



Kuwait slams attack on Bahraini servicemen

2 'martyrs'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (Agencies): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly denounced the "heinous attack" on a Bahraini force garrisoning on the southern border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which left two martyrs and several injuries.

The State of Kuwait stands in full solidarity with the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain in the aftermath of the despicable aggression by Houthi militants, the Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

The Ministry expressed sincere condolences for the leadership and people of Bahrain and the families of the two martyrs, praying for Allah the Almighty to lodge the martyrs in paradise, and grant their families solace and the wounded quick recovery.

A drone attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels killed a Bahraini officer and soldier who were patrolling Saudi Arabia's southern border early Monday, Bahrain's military command said. The Houthis did not immediately acknowledge carrying out the attack as efforts to strike a peace deal between Riyadh and the rebels continue.

The military statement, carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency, says "a number" of Bahraini soldiers were also wounded in the strike, without elaborating.

"This terrorist attack was carried out by the Houthis, who sent aircraft targeting the position of the Bahraini guards on the southern border of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia despite the halt of military operations between the warring sides in Yemen," the statement said. It did not identify the site of the attack.

Bahrain later repatriated the bodies to the island kingdom, where they were met by an honor guard and top military officials.

Conflict

The tiny island nation of Bahrain is a close ally of Saudi Arabia, which has led the war against the Houthis. The deadliest attack to strike Bahrain in the conflict so far had been a September 2015 missile strike by the Houthis in Marib that killed five of its troops, along with 52 Emirati and 10 Saudi troops.

A cease-fire had largely stopped the violence, and the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis have appeared close to a peace agreement in recent months.

It was unclear if the attack would derail those efforts by Saudi Arabia and its allies. In a statement from Riyadh, the Saudi-led military coalition mourned those killed and claimed there had been attacks targeting an electrical distribution site and a police station on its southern border by "some Houthi elements."

"In line with the positive efforts being made to seek to end the crisis and reach a comprehensive political solution, the leadership of the joint forces of the coalition affirms its rejection of repeated provocations and reserves the right to respond at the appropriate time and place," Brig. Gen. Turki al-Maliki said in a statement.

Yemen's war began in 2014 when the Houthis swept down from their northern stronghold and seized the capital, Sanaa, along with much of the country's north. In response, a Saudi-led coalition intervened in 2015 to try to restore the internationally recognized government to power.

The fighting soon devolved into a stalemated proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, causing widespread hunger and misery in Yemen, which even before the conflict had been the Arab world's poorest country. The war has killed more than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, killing tens of thousands more.

Saudi Arabia and Iran restored diplomatic relations earlier this year in a deal brokered by China, further raising hopes for an end to Yemen's conflict. Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia welcomed a Houthi delegation for peace talks, saying the negotiations had "positive results."

A U.N.-brokered cease-fire had already largely halted the violence, and Yemen has seen only sporadic clashes since the truce expired nearly a year ago. But diplomats have warned that the situation remains volatile.



Paintings on display at the art exhibition themed around peace, titled 'The Feather of Peace', with the participation of numerous artists who presented expressive paintings in alignment with the ceremony's objectives. - See Page 5

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Director of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad inspected plans and readiness of the central operations department for upcoming rainy season.

KFF released a statement on Tuesday saying that Al-Mekrad looked into mechanisms of plan execution as well as readiness of rescue equipment and water pumps distribution.

He relayed the greetings and gratitude of Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to KFF personnel and urged them to follow plans closely and cooperate with other state bodies to ensure protection of lives and property. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The US Central Command said that its forces successfully conducted a helicopter raid in northern Syria on Saturday, September 23.

Abu-Halil Al-Fad'ani, an ISIS Syria Operational and Facilitation official, was captured during the raid, the CENTCOM said in a press release referring to the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Al-Fad'ani was assessed to have relationships throughout the ISIS network in the region. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: The Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) said they arrested the culprit in the shooting at the US Embassy in Beirut.

The suspect confessed to the crime during investigations and law-enforcers found the weapon he used in the shooting, according to an ISF statement posted to X website on Monday.

No casualties resulted from the shooting which took place in Awkar town, Metn district, north Beirut, on Wednesday, September 20. (KUNA)

AMMAN: A Royal Decree was issued on Tuesday, approving a reshuffle of Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh's Cabinet.

