared by the CBK reflect average prices and not rates of actual transactions. (KUNA)

Fourth Turkiye-Africa Business, Economic Forum launched in Istanbul

The Turkiye-Africa Business and Economic Forum kick-started Thursday in the Turkish city of Istanbul.

During the opening speech, Chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkiye (DEIK) Nail Olpak said that the forum is set to hold meetings, agreements and establish new bridges of collaboration between Turkiye and Africa.

Olpak said important steps will be taken to reach the bilateral trade goal of USD 50 billion and USD 75 billion between Turkiye and Africa, noting his country's desire to increase cooperation with African countries on a "win-win" principle, especially in the fields of transportation, energy and health.

On her part, Comoros Health Minister Louba Youssouf Zaidou indicated that the forum would contribute to strengthening relations between Turkiye and African countries, noting the need to establish partnerships on a "win-win" principle in several fields including health, economy and security.

In turn, Vice President of Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry in South Africa (PACCI) Chabuka Kawesha said that Turkiye pays great attention to the region in the areas of transport and communications, but this interest must have greater planning.

He explained that Turkish companies carried out important projects in Tanzania and Zambia, stressing the importance of Turkish and African companies cooperating in research and development together.

The forum has been jointly organized by the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkiye, the African Union, and the Turkish Trade Ministry. (KUNA)

Market Movements

12-10-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
▲ JAPAN	- Nikkei	+1.75	32,494.66	▼ UAE	- DFM	-0.61	4,057.20
▲ PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.54	48,762.05				
▲ PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+0.15	6,263.06				
▲ SAUDI	- Tadawul	+0.13	10,586.22				

Business

Demand for OPEC crude revised down by 0.1million barrels per day

World economic growth in '23 revised up slightly to 2.8 pct

VIENNA, Oct 12, (KUNA): The forecast for world economic growth in 2023 is revised up slightly to 2.8 percent, but remains unchanged for 2024 at 2.6 percent, the OPEC said on Thursday.

US economic growth in 2023 is revised up to 2 percent, but remains at 0.7 percent for 2024, it said in its monthly report.

Eurozone economic growth is revised down in both 2023 and 2024 to stand at 0.5 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively, it added.

The forecast for China remains unchanged at 5.2 percent and 4.8 percent for 2023 and 2024, respectively. India's growth forecast for 2023 is revised up to 6.2 percent, while growth for 2024 remains at 5.9 percent, it said.

Russia's economic growth forecast for 2023 is revised up to 1.5 percent, while the growth forecast for 2024 remains at 1.0 percent.

The world oil demand growth forecast for 2023 remains unchanged at 2.4 million barrels daily. Downward revisions in the OECD are due to actual data

for the first three quarters, while upward revisions in non-OECD in the 2Q23 and 3Q23 are due to higher-than-expected growth, mainly from China.

In the OECD, oil demand in 2023 is expected to rise by around 0.1 million barrels daily, while oil demand in non-OECD is expected to increase slightly to above 2.3 million barrels daily. For 2024, world oil demand is expected to grow by a healthy 2.2 million barrels daily unchanged from the previous month's assessment, it indicated.

The OECD is expected to grow by about 0.3 million barrels daily in 2024, with OECD Americas contributing the largest increase, according to the report.

World Oil Supply Main drivers of oil supply growth for 2023 include the US, Brazil, Norway, Kazakhstan, Guyana and China.

For 2024, non-OPEC liquids supply is expected to grow by 1.4 million barrels daily unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Main drivers for

liquids supply growth next year are set to be the US, Canada, Guyana, Brazil, Norway and Kazakhstan.

The largest declines are anticipated in Mexico and Malaysia. OPEC NGLs and non-conventional liquids are forecast to grow by around 50 tb/d in 2023 to average 5.4 million barrels daily and by another 65 tb/d to average 5.5 million barrels daily in 2024, it said.

OPEC-13 crude oil production in September increased by 273 tb/d an average 27.75 million barrels daily, according to available secondary sources.

Demand for OPEC crude in 2023 is revised down by 0.1 million barrels daily from the previous month's assessment to stand at 29.1 million barrels daily which is 0.7 million barrel daily higher than in 2022.

Demand for OPEC crude in 2024 is also revised down by 0.1 million barrels daily from the previous month's assessment to stand at 29.9 million barrels daily, 0.8 million barrels daily higher than the estimated level in 2023.

Israel-Hamas war poses risks

IMF sees economic growth in the Mideast improving next yr

DUBAI, Oct 12, (AP): Middle East economies are gradually recovering as external shocks from the war in Ukraine and global inflation fade, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday, but the escalating war between Israel and the Hamas militant group could dampen the outlook.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the organization was closely monitoring the economic impact of the war, especially on oil markets, where prices have fluctuated. "Very clearly this is a new cloud on not the sunniest horizon for the world economy - a new cloud darkening this horizon that is not needed," she said at a news conference during the IMF and World Bank's annual meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

The IMF expects economic growth to slow to 2% this year in the Middle East and North Africa, from 5.6% last year, as countries keep interest rates higher and contend with rising oil prices and local challenges. Growth is expected to improve to 3.4% in 2024.

That's below the IMF's forecast for global economic growth of 3% this year but above next year's expected 2.9%.

Wealthy countries in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere will benefit from higher oil prices, while Egypt and Lebanon are still contending with soaring inflation, the IMF said.

Climate change poses a challenge across the region, as seen in last month's devastating floods in war-torn Libya.

Average inflation is expected to peak at 17.5% this year before easing to 15% in 2024. Both figures drop by about a third with the exclusion of Egypt, where inflation soared to nearly 40% last month, and Sudan, where rival generals have been battling since April.

Egypt, the most populous Arab country and the world's largest wheat importer, has seen prices soar since Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted

its vital wheat shipments. Food prices rose by 70% in August compared with the same month last year.

Egypt secured a \$3 billion IMF bailout last year that requires a raft of economic reforms, including a shift to a flexible exchange rate and a higher borrowing costs.

The IMF also has called on Egypt to level the playing field between the public and private sector after decades of subsidizing basic goods and granting the military an outsized role in the economy.

Jihad Azour, director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the IMF, said Egypt has made "progress in certain areas more than others."

"Egypt has a promising economy, large in size, with big potential," he said. "It's very important to provide the space to the private sector to be in the lead. And this is why redesigning the role of the state to be more an enabler than a competitor is so important."

In Lebanon, which has been in a severe economic meltdown since 2019, the IMF is still waiting on the country's leaders to enact financial and economic reforms that might pave the way to a bailout following a preliminary agreement last year.

"They were supposed to happen very quickly, and the team is still waiting to see progress on those," Azour said.

He pointed to some successes elsewhere.

Morocco has enacted changes that have "paid off in terms of growth, in terms of economic stability," Azour said, adding that the North African country is now eligible for "gold standard" IMF programs reserved for well-advanced emerging economies.

He also cited Jordan, a close Western ally facing severe water scarcity, saying it had maintained economic stability despite the successive shocks of COVID-19, inflation and regional instability.

Price increases extend slow descent

US inflation eased slightly

WASHINGTON, Oct 12, (AP): Measures of U.S. inflation eased slightly in September, evidence that consumer price increases are continuing to grind lower at a gradual pace.

Consumer prices increased 0.4% from August to September, below the previous month's 0.6% pace. Thursday's report from the Labor Department also showed that year-over-year inflation was unchanged last month from a 3.7% rise in August.

And underlying inflation declined a bit: So-called core prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs, climbed 4.1% in September from 12 months earlier, down from a 4.3% pace in August. That is the smallest such increase in the core measure in two years.

Still, on a month-to-month basis, prices are continuing to rise faster than is consistent with the Federal Reserve's 2% target. Core prices increased 0.3% from August to September, the same as in the previous month.

The report "was a mixed bag," said Laura Rosner-Warburton, senior economist at MacroPolicy Perspectives. "It still suggests that we have exited the higher inflation regime of the pandemic, but we're still elevated."

Thursday's inflation data is unlikely to change the Fed's outlook, Rosner-Warburton said, because the central bank already expected a slow decline in inflation.

"I don't think this was an upside surprise to the Fed," she said. "This is probably in line with what they were expecting." She, like most economists, expects Fed officials to keep their key interest rate unchanged at their next meeting in three weeks. At the same

time, they will likely "keep the door open to more hikes in the future."

The main driver of last month's inflation was an uptick in housing costs. Rental prices and a measure that the government computes of the cost of home ownership, which together make up about a third of the total inflation index, accounted for most of overall inflation from August to September. Those costs also accounted for more than two-thirds of the increase in core prices compared with a year ago.

Rental prices rose 0.5% on a monthly basis for a second straight month. Measured year over year, rental costs are up 7.4%, down from a 7.8% rise in August.

Rosner-Warburton pointed to an unusual jump in housing prices in Los Angeles as accounting for much of last month's housing inflation, which may not be sustained. Economists have expected rental price increases to steadily moderate. They note that market measures of rents for newly leased apartments have cooled considerably in the past year as the construction of new apartments has jumped. It can take time for a decline in new rents to flow through to the government's measure.

Higher gas prices also helped drive inflation for a second straight month. Those prices rose 2.1% just from August to September, after a 10.6% surge the previous month.

Consumers did receive some relief from clothing prices. They dropped 0.8% last month and are up 2.3% compared with a year earlier. Used car prices dropped for a fourth straight month, declining 2.5%. They're now down 8% from a year ago.

Kuwait's term deposit balances dip by 0.8% in 2023, says cbank report

Term deposits displayed fluctuating pattern in '22

By Ahmad Fathi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: In the monthly statistics released by the Central Bank of Kuwait for August, it was evident that term deposit balances for both resident and non-resident customers, denominated in Kuwaiti dinars and foreign currency, had experienced a decline based on their remaining amount until maturity during the first eight months of 2023. This decline amounted to 0.8 percent, equivalent to 524.9 million dinars. These balances had decreased from 62.638 billion dinars in December 2022 to 62.113 billion dinars by the end of August 2023.

According to the Central Bank's data, term deposits saw a monthly decrease of 0.4 percent, or 261.2 million dinars, in August, as they stood at 62.374 billion dinars in July. On an annual basis, they declined by 1.6 percent, which equals 1 billion dinars, from 63.12 billion dinars in August 2022.

Throughout 2022, term deposits displayed a fluctuating pattern. They increased from 59.29 billion dinars in December 2021 to 59.98 billion in January, rising further to 60.74 billion in February and 61.88 billion in March. Subsequently, they increased again to 63.884 billion in April, but experienced a slight drop to 63.37 billion dinars in May, followed by continued declines in June (63.28 billion), July (62.71 billion), and an increase in August to 63.12 billion. However, they fell in September to 62.523 billion and further to 61.898 billion dinars in October, before rising slightly to 62.112 billion dinars in November.

The performance of these deposits remained volatile in 2023, with balances increasing from 62.63 billion dinars in December to 63.56 billion in January and 64.105 billion in February, but declining in March to 63.22 billion, 63.11 billion in April, and 62.99 billion in May, before increasing again to 63.3 billion dinars in June.

Term deposits are categorized into eight types: on-demand, up to one month, more than one month to three months, more than three months to six months, more than six months to nine months, more than nine months to one year, more than one year to three years, and more than three years.

The "call" deposits saw an 8.5 percent decrease over the first eight months of 2023, amounting to 1.22 billion dinars, dropping from 14.338 billion dinars in December 2022 to 13.11 billion dinars by the end of August. On a monthly basis, these deposits decreased by 2.6 percent (361.5 million dinars) from 13.47 billion dinars in July to 13.11 billion dinars in August, and on an annual basis, they decreased by 14 percent, equivalent to 2.137 billion dinars, from 15.248 billion dinars in August 2022.

Deposits "up to one month" also experienced a significant decline of 8.9 percent, amounting to 1.648 billion dinars, falling from 18.51 billion



Workers remove weeds from a rice farm outside Kano, Nigeria on July 14, 2023. Many poor countries in Africa face the harshest effects of climate change: severe droughts, vicious heat and dry land, but also unpredictable rain and devastating flooding. The shocks worsen conflict and upend livelihoods because many people are farmers - work that is increasingly vulnerable to a warming world. (AP)

IMF & World Bank urged

Boost funding for African nations facing conflict

ABUJA, Nigeria, Oct 12, (AP): Many poor countries in Africa face the harshest effects of climate change: severe droughts, vicious heat and dry land, but also unpredictable rain and devastating flooding. The shocks worsen conflict and upend livelihoods because many people are farmers - work that is increasingly vulnerable in a warming world.

Climate challenges are at the root of vulnerabilities faced by conflict-ridden countries in Africa's Sahel region, such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and northern Nigeria, experts say. Adapting to these challenges could cost up to \$50 billion per year, according to the Global Commission on Adaptation, while the International Energy Agency estimates the clean energy transition could cost as much as \$190 billion a year - overwhelming costs for Africa.

Countries have limited space in their budgets, and borrowing more to fund climate goals will worsen their considerable debt burdens, argue African leaders, who are seeking a rapid boost in financing.

Some leaders suggested that this week's meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Marrakech, Morocco, would be "a good place to start" a conversation about Africa's financial challenges and

its ability to handle climate shocks.

It comes amid criticism that the lending institutions are not taking climate change and the vulnerabilities of poor countries enough into account in their funding decisions.

The global financial system "is now outdated, dysfunctional and unjust," said a New York Times opinion column by Kenyan President William Ruto, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki and Patrick Verkooijen, chief executive of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

It's outdated because international financial institutions "are too small and limited to fulfill their mandate. Dysfunctional because the system as a whole is too slow to respond to new challenges, such as climate change. And unjust because it discriminates against poor countries," the leaders wrote.

In recent years, climate funding to Africa has increased, with recognition that the continent is least responsible for emissions but most at risk from climate change because of a lack of financing and ability to cope. Major development banks have increasingly recognized climate change as an economic threat.

dinars in December 2022 to 16.86 billion dinars in August 2023. These deposits decreased by 4.8 percent (approximately 866 million dinars) on a monthly basis, from 17.72 billion dinars in July to 16.86 billion dinars in August, and on an annual basis, they decreased by 8.4 percent, totaling 1.55 billion dinars, from 18.41 billion dinars in August 2022.

Multiple term deposits (ranging from more than one month to three months) witnessed a slight decrease of 0.3 percent, equivalent to 35.4 million dinars, decreasing from 11.467 billion dinars in December to 11.4 billion dinars in August, but increasing by 1.5

percent (168.1 million dinars) on an annual basis from 11.263 billion dinars in August 2022. These deposits also rose significantly on a monthly basis, by approximately 1.467 billion dinars, from 9.96 billion dinars in July.

In contrast, deposits categorized as "more than three months to six months" increased by 35.4 percent in the first eight months of 2023, reaching a value of 1.8 billion dinars, up from 5.113 billion dinars in December to 6.92 billion dinars in August. On an annual basis, they increased by 51.5 percent, adding 2.35 billion dinars to the total, compared to 4.56 billion dinars in August 2022. These deposits also rose by 1.5

During a panel in Marrakech this week, IMF economist Daniel Lee said the organization is "mainstreaming climate change in policy advice, capacity development and lending." He did not detail the size or breakdown of funding.

Lee pointed to an IMF program that launched last year to help poor countries address problems like climate change. Only one African country - Rwanda - has gotten financing from the program: \$319 million over three years.

Like African leaders, experts say climate financing to the continent has been insufficient and particularly difficult to get for countries in the Sahel that lack stable and recognized governments, with many of them led by military juntas.

"The reality has fallen short of expectations," said Carlos Lopes, a professor at the Mandela School of Public Governance of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. "A significant portion of funding goes toward mitigation efforts, while adaptation, a top priority for the continent, receives less attention and support."

In Niger, whose leader was ousted in a coup in August, as well as northern Nigeria, thousands of hectares of arable land is being lost to soil erosion and dry conditions.

percent on a monthly basis, approximately 103 million dinars, after standing at 6.82 billion dinars in July.

Deposits categorized as "more than six months to nine months" experienced a significant increase of 32 percent, equivalent to 871.7 million dinars, rising from 2.691 billion dinars in December to 3.563 billion dinars in August. On an annual basis, they increased by 1.37 percent, adding 48.4 million dinars.

For "more than nine months to a year," deposits rose by 7.3 percent, with a value of 179.9 million dinars, increasing from 2.474 billion dinars in December to 2.654 billion dinars in August.

Branson's Virgin wins lawsuit against train firm

A British judge ruled in favor of Richard Branson's Virgin group on Thursday in its lawsuit against a U.S. train company that terminated a licensing agreement and claimed the Virgin brand was no longer one of "high repute."

Judge Mark Pelling ruled in favor of Virgin Enterprises, which had sued Florida passenger train operator Brightline Holdings for breaching an agreement to re-brand as Virgin Trains USA.

The two firms struck a deal in 2018, but Brightline pulled out two years later. It came shortly after the Virgin Atlantic airline filed for bankruptcy protection in the U.S. and Virgin lost the U.K. train franchise it had held for two decades.

Brightline argued that Virgin had "ceased to constitute a brand of international high repute, largely because of matters related to the pandemic." Virgin Atlantic fought financial support

from the British government after COVID-19 grounded travel.

Virgin sued at the High Court in London, calling Brightline's allegations "cynical and spurious."

Issuing judgment after a hearing in July, Pelling said that Brightline had to prove that continuing to use the Virgin label "would cause material damage to Brightline's reputation or the value of its business. In my judgment it has plainly failed to do so." (AP)

EU orders Illumina to unwind \$7.1b purchase of Grail

The European Union on Thursday ordered U.S. biotech giant Illumina to undo its \$7.1 billion purchase of cancer-screening company Grail because it closed the deal without approval of regulators in the 27-nation bloc.

The EU already slapped a \$475 million fine on Illumina over the summer for jumping the gun on the acquisition without its consent. Now, the order to unwind the deal "restores competition

in the development of early cancer detection tests," EU antitrust Commissioner Didier Reynders said.

"By ordering Illumina to restore Grail's independence, we ensure a level playing field in this crucial market to the ultimate benefit of European consumers," he said.

Illumina said it is reviewing the order to sell Grail. The company also has previously asked the EU's highest court to rule on its

challenge to the bloc's ability to review the merger.

Allowing the deal to stand would have undermined the credibility of EU regulators. Companies almost invariably play by the rules and wait to complete an acquisition or merger until antitrust authorities have cleared it, according to the European Commission, the EU's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer. (AP)

IMF funding snag cleared

Sri Lanka reaches deal with China's Exim Bank on debt

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Oct. 12, (AP): Sri Lanka says it has reached an agreement with the Exim Bank of China on key terms and principles for restructuring its debt, a key step toward unlocking a second installment of a \$2.9 billion package from International Monetary Fund aimed at rescuing the island nation from a dire economic crisis.

The finance ministry said in a statement issued Wednesday that the agreement covers \$4.2 billion in outstanding debt and is an important

step toward Sri Lanka's economic recovery.

The statement said the deal provides the necessary fiscal space for Sri Lanka to implement its economic reform agenda.

"The Sri Lankan authorities hope that this landmark achievement will provide an anchor to their ongoing engagement with the official creditor committee and commercial creditors, including the bondholders," it said.

Authorities hope this will anchor their debt restructuring program and

facilitate approval of the next tranche of IMF financing of about US\$334 million.

An IMF team reviewing Sri Lanka's reform program delayed releasing a second tranche of IMF financing last month, saying it lacked oversight on whether adequate progress was being made on debt restructuring.

The economy is recovering but its foreign reserves have not been restored quickly enough due to lower-than-projected gains in tax col-

lections, the review found. IMF officials said the government needs to improve its tax administration, eliminate exemptions and crack down on tax evasion.

Sri Lanka declared bankruptcy in April 2022 with more than \$83 billion in debt - more than half of it to foreign creditors. Its economy was plunged into crisis, with severe shortages of food, fuel and other necessities. Strident public protests led to the ouster of then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Borrowing for China-funded infrastructure projects like highways, an airport and seaport that did not attract expected business opportunities have added to the country's financial woes.

The IMF agreed in March of this year to a \$2.9 billion bailout package after receiving assurances from China that cleared a last hurdle in sealing an agreement. It released an initial \$330 million in funding for Sri Lanka shortly afterward.

The government is negotiating

with creditors to restructure its tens of billions of dollars in debt, aiming to reduce it by \$17 billion.

Over the past year, Sri Lanka's severe shortages of essentials like food, fuel and medicine have largely abated, and authorities have restored power supplies.

But public dissatisfaction has grown over the government's efforts to increase revenues by raising electricity bills and imposing heavy income taxes on professionals and businesses.

IEA warns: Oil mkts into great 'risks' due to geopolitical escalations in ME

Paris-based agency releases report

PARIS, Oct 12, (KUNA): The International Energy Agency (IEA) warned on Thursday that the sharp escalation resulting from the geopolitical dangers in the Middle East would put oil markets into great risks.

The (Oil Market- October) report published by the Paris-based agency, said that the sharp escalation in the Middle East, which represents more than a third of global seaborne oil trades, put the markets on the "brink of the abyss".

The report confirmed that the sudden attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7th "motivated traders to increase a risk premium price to USD 3-4 per barrel at the opening of the markets", while prices have stabilized since then, with standard Brent crude futures trading at about USD 87 per barrel. IEA clarified that although there is no direct impact on the financial offer, markets will remain severely affected as the crisis continues.

Conflict

The report stressed that the conflict in the Middle East "is uncertain and the events are evolving rapidly, the International Community will focus intensely on risks that threatens Oil flows in the region".

IEA will continue monitoring oil market closely and it is ready to act if necessary to ensure that markets maintain adequately supplied, the report noted.

Oil prices had already risen to nearly USD 98 per barrel mid-September after Saudi Arabia and Russia extended their voluntary production cuts until the end of the year, and the drop in crude oil stocks and distillate to exceptionally lower levels.

The IEA Oil Market Report is one of the world's most authoritative sources of data, forecasts and analysis on the global oil market - including detailed statistics and commentary on oil supply, demand, inventories, prices and refining activities as well as oil trade for the IEA and selected non-IEA countries.

Also:

MOSCOW: Demand for crude oil will rise by 2.4 million barrels a day in the course of the current year, said a senior Russian official on Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister **Alexander Novak** was quoted by TASS news agency as saying that the oil consumption would also increase throughout the globe by 116-118 million barrels per day.

Novak indicated at necessity of increasing the funding for various energy sectors to raise the production and meeting the energy needs, adding that "there is currently a margin" to increase the output within OPEC+ by four million barrels per day.

However, he cautioned of production declines, shortage of supplies in the long term in the absence of insufficient funding for the energy sectors.



Toyota Motor Corp. CEO Koji Sato, (left), and Idemitsu Kosan Co. President and CEO Shunichi Kito pose for a photo at the end of their news conference in Tokyo, Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. Japan's top automaker Toyota agreed Thursday to work with Idemitsu, a major Japanese oil company, on technology for mass production of solid-state batteries that promise to be a key component in future electric vehicles. (AP)

Deal an important step for Japanese carmaker

Toyota and Idemitsu to cooperate on EV battery technology

TOKYO, Oct 12, (AP): Japan's top automaker Toyota agreed Thursday to work with Idemitsu, a major Japanese oil company, on technology for mass production of solid-state batteries that promise to be a key component in future electric vehicles.

The deal is an important step for Toyota Motor Corp., which has promised to speed up its battery EV offerings and catch up after having fallen behind rivals like Tesla and China's BYD. Toyota lags partly because of its success in hybrids, like the Prius, that are equipped with both gasoline engines and battery-powered motors.

Toyota, with its production finesse, and Idemitsu, which owns technologies in materials, said they are aiming for successful commercialization of all-solid-state batteries in 2027 or 2028, followed by full-scale mass production.

"With repeated efforts involving trial and error, we have succeeded in developing a material that is more stable and less prone to crack," Toy-

ota Chief Executive Koji Sato told reporters in Tokyo, after shaking hands with his counterpart at Idemitsu.

"The future of mobility lies in the tie-up between the auto and energy sectors, including this innovation hailing from Japan," he said.

Solid-state batteries are widely believed to be essential for mass commercialization of battery-powered EVs. The lithium-ion batteries whose components are liquid are now commonly used in electric vehicles, but are prone to fires. Solid-state batteries are more stable and potentially more powerful, but generally more expensive.

"The era of the solid-state battery is right around the corner," said Idemitsu Kosan Co. Chief Executive Shunichi Kito.

Idemitsu has been researching basic technologies for all-solid-state batteries since 2001. Toyota started in 2006. Kito said recent innovations will help the batteries now in the works overcome the edge lithium-ion batteries have had over EVs.

The collaboration focuses on

sulfide solid electrolytes, materials that are soft, adhesive and suitable for mass production, the companies said. Kito said Idemitsu developed mass production technology related to sulfide solid electrolytes by studying by-products from petroleum refining.

The companies plan a large pilot facility to develop sulfide solid electrolytes, paying special attention to quality and costs. Mass production would follow.

Many of the world's top automakers are working on solid-state batteries, including domestic rival Nissan Motor Co. and American manufacturer Ford Motor Co. But some technological challenges remain.

Toyota, which makes the Lexus luxury models and Camry sedan, had said it will offer a commercial solid-state battery as soon as 2027, with charging time, one of the main drawbacks of electric vehicles, shortened to 10 minutes or less.

It's planning to deliver 1.5 million EVs in 2026 by expanding its battery EV lineup.

Travelers left stranded

Struggling Malaysian budget carrier MYAirline abruptly suspends service

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 12, (AP): Malaysian budget carrier MYAirline abruptly suspended operations Thursday, citing financial pressures less than 11 months after it took to the skies. The announcement on social media caught many travelers by surprise and left thousands stranded as 40 flights were canceled.