The Royal Decree, according to the official news agency PETRA, approved the appointment of the following:

- Raed Abu Soud as Minister of Water and Irrigation
- Wajih Azaizeh as Minister of State
- Ahmad Maher Abul Samen as Minister of Public Works and Housing
- Haditha Khraisha as Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs
- Yousef Shamali as Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply
- Nadia Rawabdeh as Minister of Labour
- Wesam Tahtamouni as Minister of Transport
- Mubhammad Mubaidin as Minister of Government Communications

The ministers were sworn in before King Abdullah at Al Husseinia Palace, and Prime Minister Khasawneh and Royal Hashemite Court Chief Yousef Issawi attended the swearing-in. (KUNA)

GAZA: Scores of radical Israeli settlers burst on Tuesday into Al-Aqsa Mosque under protection of occupation troops, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

WAFA said the settlers entered the mosque courtyard in groups via Bab Al-Maghreb gate, toured the yard in a provocative manner, performed Talmudic rituals and listened to speeches by rabbis about the alleged Jews temple. (KUNA)

EU, Kuwait join forces to address climate change

Kuwait renewable energy pledge echoes global trends

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (Agencies): The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Dr. Khaled Mahdi, affirmed that Kuwait's public policies emulate the world's trend of using renewable energy in line with the cooperation of concerned parties.

This came in a speech by Dr. Mahdi during an event held by the European Union delegation to Kuwait, Tuesday, in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the International Labor Organization office in Kuwait.

Mahdi added that the aim of the event is to discuss the importance of a just transition and address the economic and social impacts resulting from the phe-

nomenon of climate change by also focusing on raising the level of awareness among the public.

He also pointed out that Kuwait planned to diversify energy sources by adopting renewable energy solutions, replacing fossil fuels with liquefied gas, building and developing oil refineries to produce clean environmental fuels to ensure the sustainability of energy supplies for future generations, and adopting a national carbon reduction strategy until 2050.

In turn, the Head of the European Union delegation to Kuwait, Anne Koistinen, said that the event highlights the urgent necessity of confronting the challenges of climate change and ensuring a bright future for the upcoming generations.

Deputy Regional Director for Arab Countries at the International Labor Organization, Peter Rademaker, stressed the joint efforts of all parties participating in the event, praising the cooperation between the participants to enhance joint commitment to making the economy environmentally friendly in a fair and comprehensive manner for all parties concerned.

Also:

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday unveiled plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet the country's climate-related commitments within the next seven years, including via reducing dependency on fossil fuels and boosting electric car use.

Macron said France's goal to reduce its emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, in line with a European Union target, is "attainable," after holding a special government meeting.

To get there, he said, the country must go more than twice as fast as before. "We need to succeed in reducing emissions by 5% per year over the period 2022-2030" - to compare with a 2% reduction per year over the past five years, Macron said.

"This whole strategy will enable us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, essentially coal, oil and gas... from 60% to 40% by 2030," he added.

Hacker threatens Finance with ransom of 15 bitcoins

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The 'hacker' who targeted the Ministry of Finance announced last week that the data he succeeded in obtaining from one of the ministry's systems was for sale, setting the required "ransom" amount at 15 bitcoins (\$400,000), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The "hacker" gave the min-

istry 7 days if it wanted to retrieve the data in exchange for paying the required "ransom" or selling it to anyone who would pay.

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Finance announced that one of its systems had been subjected to a hacking attempt via a virus last week.

Bid to normalize ties

Saudi's new envoy to PA visits West Bank

RAMALLAH, Sept 26, (AP): Saudi Arabia's newly appointed envoy to the Palestinian Authority (PA) presented his credentials to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during his first visit to the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Tuesday, a trip linked to American efforts to normalize ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The visit by nonresident ambassador Nayef al-Sudairi, who also serves as the Saudi ambassador to Jordan, is widely seen as an attempt by the kingdom to address the key sticking point in the Saudi-Israeli normalization deal - Saudi Arabia's long-standing support for the Palestinians. The Saudi government has said it will only normalize ties with Israel if there is major progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

To kick off his two-day trip, the Saudi diplomat met with Abbas, head of the Palestinian Authority that exercises limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank, and other senior Palestinian officials.

"God willing, this visit will be just the beginning of things to come, with the coordination of senior Pal-

estinian officials who are architects of our relations," al-Sudairi told journalists after meeting with Abbas.

Some 16 years ago, Arab leaders convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to reaffirm the Arab Peace Initiative, pledging no diplomatic recognition of Israel without a just settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although Palestinians still live under an open-ended Israeli military occupation in the West Bank and under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade in Gaza, a landmark diplomatic deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia has in recent weeks appeared to gain momentum.

But several obstacles to such an agreement remain. The Saudis are seeking a defense pact with the United States and want help in building their own civilian nuclear program, which has fueled fears of an arms race with Iran.

Saudi Arabia also wants Israel to grant at least some kind of concession to the Palestinians in the West Bank, which Israel captured along with east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war.

Tech decreases medical errors

Health ministry integrates AI in 'diagnosis and treatment'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): The Ministry of Health has begun employing artificial intelligence techniques in various realms namely for diagnosis and treatment and has started training cadres on the emerging technology.

The ministry is also using AI techniques at hospitals for various tasks including clinical care, researches, production of medicines and overhauling administrative operations.

The AI has proven useful in diverse medical fields, particularly radioactive diagnosis, surgeries and scientific research, affirmed Dr. Suleiman Al-Mazidi, the chief surgeon at Jaber Hospital in an interview with KUNA.