The airline apologized for the "extremely painful decision" but said "significant financial pressures" forced it to suspend operations pending an ownership restructuring and recapitalization of the company.

"We have worked tirelessly to explore various partnership and capital raising options to prevent this suspension. Unfortunately, the constraints of time have left us with no alternative but to take this decision," the airline's board of directors said in

their statement.

The move came just days after the airline said it was in advanced stages of finalizing a strategic partnership. Local media reported that the suspension signaled that those talks may have collapsed.

The airline began flights last December with a fleet of nine aircraft that fly to domestic destinations and Thailand's capital, Bangkok. It is owned by businessman Allan Goh Hwan Hua. Just two days ago, CEO Rayner Teo, who has a 2% stake in the carrier, stepped down citing health reasons.

The Malaysian Aviation Commission instructed MYAirline to immediately halt sales and bookings of flights, and said refunds must be paid. It said it was investigating the airline over complaints that employees' sala-

ries were unpaid, among other issues.

MYAirline made the announcement on social media before dawn on Monday, after passengers on early flights had already checked in at the terminal. Angry travelers took to social media to criticize the carrier for the sudden announcement that left them stranded.

Malaysia Airports, which manages the country's airports, said some 5,000 passengers were affected Thursday as 39 flights to local destinations and one to Thailand's Don Mueang Airport were canceled. It said it was working to help those affected and the situation was under control.

Malaysia Airlines and low-cost carrier AirAsia and Batik Air announced discounts and special fares to help MYAirline passengers affected by the suspension.

NerdWallet

Millennial Money

Three ways you can save money in a high-cost city

Traditional money-saving advice may not cut it if you live in one of America's most expensive cities or urban areas. Residents of New York City, San Francisco, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Orange County, California, among others, are paying much more than the national average for housing, utilities, groceries, transportation, health care, and other goods and services.

There is a silver lining, though: High-cost cities can come with unique opportunities to save, such as housing lotteries, discounted tickets to cultural institutions for residents, and specialty grocery stores and farmers markets.

Streamline your grocery routine

It can be more convenient to shop for groceries weekly at a traditional grocery store, but if you're looking to cut costs in an expensive city, it may be worth the extra effort to shop wholesale and supplement with smaller, budget-friendly trips to the local grocery store.

"Shopping at Costco has made it really stark how much of a markup I accepted on groceries," says Kyle Henson, a regional sales manager in New York who purchases food, household goods and even clothes at the wholesale store. He's even invested in the store's executive membership, which gets him and anyone who uses his card access to any Costco location and 2% cash back on purchases.

Transit

It's easier to shop wholesale if you have a car, but if you don't have a car Henson suggests taking public transit one way and a rideshare service or taxi on the way back, or even using Costco's discounted rental car service to make the trip.

"I'll go to Costco with a couple of friends, completely load up and then split everything," says Vishal Vaidya, a cook in New York. Vaidya doesn't have his own membership, but he can use Costco gift cards to shop in-store as a nonmember.

For non-bulk items such as fresh produce and meat, Vaidya adds small grocery trips to his daily routine. He shops at places he knows have good deals on specific items. If he's passing through a neighborhood with Halal butchers, for example, he'll pick up a cut of meat; when out on the weekends, he'll stop by a farmers market on his way home.

"I've integrated these habits into my lifestyle," Vaidya explains. Because he mostly cooks at home, he says that groceries are the primary way he saves money and that being frugal about food allows him to be more flexible in other areas of his life.

Take advantage of local discounts

Living in a big city may come with higher rent and food costs, but it can also come with access to great cultural institu-

tions. Museums, movies and shows can be pricey, but city residents can sometimes secure free or discounted tickets.

In many cities, popular museums offer free entry for residents on certain days of the week, and some even have monthly free days for all visitors. For institutions that don't advertise free admission, programs such as Culture Pass in New York and Discover & Go in Los Angeles give library card holders access to free and discounted tickets to museums and cultural centers.

Disappointed

"I assumed most cultural institutions would be free in New York, and I was very disappointed to find out that they weren't," Vaidya says. Museums were a big draw for him when moving to the city, and he quickly signed up for a library card and Culture Pass access. He sets a monthly reminder to reserve his tickets and uses the website to discover lesser-known gardens, galleries and shows.

Play the housing lottery

Rent is typically the biggest expense for residents of cities with a high cost of living. However, there are affordable-housing lottery programs in many major cities, which can ease the financial burden.

"It's surprisingly easy," says Thomas Van de Pas, a bartender in New York who has won the city's housing lottery three times. Housing lotteries typically incentivize developers with higher building size limits, tax breaks or lower-cost loans in exchange for reserving a portion of new housing developments for the lottery. Rent-stabilized units are available for applicants in specific income brackets.

Los Angeles, for example, reserves affordable housing units for those it considers "very low income" (about \$44,000 per year for one person). But other cities, such as New York and Washington, D.C., have options for applicants well over the area's median income - as high as \$163,000 per year per person in New York, or \$186,000 per couple.

Your odds may be better if you're an existing resident of the neighborhood. In New York, for example, 50% of city-financed units are reserved for residents of a given Community Board, which is a grouping of several neighborhoods.

Van de Pas recommends applying well before your current lease ends because applications are accepted on a rolling basis. "You may have to be flexible and break your current lease if you get a good deal," he says. "I'm willing to pay the upfront cost of getting out of my lease, because I'm getting a unit below market rate."

As with groceries, seeking discounts on housing can take some extra effort, but that temporary inconvenience may help save you much more in the long run. (AP)

Film

Hollywood studios break off strike talks with actors

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 12. (AP) Talks bitterly broke off between Hollywood actors and studios late Wednesday, killing any hopes that the three-month strike by performers would come to an end anytime soon.

The studios announced that they had suspended contract negotiations, saying the gap between the two sides was too great to make continuing worth it, despite an offer as good as the one that recently ended the writers strike. The actors union decried their opponents' "bullying tactics" and said they were wildly mischaracterizing their offers.

On Oct. 2, for the first time since the strike began July 14, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists had resumed negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, streaming services and production companies in strike talks.

When negotiations resumed with writers last month, their strike ended five days later, but similar progress was not made with the actors union.

The studios walked away from talks after seeing the actors' most recent proposal on Wednesday.

"It is clear that the gap between the AMPTP and SAG-AFTRA is too great, and conversations are no longer moving us in a productive direction," the AMPTP said in a statement.

The SAG-AFTRA proposal would cost companies an additional \$800 million a year and create "an untenable economic burden," the statement said.

In a letter to members sent early Thursday, SAG AFTRA said that figure was overestimated by 60%. The union said its negotiators were

"profoundly disappointed" the studios had broken off talks.

"We have negotiated with them in good faith," the letter read, "despite the fact that last week they presented an offer that was, shockingly, worth less than they proposed before the strike began."

Actors have been on strike over issues including increases in pay for streaming programming and control of the use of their images generated by artificial intelligence.

The AMPTP insisted its offers had been as generous as the deals that brought an end to the writers strike and brought a new contract to the directors guild earlier this year.

Protect

But the union letter to actors said the companies "refuse to protect performers from being replaced by AI, they refuse to increase your wages to keep up with inflation, and they refuse to share a tiny portion of the immense revenue YOUR work generates for them."

From the start, the actors talks had nothing like the momentum that spurred marathon night-and-weekend sessions in the writers strike and brought that work stoppage to an end. Actors and studios had taken several days off after resuming, and there were no reports of meaningful progress despite direct involvement from the heads of studios including Disney and Netflix as there had been in the writers strike.

The writers did have their own false start in negotiations, however. A month before the successful talks, the initial attempt to restart ended after just a few days.

Members of the Writers Guild of America voted almost unanimous-

ly to ratify their new contract on Monday.

Their leaders touted their deal as achieving most of what they had sought when they went on strike nearly five months earlier.

They declared their strike over, and sent writers back to work, on Sept. 26.

Late night talk shows returned to the air within a week, and other shows including "Saturday Night Live" will soon follow.

But with no actors, production on scripted shows and movies will stay on pause indefinitely.

Meanwhile, nearly three months after their strike began, leaders of the Screen Actors Guild-American of Television and Radio Performers were back in contract negotiations with studios on Monday, a week after talks restarted.

Unlike the marathon night-and-weekend sessions that brought an end to the writers strike, the actors and their employers are moving more methodically in their talks, and it was not clear how much progress was being made.

Writers guild leaders urged studios to grant actors' demands and said their members would picket alongside them until a deal was reached.

The writers' new contract runs through May 1, 2026, three years after their previous contract expired and they went on strike. After negotiations that saw direct involvement from the chiefs of Disney, Netflix and Warner Bros. Discovery, a tentative deal was struck on Sept. 24. Two days later, when the board members voted to approve the agreement and send it to members, the strike was declared over and writers were released to work.

Variety



This image released by Neon shows, from left, Samuel Theis, Sandra Hüller and Milo Machado Graner in a scene from 'Anatomy of a Fall.' (AP)

Film

A gripping whodunit and marriage drama

In 'Anatomy of a Fall,' love put to test

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 12, (Agencies): Of all the ways that a relationship can end, a fundamental disagreement about a work of art is in some ways extremely silly. And yet, a film or a book exposing an irreparable rift in a love that perhaps wasn't as compatible, as symbiotic or as caring as one might have thought is also, somehow, as good a reason as any. Maybe it will even, eventually, provide a funny story.

Another, more excruciating, way for a relationship to end is with one party falling off the roof of a house to their death, followed by a humiliating public trial to determine the fault or innocence of the other, as happens in Justine Triet's Palme d'Or-winning "Anatomy of a Fall." And just like "The Corrections" before it, it seems that "Anatomy of a Fall" might be the new litmus test for modern relationships. See it with a romantic partner at your own risk. But, from my perch, this is one that's worth the debate(s) it provokes.

Sandra Hüller, the German actor known for "Toni Erdmann" and, soon, "The Zone of Interest," is Sandra, a writer living in a chalet in the French Alps with her husband, Samuel (Samuel Theis), and 11-year-old son, Daniel (Milo Machado Graner). Triet thrusts the audience into a tense and stressful atmosphere, introducing us to Sandra in the midst of an interview with a grad student, a woman, which will become significant later. Sandra is a little prickly and sipping a glass of red wine while deflecting questions back at her interviewer. It is hard to focus on what they're saying, however, as an instrumental version of 50 Cent's "P.I.M.P." blares through the household on a deafening, constant and maddening loop. Samuel's choice, apparently.

The student leaves, Sandra waves goodbye from a balcony, 50 Cent still playing, glass of red still in hand and Daniel, who is blind, heads out for a walk with his dog. He returns to find his father on the ground outside, dead and bleeding out. Sandra's

lawyer, Vincent (Swann Arlaud, a calming presence), later analyzes the fall trajectory and finds the cause of death "inconclusive."

"Stop," Sandra says. "I did not kill him."

"That's not the point," Vincent responds.

Tragedy

It's one brief exchange that could sum up the 150-minute film, which is a smartly constructed and wholly engaging whodunit, courtroom thriller, marriage drama and, at some points, satire. This is not really a tearjerker, but a visceral dismantling of a life that's either happening in the wake of a tragedy or a murder. Either way, it's uncomfortable to watch Samuel's sharp, merciless advocate (Antoine Reinartz) grill Sandra about their marriage troubles and why, in his mind, that makes her a likely suspect. She's also accused of doing it for material for her books.

Hüller makes the audience squirm along with her as she plays the tricky game of knowing when to take the insults and when to push back (without seeming "unlikable," of course), and she's doing this all in two languages that aren't the character's own (French and English). It's exhausting, illuminating and grating to be reminded of the internalized misogyny that still exists and even thrives in marriages that look evolved and equal on paper. But it's hard to fight back when parties can hide their own culpability behind therapy-speak.

For Daniel, the trial and his part in it plays out like a vicious divorce proceeding, in which his parents' characters are dissected and annihilated. He bears witness to their fights, their infidelities, their insecurities and all manner of speculation made by prosecutors, therapists and judges about the private matters of this couple, the complexities of which are far too great for a child burdened with the loss of one parent and the possible imprisonment of another.

And, of course, Samuel is unable to speak for

himself - not really at least. His therapist has some insights and assumptions, his lawyer has many, and there is one brutal argument that we're all privy too, since he himself recorded it in secret to inspire his own writings. For some audiences, this might be the biggest and most egregious injustice of all, coating everything with an uncertainty that will never be resolved. At a certain point, you might even forget that it's a murder trial you're watching.

"Anatomy of a Fall" may not be a film with many concrete answers, ultimately, but the truths it uncovers are irrefutable.

"Anatomy of a Fall," a Neon release, in theaters Friday, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "sexual references, violent images and some language." Running time: 150 minutes. Four stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Jamie Foxx and Tommy Lee Jones lead the crowd-pleasing courtroom drama "The Burial," coming to Prime Video free for subscribers on Friday, Oct. 13. Loosely based on a true story, **Maggie Betts'** sophomore film starts out as a contract dispute between two funeral home owners, but morphs into a bigger examination of race, inequality and corruption lingering in the "death care" industry. Foxx plays a slick, successful personal injury lawyer recruited to take on Jones' character's case to appeal to a largely Black jury. Other standouts in the cast include **Bill Camp, Alan Ruck** and **Jurnee Smollett** as the opposing counsel.

Filmmaker **Scott Derrickson** re-teams with his "Sinister" star **Ethan Hawke** in the horror "The Black Phone," which returns to Peacock on Thursday just in time for spooky-themed movie nights leading up to Halloween. Hawke plays a serial killer who has recently abducted a 13-year-old boy and locked him in a room with a seemingly defunct telephone - but the kid discovers that that phone lets him speak to the previous victims.

NEW YORK: Salman Rushdie has a memoir coming out about the horrifying attack that left him blind in his right eye and with a damaged left hand. "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder" will be published April 16.

"This was a necessary book for me to write: a way to take charge of what happened, and to answer violence with art," Rushdie said in a statement released Wednesday

by Penguin Random House.

Last August, Rushdie was stabbed repeatedly in the neck and abdomen by a man who rushed the stage as the author was about to give a lecture in western New York. The attacker, **Hadi Matar**, has pleaded not guilty to charges of assault and attempted murder.

For some time after **Iran's** Grand



Mersal

Rushdie

Ayatollah **Ruhollah Khomeini** issued a 1989 fatwa calling for Rushdie's death over alleged blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses," the writer lived in isolation and with round-the-clock security. But for years since, he had moved about with few restrictions, until the stabbing at the Chautauqua Institution.

The 256-page "Knife" will be

published in the US by Random House, the Penguin Random House imprint that earlier this year released his novel "Victory City," completed before the attack. His other works include the Booker Prize-winning "Midnight's Children," "Shame" and "The Moor's Last Sigh." Rushdie is also a prominent advocate for free expression and a former

president of PEN America.

"Knife" is a searing book, and a reminder of the power of words to make sense of the unthinkable," Penguin Random House CEO **Nihar Malaviya** said in a statement. "We are honored to publish it, and amazed at Salman's determination to tell his story, and to return to the work he loves." (AP)

People & Places

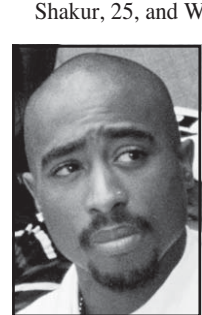
Music

East vs. West rivalry

Tupac & B.I.G: The victims of '90s feud

LOS ANGELES, Oct 12, (AP): As the investigation into the 1996 killing of **Tupac Shakur** ramped up, prosecutors dug into the past and took the grand jury back to some of the most pivotal moments in the East-West Coast rap rivalry.

The animosity began when Shakur was ambushed and wounded at a New York City recording studio in 1994 and culminated with his death in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas, according to grand jury testimony reviewed by The Associated Press. Six months later, his friend-turned-rival Notorious B.I.G, whose legal name is Christopher Wallace, was gunned down.



Shakur

Shakur, 25, and Wallace, 24, died nearly three decades ago, but now there's a new wave of intrigue in their killings with the recent arrest of longtime suspect Duane "Keffe D" Davis. The indictment of Davis is the first in Shakur's slaying and raises questions about the unsolved murder of Wallace.

Davis has only briefly appeared in court and has another hearing Oct. 19. Hundreds of pages of grand jury testimony detail how he rose from a street-level drug dealer in Compton to drug kingpin enmeshed in the feud between Shakur and Wallace to the ringleader who is accused of masterminding and ordering Shakur's fatal shooting.

Here's what ignited the volatile feud: Before Shakur was shot in 1994, he and Wallace were friends and performed on stage together. "It was an intense, personal and beautiful friendship," said Justin Tinsley, author of the 2022 Wallace biography "It Was All a Dream." He said in their early 20s, the rappers ran around Shakur's backyard with unloaded guns playing a game of cops and robbers.

They hung out together on the set of the 1993 film "Poetic Justice," which starred Janet Jackson and Shakur. But the following year, when Shakur was wounded in a shooting in the lobby of a midtown Manhattan hotel and robbed of \$40,000, the tenor of their relationship changed.

Accusations

Shakur found out that the night of that attack, Wallace and Sean "Diddy" Combs were together in a recording studio. He openly accused them of knowing about the planned attack, which both vehemently denied. For years, his accusations divided the rap community and fans.

Less than 24 hours after the 1994 shooting, Shakur made a court appearance in a wheelchair on sex-assault charges against him. A jury sentenced him to more than a year in prison. While he was locked up, Wallace released the 1994 song "Who Shot Ya?"

Shakur saw the record as a taunt, though Wallace claimed the song was written months before the shooting and not directed toward him. Shakur, who was born in East Harlem, New York, came to represent the West Coast since signing with Los Angeles-based Death Row Records after his prison stint.

Wallace and Combs hail from Brooklyn and Harlem, and are represented by New York City-based Bad Boy Records. Malcolm Greenidge, a rapper known as E.D.I. Mean and Shakur's lifelong friend, described the deep rift between labels as "rap beef."

Reggie Wright Jr., a former security chief at Death Row Records, said the rift escalated when label co-founder Marion "Suge" Knight made a public statement disrespecting Combs at the 1995 Source Awards held in New York.

Later that year, Tha Dogg Pound and Snoop Dogg released the single "New York, New York," angering native New Yorkers who felt disrespected by the West Coast artists filming in their city. The music video showed the rappers kicking over a New York skyscraper.

The following year, Shakur released the aggressive single "Hit 'Em Up," which took aim at Wallace and bragged about sleeping with his wife, the singer Faith Evans.

"It's still one of the top three most diss songs talked about in the hip-hop community as far as rap labels and disrespect to another label and their family members" goes, Wright said.

The hostility continued backstage at the 1996 Soul Train Awards in Los Angeles because Wallace was chosen over Shakur to open the show, Wright said.

Robert Ladd, a former police homicide detective and expert on gangs in Compton, testified that Davis was a shot caller of the Burris Street Crew, a South Side Crips faction, whose drug-dealing empire operated at "the highest level there is."

Narcotics

"He used to sell drugs on the street when he was a young kid, and I watched him grow up to be one of the biggest narcotics dealers in Compton," he told the grand jury.

Ladd also testified that after the shooting, his boss told him: "They're saying it's South Side Crips so get ready, it's coming back to Compton."

Leading up to the 1996 Las Vegas shooting, Davis' nephew, Orlando Anderson, and several other members of the South Side Crips beat up one of Knight's bodyguards. The attack was an effort at stealing the guard's Death Row Records necklace gifted from Knight at a mall in Lakewood, roughly 6 miles (10 kilometers) from downtown Compton, Ladd testified.

"It was very prestigious to these gang members to wear this," Ladd told the grand jury, "and they wore it like a badge of honor."

The violence that soon erupted between the South Side Crips and the Mob Piru, the local Bloods gang, in Compton was so devastating that Ladd called it the "Ten Day War."

"It blew up," Denvonta Lee, a former associate of Davis, said of the rivalry. He told the grand jury: "It was definitely a war."

On Sept. 7, 1996, Shakur, his associates, and their rivals watched Mike Tyson knock out Bruce Seldon in a championship fight at the MGM Grand casino. That night, Shakur learned that Anderson was involved in a robbery attempt targeting his record label. With his entourage, the rapper darted toward Anderson and threw a punch in retaliation, which ignited the brawl.

After the casino fight, Shakur and Knight started to make their way to a nearby night club in a black BMW. They led a convoy of about 10 cars that included friends, body guards and Death Row artists on the glitzy Las Vegas Strip, a brightly lit area bustling with casinos, store fronts and tourists.



Taylor Swift arrives at the world premiere of the concert film 'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour' on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at AMC The Grove 14 in Los Angeles. (AP)

Music

Manilow prepares Broadway's 'Harmony'

Urban shares secret to a great song

LOS ANGELES, Oct 12, (AP): Country superstar Keith Urban and Kix Brooks of powerhouse duo Brooks & Dunn will be inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame on Wednesday night at Nashville's Music City Center.



Keith Urban performs during the 2023 CMA Fest on Friday, June 9, 2023, at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. Urban and Kix Brooks of powerhouse duo Brooks & Dunn will be inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame at the 53rd anniversary gala held at Nashville's Music City Center. (AP)

Urban, a four-time Grammy Award winning musician, is being celebrated at the 53rd anniversary gala for hits such as "But for the Grace of God," "Who Wouldn't Wanna Be Me" and "Days Go By."

Kix Brooks' songwriting in Brooks & Dunn helped shaped the iconic '90s country music sound, with tracks like the Grammy-nominated "Brand New Man," "You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone" and "Only in America."

Other inductees include Casey Beathard and David Lee Murphy, in the contemporary songwriter category, and Rafe Van Hoy in the veteran songwriter category.

When asked to share the secret behind great songwriting in advance of the ceremony, Urban told The Associated Press over the phone: "It's one of the most elusive things. Some days it just flows and other days, there's nothing. I just always hope it's not a day where I show up to somebody important to write with and nothing comes in." Urban says he's learned over the years that if the inspiration to write a song doesn't hit one day, it's best to be kind to yourself.

"Just be in the moment and flow. If it's there, it's there. If it's not, it's not. But there's a real balance, I think, of inspiration and craft," he said. "It's a blend of those two and then a whole bunch of mysticism all at the same time."

Simply put: There's no equation. "It's alchemy. You're making something where there was nothing," he continued. "I've often said that I can't physically bring a child into being, but I can bring a song into being. And that song didn't exist before that day. And

now it exists and now it will always exist. And that's an amazing feeling."

More than 30 years after the musical "Harmony" was written, it finally prepares to make its Broadway debut. The show was almost lost to history - like its subject.

The historical show written by **Barry Manilow** and **Bruce Sussman** tells the true story of the forgotten German performing group The Comedian Harmonists. Many regard the six-man group as one of the first boy bands, as they recorded a string of popular albums and played sold-out venues around the globe.

But at the height of their popularity, the Nazi party took control of Germany, and they were denounced for being degenerates. Three of the group's members were Jewish, and possessing their music was considered a crime.

Obscurity

Relegated to obscurity and word of mouth, Sussman learned of the group through a German-language documentary. After seeing it, he recalls running to a phone booth in lower Manhattan to call his writing partner about what he just saw.

"I had never heard of them. And I thought, (Manilow) knows every song ever written. He knows every group that ever was," Sussman told the Associated Press in a recent interview after a rehearsal for the show.

Manilow was also unaware. "Then we realized that's the story," Sussman said.

But that was half the battle, as information on the group was hard to come by. "The Nazis tried to annihilate them, and they did. You couldn't find any records. You couldn't look at any of their movies," Manilow said.

Though they made approximately a dozen films and released numerous recordings, most were confiscated by authorities and destroyed.

"It was illegal to own or play or sell the records, so people hid their 78s under their mattresses. And after the war, they began to emerge," Sussman said.

While playing concert dates in Germany, Manilow visited a Tower Records store in Berlin to check out a major display.

"There was a whole wall of Comedian Harmonists. It was like the Beatles. They were the Beatles. They were the Backstreet Boys. They were the first boy band. That's how big they were," Manilow said.

While the show was written in the 1990s, Manilow states the long road to Broadway - including stops off-Broadway in **New York City** and **La Jolla Playhouse in California** - had little to do with finishing the show and more about finding the right person to bring it to the big stage.

"Basically, it was 'Harmony' even in 1997 at the La Jolla Playhouse. Great reviews. Everybody loved it. And it wasn't about the show, it was about the producers just couldn't keep going. They couldn't take it to New York," Manilow said.

Then Tony-Award winning theatrical producer **Ken Davenport** stepped in. "He delivered all the way," Sussman said. Previews begin Oct. 18 at the Barymore Theatre.

The musical stars **Sierra Boggess**, **Chip Zien** and **Julie Benko**. The six Comedian Harmonists are **Sean Bell**, **Danny Kornfeld**, **Zal Owen**, **Eric Peters**, **Blake Roman** and **Steven Telesy**. The director is **Warren Carlyle**.

Manilow and Sussman are hoping that audiences learn about the legacy of The Comedian Harmonists, and how their brand of entertainment paved the way for the acts that followed.

Manilow and Sussman have worked together for decades with Manilow writing the music and Sussman dealing with lyrics, including the iconic hits "I Made It Through the Rain," "Copacabana (At the Copa)," and "Hey Mambo."



Amini



McBride

Variety

BRUSSELS: Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran last year, sparking worldwide protests against the country's conservative Islamic theocracy, has been named a finalist for the European Union's top human rights prize.

The European Parliament on Thursday announced the three finalists for this year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, including Amini and "the Woman, Life, Freedom Movement in Iran."

The selection was "in recognition of their brave effort to stand up for women's rights," said **David McAllister**, the chair of the foreign affairs committee at the EU Parliament.

Amini died on Sept. 16, 2022, after she was arrested for allegedly violating Iran's mandatory headscarf law.

The other nominees are **Wilma Nunez de Escorcica** and Roman Catholic Bishop **Rolando Alvarez** - two emblematic figures in the fight for the defense of human rights in **Nicaragua** - and a trio of women from **Poland**, **El Salvador** and the **United States** leading a fight for "free, safe and legal abortion."

Amini died three days after she was arrested by Iran's morality police, allegedly for violating laws that require women to cover their hair in public. While authorities said she suffered a heart attack, Amini's supporters said she was beaten by police and died as a result of her injuries.

Her death triggered protests that spread across the country and rapidly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's four-decade-old Islamic theocracy.

Authorities responded with a violent crackdown in which more than 500 people were killed and over 22,000 others were detained, according to rights groups. The demonstrations largely died down early this year, but there are still widespread signs of discontent. For several months, women could be seen openly flaunting the headscarf rule in Tehran and other cities, prompting a renewed crackdown over the summer.

The EU award, named for Soviet dissident **Andrei Sakharov**, was created in 1988 to honor individuals or groups who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, died in 1989. The winner will be announced on Oct. 19. (AP)

NEW YORK: Three books that explore and celebrate the diversity of American culture were awarded Kirkus Prizes on Wednesday night, with each winner receiving \$50,000.

James McBride's "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store," a novel set in an eclectic Pennsylvania town in the 1930s, won in the fiction category. **Hector Tobar's** "Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of 'Latino'"

received the nonfiction award, and **Ariel Aberg-Riger's** "America Redux: Visual Stories From Our Dynamic History" won for young reader's literature.

The awards were presented by the trade publication Kirkus Reviews.

"History and community emerged as central themes in the most outstanding works of literature published this year. We see these ideas come to life in wildly differ-

ent ways in all three of this year's winners, each one compelling from beginning to end, begging to be celebrated, discussed, and shared," **Meg Kuehn**, publisher of Kirkus Reviews, said in a statement.

Previous winners of the Kirkus Prize, established in 2014, include **Hanya Yanagihara's** "A Little Life," **Jason Reynolds's** "As Brave as You" and **Susan Faludi's** "In the Darkroom." (AP)



Director-producer Martin Scorsese gestures for photographers upon his arrival for the premiere of the film Killers of the Flower Moon, in Mexico City, Wednesday, Oct. 11. (AP)

NEW YORK: British author-journalist **Charles Spencer** is working on a book about his childhood years at the Maidwell Hall boarding school and the painful lessons he endured.

Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Wednesday that in March it will publish "A Very Private School: A Memoir." Gallery is calling the book a "clear-eyed, firsthand account of a culture of cruelty." Spencer, younger brother of the late **Princess Diana**, also will write about his "happy life at home" during that time, according to Gallery.

Charles Spencer, who has previously expressed his unhappiness with boarding school, said in a statement released Wednesday that he had finally reached a point where he could make sense of his experiences and place them within a historical context.

"I'm writing this book before my memories of half a century ago tip over into that chasm of forgetfulness that shadows old age," he said. "Beyond my own experiences, I wanted to look at what, really, was going on in this strangely secretive place." (AP)

The Conversation

Viperin does not fully protect against all RNA viruses

Immune system makes its own most ancient antiviral drug

By Neil Marsh
University of Michigan

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Antiviral drugs are generally considered to be a 20th century invention. But recent research has uncovered an unexpected facet to your immune system: It can synthesize its own antiviral molecules in response to viral infections.

My laboratory studies a protein that makes these natural antiviral molecules. Far from a modern human invention, nature evolved cells to make their own "drugs" as the earliest defense against viruses. Viruses have no independent life cycle - they are completely dependent on the cells they infect to supply all the chemical building blocks needed to replicate themselves. Once inside a cell, the virus hijacks its machinery and turns it into a factory to make hundreds of new viruses.

Antiviral drugs are molecules that inactivate proteins essential to the functioning of the virus by exploiting the fundamental differences in the way that cells and viruses replicate.

One key difference between cells and most viruses is how they store their genetic information. All cells use DNA to store their genetic information. DNA is a long, chainlike molecule built from four different chemical building blocks, each representing a different "letter" of the genetic code. These building blocks are connected by chemical bonds in a head-to-tail fashion to produce strings of millions of letters. The order of these letters spells out the genetic blueprint for building a new cell.

Many viruses, however, store their genetic information using RNA. RNA is built from a chain of four chemical letters, just like DNA, but the letters have slightly different molecular structures. RNA is single-stranded, while DNA is double-stranded. Viral genomes are also much smaller than cellular genomes, typically only a few thousand letters long.

Genome

When a virus replicates, it makes many copies of its RNA genome using a protein called RNA polymerase. The polymerase starts at one end of the existing RNA chain and "reads" the string of chemical letters one at a time, selecting the appropriate building block and adding it to the growing strand of RNA. This process is repeated until the entire sequence of letters has been copied to form a new RNA chain.

One class of antiviral drugs interferes with the RNA copying process in a cunning way. The head-to-tail construction of the RNA chain requires each chemical letter to have two connection points - a head to connect to the previous letter and a tail to allow the following letter to be added on. These antiviral drugs mimic one of the chemical letters but crucially lack the tail connection point. If the RNA polymerase mistakes the drug for the intended chemical letter and adds it to the growing RNA chain, the copying process stops because there is nothing to attach the next letter to. For this reason, this type of antiviral drug is called a chain-terminating inhibitor.

Previously, researchers thought

that chain-terminating antiviral drugs were strictly a product of human ingenuity, developed from advances in scientific understanding of viral replication. However, the discovery that a protein in your cells named viperin synthesizes a natural chain-terminating antiviral has revealed a new side of your immune system.

Viperin works by chemically removing the tail connection point from one of the four RNA building blocks of a virus's genome. This converts the building block into a chain-terminating antiviral drug.

This strategy has proved to be highly effective for treating viral infections. For example, the COVID-19 antiviral remdesivir works in this way. A viral RNA polymerase has to join together many thousands of letters to copy a virus's genome, but an antiviral drug has to fool it only once to derail its copying. An incomplete genome lacks the necessary instructions to make a new virus and becomes useless.

Moreover, although cells also have their own polymerases, they never replicate RNA like viruses do. This potentially allows chain-terminating antiviral drugs to selectively inhibit viral replication, reducing unwanted side effects.

Infections

Clearly, viperin does not fully protect against all RNA viruses - otherwise no RNA viruses would make you sick. It seems that some viral RNA polymerases, such as those in poliovirus, have evolved to discriminate against the antiviral molecules that viperin synthesizes and blunt their effect. However, viperin is only one arm of your immune system, which includes specialized cells and proteins that protect you from infection in other ways.

Scientists discovered viperin about 20 years ago while searching for genes that turn on in response to viral infections. However, figuring out what viperin actually does proved very challenging.

Viperin's function was particularly puzzling because it resembles an ancient group of proteins called radical SAM enzymes that are usually found in bacteria and molds. Notably, radical SAM enzymes are extremely rare in animals. Exposure to air rapidly inactivates them, and researchers thought they likely didn't work in people. It's still unclear how viperin avoids inactivation.

Researchers were clued in to viperin's function when they noticed that the gene coding for viperin is next to a gene involved in synthesizing one of RNA's building blocks. This observation led them to examine whether viperin might modify this RNA building block.

Following this discovery, researchers identified viperinlike proteins across all kingdoms of life, from ancient bacteria to modern plants and animals. This meant that viperin is a very ancient protein that evolved early in life, probably well before the advent of multicellular organisms - because even bacteria must fight viral infections.

As more complex life forms evolved, viperin was retained and integrated into the complex immune systems of modern animals. Thus, this most recently discovered arm of your immune system's defenses against viruses is likely the most ancient. (AP)

Comets demystified

What makes cosmic wanderers shine?

By Shannon Schmitt
Michigan State University

When you hear the word comet, you might imagine a bright streak moving across the sky. You may have a family member who saw a comet before you were born, or you may have seen one yourself when comet Nishimura passed by Earth in September 2023. But what are these special celestial objects made of? Where do they come from, and why do they have such long tails?

As a planetarium director, I spend most of my time getting people excited about and interested in space. Nothing piques people's interest in Earth's place in the universe quite like comets. They're unpredictable, and they often go undetected until they get close to the Sun. I still get excited when one comes into view.

Comets are leftover material from the formation of the solar system. As the solar system formed about 4.5 billion years ago, most gas, dust, rock and metal ended up in the Sun or the planets. What did not get captured was left over as comets and asteroids.

Because comets are clumps of rock, dust, ice and the frozen forms of various gases and molecules, they're often called "dirty snowballs" or "icy dirtballs" by astronomers. These clumps of ice and dirt make up what's called the comet nucleus.

Particles

Outside the nucleus is a porous, almost fluffy layer of ice, kind of like a snow cone. This layer is surrounded by a dense crystalline crust, which forms when the comet passes near the Sun and its outer layers heat up. With a crispy outside and a fluffy inside, astronomers have compared comets to deep-fried ice cream.

Most comets are a few miles wide, and the largest known is about 85 miles wide. Because they are relatively small and dark compared with other objects in the solar system, people can't see them unless the comet gets close to the Sun.

As a comet moves close to the Sun, it heats up. The various frozen gases and molecules making up the comet change directly from solid ice to gas in a process called sublimation. This sublimation process releases dust particles trapped under the comet's surface.

The dust and released gas form a cloud around the comet called a coma. This gas and dust interact with the Sun to form two different tails.

The first tail, made up of gas, is called the ion tail. The Sun's radiation strips electrons from the gases in the coma, leaving them with a positive charge. These charged gases are called ions. Wind from the Sun then pushes these charged gas particles directly away from the Sun, forming a tail that appears blue in color. The blue color comes from large numbers of carbon monoxide ions in the tail.

The dust tail forms from the dust particles released during sublimation. These are pushed away from the Sun by pressure caused by the Sun's light. The tail reflects the sunlight and swoops behind the comet as it moves, giving the comet's tail a curve.

The closer a comet gets to the Sun, the longer and brighter its tail will grow. The tail can grow significantly longer than the nucleus and clock in around half a million miles long.

All comets have highly eccentric or-



In this undated combination of photos provided by NASA, asteroid particles coat the base of a canister at Johnson Space Center in Houston. NASA on Wednesday, Oct. 11, showed off its first asteroid samples delivered last month by the Osiris-Rex spacecraft, a jumble of black dust and rubble that's the most ever returned to Earth. (AP)

Giant rocket motors reach LA Museum

NASA showcases its first asteroid samples delivered by a spacecraft

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Oct. 12, (AP) - NASA on Wednesday showed off its first asteroid samples delivered last month by a spacecraft - a jumble of black dust and rubble that's the most ever returned to Earth.

Scientists anticipated getting a cupful but are still unsure how much was grabbed from the carbon-rich asteroid named Bennu, almost 60 million miles (97 million kilometers) away. That's because the main sample chamber has yet to be opened, officials said during an event at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"It's been going slow and meticulous, but the science is already starting," said the mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona.

NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft collected the samples three years ago from the surface of Bennu and then dropped them off sealed in a capsule during a flyby of Earth last month. The expected cupful was far more than the teaspoon or so that Japan brought back from a pair of missions.

Black dust and particles were scattered around the outside edge of the internal sample chamber, according to Lauretta. He said there's still "a whole treasure chest of extraterrestrial material" to be studied. The samples are priceless, the preserved building blocks from the dawn of the solar system.

No one at Wednesday's celebration

bits. Their paths are elongated ovals with extreme trajectories that take them both very close to and very far from the Sun.

An object will orbit faster the closer it is to the Sun, as angular momentum is conserved. Think about how an ice skater spins faster when they bring their arms in closer to their body - similarly, comets speed up when they get close to the Sun. Otherwise, comets spend most of their time moving relatively slowly through the outer reaches of the solar system.

at Johnson got to see any of the samples firsthand - just photos and video. The asteroid pieces were behind locked doors in a new lab at the space center, accessible only to scientists in protective gear.

Besides carbon, the asteroid rubble holds water in the form of water-bearing clay minerals, Lauretta and others pointed out.

Minerals

"That is how we think water got to the Earth," he said. "Minerals like we're seeing from Bennu landed on Earth 4 billion years ago to 4.5 billion years ago, making our world habitable."

That was one of the primary reasons for the \$1 billion, seven-year mission: to help learn how the solar system - and Earth in particular - formed. "You can't get more exciting than that," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Back in 2020, Lauretta and his team lost some of their haul when the lid on the sample container jammed a few days after the spacecraft collected the material. It vacuumed up so many pieces from Bennu that small rocks got lodged under the lid and prevented it from closing, sending pieces floating off into space.

That's why scientists did not have a precise measurement of what was coming back; they estimated 250 grams, or about a cupful, ahead of the Sept. 24

landing in the Utah desert. They won't have a good count until the container is opened, within two weeks or so.

Much of the material shown Wednesday was overflow from when the lid was stuck open, before everything could be sealed inside the return capsule. The larger visible rocks were under an inch (2.5 centimeters) in size.

"We have a bounty of sample on our hands already and we're not even inside" the main sample container, said NASA astromaterials curator Francis McCubbin.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Two giant rocket motors required to display the retired NASA space shuttle Endeavour as if it's about to blast off arrived Wednesday at a Los Angeles museum, completing their long journey from the Mojave Desert.

The 116-foot-long (35.3-meter) motors, which look like giant white cylinders, were trucked over two days from the Mojave Air and Space Port to LA's Exposition Park, where the California Science Center's Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center is being built to display Endeavour.

Donated by Northrop Grumman, the motors are the largest components of the two solid rocket boosters that would be attached to a space shuttle's external tank to help the main engines lift the orbiter off the launch pad.

period comets. Astronomers often don't know much about these comets until they get close to the inner solar system.

Short-period comets, on the other hand, have orbital periods of less than 200 years. Halley's comet is a famous comet that comes close to the Sun every 75 years.

While that's a long time for a human, that's a short period for a comet. Short-period comets generally come from the Kuiper Belt, an asteroid belt out beyond Neptune and, most famously, the home of Pluto. (AP)

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Olympic Committee's executive board meets this week to decide

Modern pentathlon soon to find out if swapping horses for obstacles enough for invite

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12, (AP) — The athletes in modern pentathlon know for certain horses won't be part of their event at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

They just hope they get invited. Although the century-old Olympic sport is on the docket for the Paris Games next summer - with horses - it's not currently part of the LA Games program. That could soon change as the International Olympic Committee's executive board meets this week to decide whether modern pentathlon, boxing and weightlifting will gain inclusion. The three were tasked with demonstrating they've made changes to the governance or organizational culture.

That meant a dramatic makeover for modern pentathlon after issues that arose during the show-jumping portion at the Tokyo Games in 2021. The sport swapped equestrian for obstacles (think: "American Ninja Warrior") as the fifth discipline to join swimming, laser shooting, running and fencing.

To some, it was a radical, sport-altering move that ushers

in a new sort of athlete, while saying farewell to horses - an integral part of the event's history.

To others, a completely necessary action because being placed on the Olympic sideline would've meant a significant financial blow. The Olympic revenue distribution to the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM), the sport's gov-

OLYMPICS

erning body, has been a combined \$26 million from the Tokyo and the 2016 Rio Games.

Unlike, say, basketball, the Olympics are everything for modern pentathlon.

"It's our Everest," said Jamie Cooke, a two-time Olympian who's now coaching the Swiss team. "It's how we showcase

our event to the world."

The sports landscape is crowded these days, and the Olympics are trending toward a younger audience. LA28 recently delivered a proposal to put flag football on the program when the Summer Games return to the United States for the first time in 32 years. Also on the LA proposal were baseball and softball, lacrosse, squash, and cricket.

Not picked up by LA28 were breakdancing - which makes its debut in Paris - motorsports, kickboxing and karate.

Modern pentathlon has been part of the Olympics since the 1912 Stockholm Games. Over the years, the sport invented by IOC founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin has gone through assorted transformations. For instance, pistol shooting was replaced by laser guns before the 2012 London Games.

This, though, tested the fabric of the sport, as the equestrian component came under fire during the Tokyo Olympics. TV footage showed German coach Kim Raisner leaning over a fence to strike the horse Saint Boy, which refused to jump the

fences in the show-jumping round. That cost German athlete Annika Schleu a chance of winning the gold medal.

Athletes in modern pentathlon are expected to ride horses they haven't met before. Bonding with them quickly is part of the challenge.

After Tokyo, the sport was under pressure to replace the equestrian part - or risk being dropped from LA28. An athlete focus group came up with suggestions.

The choice was obstacles, where athletes navigate a course filled with ring swings, rope mazes and climbing walls. It drew on the popularity of the reality TV show "American Ninja Warrior" and obstacle-course events such as the "Spartan Race."

But not all are sold on obstacles being a long-term solution. Pentathlon United is an athlete-driven movement created to build a new vision for pentathlon. One that believes the decision to "remove the equestrian discipline was unfounded, unnecessary and reckless."

Scotland on brink of Euro 2024 qualification

Croatia host Turkey

LONDON, Oct. 12, (AP) — Scotland are the unlikely leaders in Group A and can secure qualification to Euro 2024 by beating Spain on Thursday. With a 100% record so far, the Scots could also qualify if Norway lose at Cyprus in the group's other game. Midfielder Scott McTominay prepared for the Spain match with two late goals in Manchester United's comeback win against Brentford on Saturday.

With wins against Latvia and Armenia last month, Croatia moved to the top of Group D on goal difference. The Croats, who

SOCCER

came third at the World Cup in Qatar last year, host second-place Turkey on Thursday and a win would see them go clear of their nearest rivals. Armenia face last-place Latvia and a win could see them go second, depending on the result of the Croatia-Turkey game.

Poland play for the first time since firing coach Jorge Santos last month. The Portuguese coach, who led his country to victory at Euro 2016, had only been in the job for nine months. But he departed after a disappointing start to qualifying for next year's Euros and was replaced with Michal Probiez. Probiez will expect to make a winning start against Faroe Islands. The top two in Group E go head-to-head on Thursday when Albania host



Wales' Kieffer Moore scores his side's fourth goal of the game during an international friendly match at the STok Racecourse, Wrexham, Wales. (AP)

Czech Republic.

Romania can go top of Group I by beating Belarus on Thursday, while last-place Andorra host Kosovo.

Meanwhile, UEFA has postponed Israel's European Championship qualifying game against host Kosovo on Sunday.

The decision by European soccer's governing body - following Hamas' surprise attack - adds to a fixture backlog.

UEFA said in a statement Thurs-

day that the game in Pristina cannot be played "because the Israeli authorities currently do not allow their national team to travel abroad."

Israel are now two games behind schedule in a tight qualifying group where it is competing with Switzerland and Romania for the top-two spots. Two teams advance to the Euro 2024 tournament in Germany.

Israel were scheduled to host group leaders Switzerland on Thurs-

day in Tel Aviv and that game was postponed late Sunday. It will now be played Nov. 15 though it is unclear if Israel can safely host games.

Israel now are due to play three Euro 2024 qualifiers in the one-week international break next month designed for just two games.

A home game for Israel against Romania on Nov. 18 - intended to be played in Jerusalem - has shaped as decisive for the final standings.

The delayed Kosovo-Israel game

could prevent UEFA making the qualifying playoffs draw on Nov. 23 as scheduled.

Israel will go to the playoffs even if they finish third in the qualifying group because last year they topped a Nations League group in the second tier. Israel have never played at the finals of a European Championship tournament. Israel started playing in the competition as a UEFA member in Euro 1996 qualifying.



England players attend a training session at St. George's Park, Burton upon Trent, England. (AP)

The curious case

England 'most' hard-to-judge team at the Rugby World Cup

PARIS, Oct. 12, (AP) — England coach Steve Borthwick has built a reputation for being meticulous, someone who - in the words of his predecessor Eddie Jones - would be "hunched over his laptop for hour after hour."

Yet deep down, even Borthwick - this most thorough of rugby leaders - might not know what is coming when his players take to the field in the Rugby World Cup quarterfinals on Sunday.

The tournament is down to the final eight and England, despite going four wins from four in the pool stage, is surely the most hard-to-read team remaining.

Take its results in the last year and a bit, for example.

The final six months of 2022 - in other words, the dying embers of Jones' tenure - contained a series win in Australia in June 2022, followed by a turgid home loss to Argentina in a November campaign that also included a late rally for a 25-25 draw with the All Blacks.

Enter Borthwick, who oversaw a feeble first Six Nations campaign that ended with a 53-10 home loss to France and fourth-place finish.

Then came the alarming World Cup warmups featuring a first ever loss to Fiji, before England appeared to turn a corner with a backs-to-the-wall effort in beating Argentina in their opening World Cup game playing with 14 men from the third minute.

However, the struggle to get past

Samoa last weekend seemed to take England back to square one, hardly the ideal place to be heading into the quarterfinal against Fiji on Sunday.

There might be a number of factors behind this inconsistency.

A coaching change less than a year out from a World Cup might have left England's squad caught between two approaches: The intensity and bluntness of Jones compared to the more methodical, introverted nature of Borthwick.

Then there's the players. The team contains most of the guys who played - and lost - the 2019 final but there's a general feeling that some are still living on their reputations and would have been moved on had

RUGBY

Borthwick not wanted experienced players he could trust to handle these big World Cup occasions.

He is still unsure on Marcus Smith, the man with X-factor in the backs. He has still to settle on a No. 8, with Alex Dombard - who held that position in the Six Nations - not even in the World Cup squad.

England entered the 2003 Rugby World Cup with a clear identity and a togetherness built from a run of strong results over the previous 18 months. That was the basis for winning the title for the first time.

The class of 2023 lacks those qualities, even if the experience of 2019 shouldn't be underestimated.

Gulf Rapid Chess Championship to be held in Dec

KUWAIT CITY, Oct. 12: The Kuwait Mental Games Club has officially announced its plan to host the Gulf Rapid Chess Championship (amateur category for both men and women) on December 1st, spanning two days of intense competition.

CHESS

Faisal Al-Kandari, the President of the club, revealed that this championship is expected to attract 120 enthusiastic participants, including both male and female players hailing



Logo of the tournament.

from Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Iraq, and Yemen.

The event promises to showcase thrilling contests among the most skilled chess players in the Gulf region.

The championship will take place at the Movenpick Al-Bidaa Hotel and will feature a total of nine rounds, organized according to the Swiss system. The event will be conducted with the full authorization and supervision of the International and Asian Chess Federations.

Furthermore, during the championship, the General Assembly of the Gulf Chess Federation will convene, welcoming the presence of leaders and delegates from various Gulf Federations.

Jabeur wins opener at Zhengzhou Open

Korda rallies past Shelton at Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI, Oct. 12, (AP) — Sebastian Korda reached the semifinals at a Masters tournament for the first time by rallying to beat Ben Shelton 6-7, (10), 6-2, 7-6 (6) Thursday at the Shanghai Masters.

It was the first all-American Masters quarterfinal match since 2017 and both players were two points from winning at the end.

"I'm just thankful to stay calm," said Korda, who won on his sixth match point. "I played some bad points but I always believed in myself, even at 6-6 (in the final tie-breaker). I just thought about putting the return in the court, somehow getting my racquet on it and luckily I finished it off then."

The 23-year-old Korda also reached the semifinals at the Zhuhai Open and the Astana Open on the tour's Asia swing.

The 19th-seeded Shelton, playing in his first Masters quarterfinal, had 17 aces but Korda broke his serve five times.

Korda will play Hubert Hurkacz in the semifinals after the Polish player rallied to beat 82nd-ranked Fabian Marozsan 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Hurkacz lost only nine points on serve in the second and third sets.

"He came with some really great shots, and I just needed to stay positive and keep committing to

the gameplan," Hurkacz said. "To be aggressive, because if I dropped anything short he was just taking advantage of it and coming with

TENNIS

some really incredible shots. I knew I had to stay on point today."

Jessica Pegula advanced to her 12th quarterfinal match of the sea-

son by beating Ashlyn Krueger 6-3, 6-1 Thursday at the Korea Open.

Pegula will play another American, Claire Liu, in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Back Da-yeon, the 569th-ranked wild-card who eliminated second-seeded Jelena Ostapenko in the opening round, lost to Kimberly Birrell 6-0, 6-1.

Also, fourth-seeded Marie Bouzkova advanced when Eva Lys

retired from the match after losing the first set 6-1, and Emina Bektas defeated Jang Su-jeong 6-3, 6-4 to advance to her second tour-level quarterfinal match.

Ons Jabeur won her opening match at the Zhengzhou Open and advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Lucia Bronzetti 6-3, 7-6 (5).

The seventh-ranked Jabeur will next play eighth-seeded Daria Kasatkina, who beat wild card Bai Zhuoxuan 6-2, 6-4.

Also, Laura Siegemund rallied to beat Liudmila Samsonova 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. The 133rd-ranked Siegemund will play Jasmine Paolini in the quarterfinals.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova beat second-seeded Beatriz Haddad-Maia 7-5, 1-6, 6-1 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Hong Kong Open.

Pavlyuchenkova will meet Katriona Siniakova in the next round.

Third-seeded Elise Mertens defeated qualifier Sofya Lansere 6-3, 7-6 (5) to set up a match against sixth-seeded Martina Trevisan, who beat Magdalena Frech 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3. Also, Sara Sorribes Tormo eliminated fourth-seeded local favorite Wang Xinyu 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 and will play fifth-seeded Anna Blinkova next.



Sebastian Korda of the United States returns a shot to his compatriot Ben Shelton during the men's singles quarterfinal match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

Fagioli investigated by Turin authorities

TURIN, Italy, Oct. 12, (AP) — A lawyer for Juventus midfielder Nicolò Fagioli acknowledged Wednesday that the player is being investigated by prosecutors in Turin for betting online via unauthorized websites.

Fagioli himself alerted the Italian soccer federation's prosecutor about the case and the 22-year-old is "cooperating with both judicial and sports authorities with the utmost transparency," lawyer Armando Simbari told the LaPresse news agency.

Simbari added that Fagioli "does not have a relevant role" in the investigation and "he actually he wants to contribute to the inquiry." Fagioli faces a multi-year ban if he is found guilty of breaking sports protocols. Fagioli has played in six of Juventus' eight Serie A matches this season and is considered one of Italy's top young midfielders.

It's another in a long string of off-field issues for Juventus. Midfielder Paul Pogba is provisionally suspended after testing positive for testosterone, and a false accounting case led to Juventus being excluded by UEFA

SOCCER

from the third-tier Europa Conference League for this season.



The English Football Association will pay tribute to the Israeli and Palestinian victims of the war in the Middle East when England hosts Australia in a friendly match at Wembley Stadium on Friday. Plans, however, do not include lighting up the national stadium's iconic arch in the colors of Israel's flag, despite increasing calls to do so, the FA said Thursday.

The England and Australia teams will wear black armbands and observe a moment of silence before kick off.

"We stand for humanity and an end to the death, violence, fear and suffering," the FA said. The soccer body also said it would only permit "flags, replica kits and other representations of nationality" for the nations competing on Friday. The same rules will apply when England hosts Italy in a European Championship qualifier on Tuesday.



Bayern Munich defender Dayot Upamecano has been ruled out for several weeks with a left hamstring injury, while teammates Matthijs de Ligt and Serge Gnabry are working on their comebacks.

Bayern said Wednesday that a scan determined the extent of Upamecano's injury after he had to go off toward the end of the team's 3-0 win over Freiburg on Sunday, and that it puts "him out of action for the time being." The French defender is likely to miss games against Mainz, Galatasaray, Darmstadt and Saarbrücken. He could be ready for the Bundesliga match against Borussia Dortmund on Nov. 4.

De Ligt, who has been out since early September with a knee injury, started running exercises Tuesday. Gnabry, who fractured his arm in the German Cup win at Preussen Muenster on Sept. 26, started running in training on Wednesday with a cast on his arm.



A file photo of an equestrian celebrating after clearing a hurdle.

Kuwait Equestrian Center Show Jumping Championship kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The inaugural event of the Kuwait Equestrian Center Show Jumping Championship for the 2023-2024 sports season commences today at 5:00 PM. The championship has drawn substantial participation from both male and female riders representing local clubs.

The competition features various

EQUESTRIAN

height categories, ranging from 70-90 cm, 100 cm, 110 cm, 120 cm, to 130 cm.

Heading the tournament's refereeing committee is Nader Al-Mustafa, with committee members including Lama Abdel-Aal, Tala Barakat, and Anna Choprinova. The course design

responsibility falls upon rider Abdelaziz Al-Ajeel, with support from Ghadeer Nemati and Badr Al-Haifi serving as the arena referee, and Farah Al-Sarraj managing the warm-up arena.

International referee Lama Abdel-AI expressed that Kuwaiti equestrianism is currently at its peak, having witnessed the successful organization of two league championships and numerous international events, including those hosted by the private sector.

Abdel-AI noted, "There is a growing interest among young riders to participate in local tournaments, and we anticipate a promising future in the days to come."

Las Vegas routs Liberty

Aces take 2-0 series lead in Finals

LAS VEGAS, Oct 12, (AP): It's rare that the Las Vegas Aces leave their coach Becky Hammon speechless. After Wednesday night's dominant performance in Game 2 of the WNBA Finals, she was in awe.

A'ja Wilson scored 26 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and the Aces routed the New York Liberty 104-76 to take a 2-0 series lead in the best-of-five series.

"The character of this team and their absolute buy-in to the person to the left or right's success is authentic," Hammon said. "And it's tough to deal with when you share the ball and people are skilled and competitive. They were good tonight. They don't leave me speechless very often, but they executed defensively, offensively shared it - everything we've been asking them to do."

Wilson finished 10 of 16 from the field on her way to recording her 26th double-double this season - including her fourth of the playoffs. She's the third player in WNBA Finals history to have at least 25 points and 15 rebounds in a game.

The defending champion Aces are now one win away from becoming the first team since the 2001-02 Los Angeles Sparks to repeat as champions. Game 3 is Sunday in New York. No team has ever rallied from a 0-2 deficit in the WNBA Finals.

BASKETBALL

"We know what's on the line and we had to make sure we came out and took care of home court," Wilson said.

Chelsea Gray also had a double-double with 14 points and 11 assists, throwing some beautiful no-look passes for easy baskets. Jackie Young finished with 24 points and Kelsey Plum had 23. It was the second straight game that the guard trio dominated the Liberty.

"Vegas is playing their best basketball at the moment," New York coach Sandy Brondello said. "They're playing with a lot of confidence, you see the chemistry that they have. And for us, we haven't taken the steps forward, we haven't shown it. We're disappointed, very disappointed, because we're a way better team (than) what we showed."

Jonquel Jones (22), Breanna Stewart (14), Betnijah Laney (12), and Sabrina Ionescu (10) accounted for 76.3% of New York's points, as the Liberty got just 18 points from six others who played.



Las Vegas Aces forward Alysha Clark (7) fouls New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) during the first half in Game 2 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series in Las Vegas. (AP)

New York, which lost by 17 in Game 1, came into the game a perfect 9-0 after losses this year. The Aces made sure that streak ended with a dominant first and third quarter. They opened the game scoring 19 of the first 21 points, with 12 points coming from 3-point range. Las Vegas hit seven of its first nine shots - a blistering 77.8% clip - including four 3-pointers.

New York, meanwhile, missed nine of its first 10 attempts.

"It started with our defense," Gray said. "We kept our pressure up, our physicality and we were able to play with our flow offensively."

The Aces' lead grew as high as 21 points in the opening period before taking a 38-19 lead into the second quarter. Las Vegas set a new record for most points in the first quarter of a WNBA Finals. It was also the most points the Aces scored in any quarter all season.

The Liberty came charging back from a 22-point second-quarter deficit behind a 12-0 run, and outscored the Aces 25-14 in the period to cut Las Vegas' lead to eight, 52-44 at halftime. Jones scored 16 of her points in the second quarter.

New York couldn't carry its momentum into the third, however, as the Aces used a 17-3 run to extend their lead to 69-47. The Aces outscored the Liberty 28-13 in the third quarter, with 20 points coming from Wilson and Young.

The Liberty couldn't close the gap and now will try to avoid getting swept.

World Bowling Championship culminates with team events

'Kuwait shines on the global stage as host'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: The World Bowling Championship, featuring both men and women's team competitions, is set to commence today and will reach its grand conclusion in Kuwait this coming Sunday. This marks the final event in the championship, and all participating

BOWLING

teams aspire to showcase exceptional performances and secure prominent positions in what is considered the championship's most robust and significant contest. The event has drawn 400 male and female players from various continents worldwide.

The championship's grand finale will take place this Sunday, drawing the curtains on an extraordinary edition of the World Bowling Championship hosted by Kuwait. This edition has garnered acclaim as one of the most robust competitions in the world of bowling.

Ahmed Nasr, President of the Egyptian Bowling Federation, em-



Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammed with President of the African Union and President of the Egyptian Federation.

phasized that Kuwait has shone on the global stage as the host, with impeccable organization, a captivating opening ceremony, and a bowling complex distinguished by its unique design and architectural brilliance, earning the admiration of all attendees, including players, technical and administrative personnel, and the media. The extensive media coverage leading up to and throughout the tournament significantly contributed to its success.

He highlighted the championship's strength, thanks to the participation of world-class players

who were eager to come to Kuwait. This successful hosting solidified Kuwait's role in unifying the international bowling community and showcased its ability to organize and host such prestigious tournaments. Ahmed Nasr expressed his appreciation for the International Federation General Assembly's continued confidence in Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammed, who was re-elected as the President of the International Bowling Federation for the third consecutive term, maintaining his position at the helm of the World Bowling Federation.

African competition sponsored

Saudi Arabia adds new soccer investment during WC bid

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, Oct 12, (AP): Saudi Arabia added to its fast-rising investment in global soccer amid a 2034 World Cup hosting bid when its tourist board was confirmed Thursday as the main sponsor of the inaugural African Football League.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) said "Visit Saudi" will sponsor the eight-team knockout competition running from Oct. 20-Nov. 11 with "openness to extending this collaboration for future editions."

The value of the deal was not disclosed. The league is expected to pay much less than the \$100 million prize money promised last year by CAF when a planned 24-team event was launched.

SOCCER

The sponsorship comes in the same week the Saudi Arabian soccer federation filed its intention with FIFA to bid to host the men's 2034 World Cup. FIFA set an Oct. 31 deadline for expressions of interest and a formal bidding agreement must follow by Nov. 30.

Saudi soccer officials have claimed support already from more than 70 of the 211 FIFA member federations which will elect the 2034 host at a meeting expected late next year. Africa has 54 members of FIFA.

CAF and the Saudi soccer federation signed a five-year working agreement this year that included playing the African Super Cup game in the oil-rich kingdom last month.

"Visit Saudi" was a third-tier sponsor of the men's 2022 World Cup in a deal FIFA did not announce before the tournament started in Qatar.

A similar deal planned for the 2023 Women's World Cup was shelved after the soccer federations of co-host nations Australia and New Zealand objected. They told FIFA that although "some impor-



Peixe guides the players in training.

Kuwaiti Olympic team commence training in Doha

The Kuwaiti Olympic team embarked on their first training session in Doha, gearing up for a friendly match against the Qatar.

Under the guidance of Portuguese coach Emilio Peixe, the

training of "Al-Azraq" began on the sub-field of Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium. Coach Peixe has handpicked 24 players to participate in the friendly match against Qatar.

This encounter is a vital part of the team's preparation program for the Asian Cup finals, set to be hosted in the Qatari capital, Doha, in April of the following year.

tant and positive gender equality reforms have commenced in Saudi Arabia, it remains undeniable under any reasonable standard that the rights of women remain severely restricted."

Australia is a possible candidate for the 2034 World Cup in a bid that could include New Zealand or fellow Asian Football Confederation members such as Indonesia.

Three months after being fired by Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain,

Christophe Galtier was hired Thursday to coach Qatari champions Al-Duhail.

Al-Duhail announced the hiring one day after ending the contract of Hernán Crespo, the former Argentina forward who coached the Doha club to the Qatar Stars League title last season.

The club had cited a "deterioration in the team results" under Crespo including a 1-0 home loss to Persepolis of Iran in the Asian Champions League group stage this month.

One of Galtier's first games in charge is against Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr, the Saudi Arabian club which lead the group after two rounds. That game is in Riyadh on Oct. 24.

Galtier was fired by PSG in July after just one season in charge and winning the French league.

He is due to stand trial on Dec. 15 in Nice, France, to face allegations he made racist and anti-Muslim comments when he was coach at the city's soccer club.

Al-Duhail did not state the length of Galtier's contract.

Pritchard stars as Celtics beat 76ers for second time in four days

PHILADELPHIA, Oct 12, (AP): Payton Pritchard scored 17 points to lead Boston in scoring for a third straight preseason game and the

Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers for the second time in four days, 112-101 on Wednesday night.

Kristaps Porzingis, Jrue Holi-

day and Derrick White each had 11 points in the first half, and Pritchard added 10 points to help Boston build a 67-59 lead. Porzingis scored five of Boston's opening seven points.

Pritchard played 24 minutes while Porzingis, Holiday and White did not play after each logged 17 minutes in the first half. Pritchard was 7 of 15 from the field, including 3 of 9 from 3-point range. White, who led the league in blocks by a guard last season, also had three blocks in the first half.

BASKETBALL

New Sixer Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 18 points with four 3-pointers and Tyrese Maxey added 17 points. Joel Embiid and James Harden again did not play.

Oubre made a corner 3-pointer to give Philadelphia a 28-25 lead following a 10-0 run and he finished the half with 16 points after making all five of his shots, including four 3-pointers. Oubre also had an alley-oop dunk along the baseline during Philadelphia's 8-0 run to tie it at 72-

all early in the third quarter.

Pritchard was coming off a 21-point performance in a 114-107 loss to New York on Monday. He also scored 26 points in a 114-106 win over Philadelphia to begin the preseason on Sunday.

Lakers 109, Kings 101

D'Angelo Russell scored 10 of his 21 points in a game-changing third quarter and Los Angeles got past Sacramento in Anaheim to improve to 2-1 in the preseason.

Los Angeles pulled away in the third quarter by scoring 40 points.

Gabe Vincent added 18 points, and Rui Hachimura and Taurean Prince had 13 apiece for the Lakers. Russell also had eight assists. LeBron James and Anthony Davis did not play.

Russell had 11 points in the first half, Prince and Vincent each scored 10, and Hachimura added nine to help the Lakers get within 51-50 at halftime.

De'Aaron Fox led the Kings (0-2) with 18 points. Domantas Sabonis had 10 points, 16 rebounds and five assists and Harrison Barnes added 15 points. Sacramento was 15 of 50 from distance and shot 39% overall.



Boston Celtics' Sam Hauser (right), drives to the basket against Philadelphia 76ers' Tyrese Maxey during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game in Philadelphia. (AP)



Pakistan's captain Babar Azam (right), attends a practice session ahead of their ICC Cricket World Cup match against India in Ahmedabad, India. India and Pakistan will play their World Cup match in Ahmedabad. (AP)

Sports

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Perfect Kuwait qualify for AFC Futsal Cup finals

Kuwaiti futsal heroes rewarded: Al Shaheen and Board of Directors step up

MANAMA, Oct 12: The Kuwait team, known as Futsal Blue, performed exceptionally well by securing their place in the AFC Futsal Cup finals to be held in Thailand in 2024. In the last match of the third round, they defeated the Bahrain 5-3 at the Khalif City Sports Hall in Manama.

Kuwait achieved a clean record in Group Six, winning all three of their qualifying matches.

FUTSAL

In their match against the Bahrain, Kuwait fell behind but quickly equalized through player Nasser Al-Alaban. They further extended their lead with goals from Mohammed Al-Ajmi and Salman Al-Baijan.

Bahrain managed to score two goals to level the game at 3-3 by the end of the first half.

In the second half, Kuwait regained control, with Al-Alaban and Ali Al-Ibrahim scoring the fourth and fifth goals, securing a 5-3 victory.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain, Sheikh Thamer Al-Jaber, commended the Kuwaiti national team for their outstanding performance and qualification for the finals.

Abdulaziz Al-Samhan, the head of the national team delegation and a member of the Football Association's Board of Directors, presented a commemorative shield and the national team's shirt to the Ambassadors.

Abdullah Al-Shaheen, the President of the Football Association, rewarded each player in the futsal team with 1,000 dinars. Additionally, the Federation's Board of Directors also provided an extra 1,000 dinars to the players for their qualification.

Al-Shaheen praised the players for



Kuwaiti players celebrate after their victory over Bahrain.

their commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication to the tournament, as well as their exceptional performance, which enabled them to achieve a perfect record.

The President of the federation expressed confidence in the players' capabilities and their potential to continue achieving positive results in future tournaments.

The Kuwaiti futsal team's success in the qualifiers and their qualification for the Asian Cup finals is a source of pride for the nation and the football association.

IOC suspends Russian Olympic Committee for incorporating Ukrainian sports regions

GENEVA, Oct 12, (AP): After nearly 20 months of waging war in Ukraine, Russia was suspended by the IOC on Thursday for a land grab in sports administration.

The International Olympic Committee's executive board imposed the suspension on the Russian Olympic Committee for a breach of the Olympic Charter - a book of rules and principles for international sports bodies - by incorporating sports councils in four regions in eastern Ukraine.

Russian Olympic officials provoked the dispute last week by accepting the councils in Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia as its members.

"(This) unilateral decision," the International Olympic Committee said in a statement from Mumbai, India, "constitutes a breach of the Olympic Charter because it violates the territorial integrity of the NOC of Ukraine, as recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in accordance with the Olympic Charter."

The suspension does not immediately affect any Russians who are returning to compete in international sporting events as neutral athletes. However, it did suggest rising frustration from the IOC and its president, Thomas Bach, who can ultimately decide to impose a blanket ban on all Russian athletes from next year's Paris Olympics.

"(The IOC) reserves the right to decide about the participation of individual neutral athletes with a Russian passport in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 at the appropriate time," the IOC said.

The Russian Olympic Committee criticized the IOC for "another counterproductive decision with obvious political motivations."

However, the IOC under Bach has often been seen as too sympathetic to Russia during a decade-long doping scandal by never excluding all the country's athletes and teams from any Olympics despite proven allegations of state-backed cheating and tampering with evidence.

The latest decision by the IOC

board comes seven months after it publicly supported Russian athletes by advising governing bodies of Olympic sports to find ways of including them in qualifying events for the Paris Games.

That IOC policy to ease a blanket ban was in defiance of calls from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and many Ukrainian athletes to maintain the exclusion of athletes from Russia and Belarus.

Those vetting processes by different sports will continue despite the IOC suspension imposed Thursday, which does not affect Belarus.

"The suspension of the national Olympic committee doesn't affect in any way the participation of independent athletes," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said at a news conference after the board meeting.

Adams said the Russian Olympic Committee had been informed of its suspension before the IOC announced it publicly.

OLYMPICS

Russia remains excluded from international events in team sports, despite a short-lived and failed attempt this month by European soccer body UEFA to put Russian under-17 teams into qualifying groups for their European Championship.

The new ban removes the right of the ROC to get funding from the Switzerland-based IOC, which is worth millions of dollars in each four-year Olympic funding cycle. Russian officials reportedly have been weighing legal action to access the money that was not being paid during the war.

The Russian Olympic Committee can challenge the IOC decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"ROC, as a participant in the international sports movement, reserves the right to protect its own interests, as well as the interests of athletes and organizations of a sovereign country, which we represent in good faith," the Russian Olympic body said.

Pakistan cricket boss to travel to India after WC visa issue for journalists and fans resolved

De Kock's century helps South Africa rout scrappy Australia

LUCKNOW, India, Oct 12, (AP): Quinton de Kock smashed a second successive century at the Cricket World Cup to help South Africa beat a scrappy Australia team by 134 runs on Thursday.

The 30-year-old de Kock, who will be retiring after the World Cup, followed up his hundred against Sri Lanka with another masterful 109 off 106 balls on an untested wicket in South Africa's total of 311-7.

CRICKET

Australia, which won the toss and elected to bowl on a reaid pitch, was sloppy on the field, dropping five catches before getting bowled out for 177 - its second below-200 total in the tournament.

Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada picked up 3-33 and Keshav Maharaaj clamped the batters by chipping in 2-30 in a 10-over spell.

Only Glenn Maxwell (2-34) showed some spark with his off-spin bowling in an otherwise poor day on the field for Australia, which had been seen as one of fa-



Australia's captain Pat Cummins bats during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Australia and South Africa in Lucknow, India. (AP)

avorites to reach the semifinals.

South Africa climbed on top of the points table with two wins from two games while Australia are without a point after losing both their opening games.

Meanwhile, a top official of the Pakistan Cricket Board traveled to India on Thursday after getting as-

urances that his country's journalists and fans will get visas for the Cricket World Cup.

Zaka Ashraf, chairman of the PCB management committee, will watch the marquee game between Pakistan and India in Ahmedabad on Saturday at the 134,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium.

Earlier this week, the PCB said it was "extremely disappointed" that visas had been delayed for Pakistani journalists and fans, asking both the International Cricket Council and the Board of Control for Cricket in India to expedite the process.

Ashraf also met with top officials of the foreign ministry in Islamabad to resolve the matter.

"I am happy that my conversation with the foreign office helped in achieving a positive result and now Pakistani journalists will get their visas," Ashraf said.

Political tensions between the two countries meant India played its recent Asia Cup games in Sri Lanka after refusing to travel to Pakistan for the tournament.

Ashraf talked with the BCCI's secretary Jay Shah over telephone on Wednesday and was given as-

urance that Pakistani fans will soon also start getting their visas.

Around 50 Pakistani journalists are accredited for the Cricket World Cup with the ICC and some of them have already received a call from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad to submit their passport for a visa.

The Pakistan team received its visas less than 36 hours before it was due to fly to Hyderabad via Dubai last month.

The delay in the issuing of the players' visa forced the PCB to cancel a brief training camp in Dubai and the team flew straight to Hyderabad.

Pakistan started the World Cup with two thumping victories against the Netherlands and Sri Lanka.

"I am pleased with the way the players have performed so far in the World Cup," Ashraf said. "The entire nation stand firmly behind the players for a successful campaign. I am traveling to India to motivate the team and my message to them before the India contest will be to play fearlessly as they have been playing throughout the event."

Dettoni 'reverses' decision to retire

LONDON, Oct 12, (AP): Frankie Dettoni isn't done with horse racing just yet.

The 52-year-old Italian jockey was set to retire at the end of 2023 but has reversed his decision after enjoying a successful farewell season, during which he had winners in the 2,000 Guineas and the Gold Cup at Ascot.

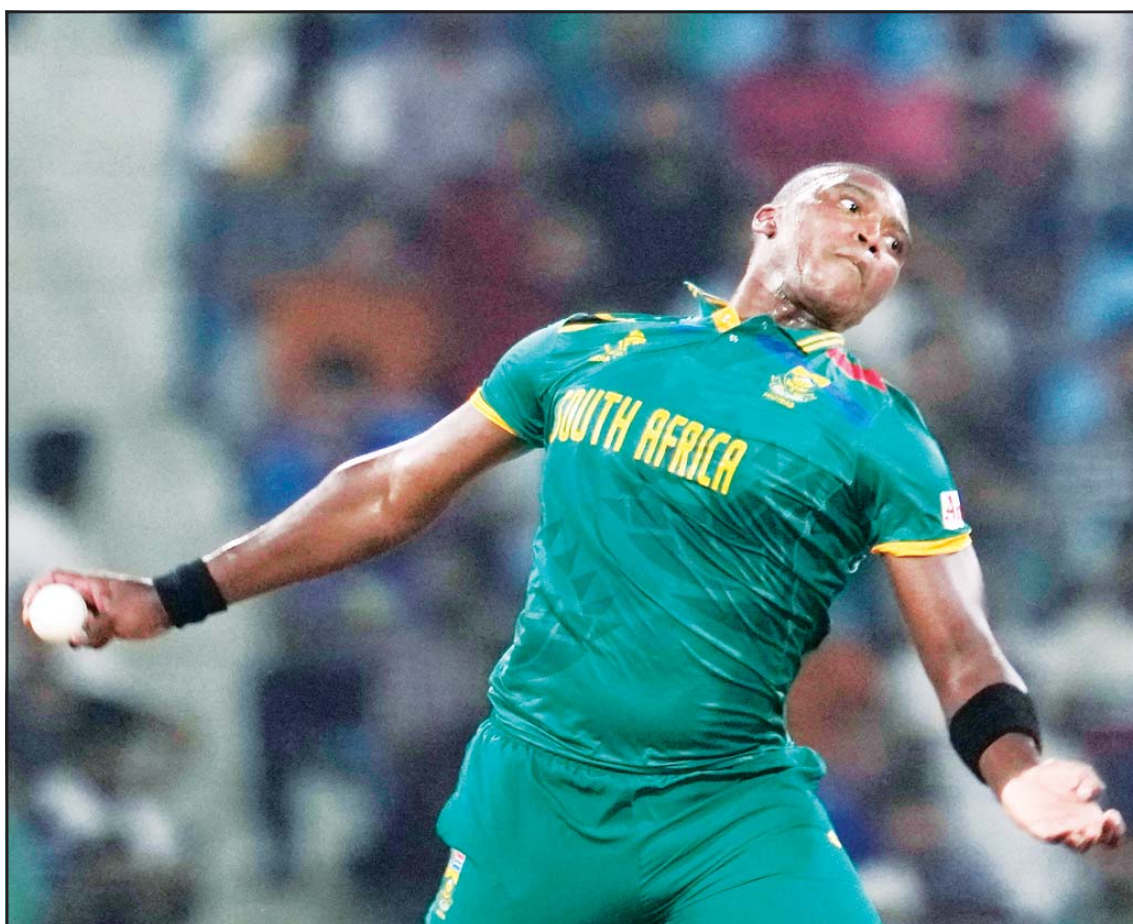
He said those successes "tickled his emotions" and now he is moving to California with his wife, Catherine, to ride at Santa Anita for the rest of the year - and maybe longer.

"How long I continue race-riding overseas and where my American journey takes me, no one can predict," Dettoni said Thursday, "but I welcome the challenge in this new chapter."

He said his final rides in Britain will be at the British Champions Day at Ascot next week. Dettoni, who has been a jockey since 1987, became a global phenomenon at Ascot when he won all seven races in one day there in September 1996, after which he produced his storied flying dismount.

Among his major successes, Dettoni has won the English Derby twice, the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas four times each, and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in France six times.

He spent four months in the U.S. around the turn of last year, finishing second in the jockey standings.



South Africa's Lungi Ngidi bowls during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Australia and South Africa in Lucknow, India. (AP)