He has confirmed that the AI decreases medical errors, facilitates operations and shortens surgeries' duration, adding that the latest technology has been used at Jaber Hospital for surgeries, endoscopic operations, indocyanine green enhanced fluorescence (ICG) apparatuses in addition to the employment of aiding robots.

Jaber Hospital had witnessed a sur-

gery with the Olympus device for the first time in the Gulf, he said, indicating that surgeons in these procedures are aided with 3D devices that screen patients' internal organs.



Dr Al-Mazidi

Moreover, the hospital had also conducted the first endoscopic operation with the AI technology for pin pointing tumors in the colon and the stomach -- for the first time in Kuwait. He explained that the technology uncovers tumors that cannot be detected with the naked eye.

He declared that a division for training staff on the AI at the hospital would be inaugurated in October.

The hospital, he has added, already has a special ward, called "the virtual division," where doctors are trained on state of art techniques.



Nayef al-Sudairi, Saudi Arabia's first-ever ambassador to the Palestinian Authority (right), and Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Dr. Riyad Al-Maliki (left), make a joint statement after their meeting in Ramallah, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023. (AP)

Prayer Timings
Fajr 04:19 Asr 15:05
Sunrise .. 05:38 Maghrib .. 17:40
Zohr 11:40 Isha 18:57

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:
By Day: Hot and humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to southeasterly wind with speeds of 12-40 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

Weather table with columns: Station, Max Exp, Min Rec, Kuwait City, Kuwait Airport, Abdaly, Jahra, Salmiyah, Ahmadi, Nuwaisib, Wafra.

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



One of the speakers at the gathering.

Photo by Mahmoud Morsi

Civil societies hold gathering

Co-education ban law opposed

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Activists recently gathered at a ceremony, in which more than 25 associations and civil societies participated, to stand united in front of those demanding the implementation of the law banning co-education and their interpretations of it, as it supports gender discrimination. According to educational experts, the decline in the level of education in Kuwait can be attributed to the emergence of the religious hardliners movement in the 1980s, which changed the curricula and contributed to the destruction of education with their random decisions. During the speech festival organized by the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society, the constitutional expert and professor of law at Kuwait University Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hamoud rejected the infringement of the Constitutional Court, which indicated that the law banning co-education issued in 1996 did not require the presence of buildings to separate male and female students in the classrooms. Rather, the goal is to separate them within the halls. Also, there is no definition in Islamic jurisprudence for the concept of non-mixing. He stressed that the parliament's Ethics Committee does not have the mandate of talking about educational matters. Dr. Al-Hamoud said he wondered about the role of the Education Committee within the National Assembly. Meanwhile, Head of the Kuwait Social Association Abdullah Al-Radwan affirmed that implementing the law that bans co-education at the university would cost the state more than two and a half billion dollars, as it would inevitably lead to an increase in facilities, an increase in the school day, and an increase in teaching staff members, in contrast to the student overcrowding in the halls. He stressed that the presence of 70 percent of female students in Kuwait University will inevitably lead to delayed graduation for the male students. Al-Radwan said the decision to ban co-education in universities is considered as gender discrimination, especially since mixing is widespread in all government departments. He indicated that the decline in education in Kuwait began during the 1980s with the emergence of the hardliners' movements, which changed the curricula and contributed to the destruction of the education sector due to



Dr Al-Hamoud

their random decisions. On behalf of the Private Schools Union, Ghada Al-Khalaf rejected parliamentary interference in educational policies. She stressed that priorities require attention to the quality of education, and the need for stability within the educational process, as well as the need to focus on leaders with experience in the educational sector. Furthermore, Professor of Philosophy at Kuwait University Dr. Sheikh Al-Jassim revealed the suffering faced by faculty members and students due to intrusiveness in implementing the decision to ban co-education. She said the government's acquiescence confirms its weakness or its complicity in the betrayal of education, adding that they have become like those striving between Safa and Marwa on campus due to political interference in the educational process. As for the journalist Khaled Al-Tarrah, he stressed that the civil forces will confront anyone who tampers with the educational process in this way, especially by the hardline religious movement, and he held the Prime Minister responsible for this. Al-Tarrah said, "Simply agreeing to their decisions to ban co-education will inevitably lead to increased interference in the educational process". Meanwhile, Musad Al-Shuwa'ird, who was one of those who appealed against the law prohibiting co-education in the university, said he filed the appeal in 2015 when he was studying in the College of Administrative Sciences due to the presence of a class session for male students and another for female students, and he was unable to access a specific course session. He indicated that the law did not specify the separation. In addition, a student and the Vice President of the Democratic Youth Union Muhammad Al-Issa revealed that they, as students, reject the guardianship of education by religious movements. Muhammad Al-Asfour from the Democratic Center List said he believes the goal of some parliamentarians behind their insistence on interfering in the educational process is to satisfy their electoral base and the parties to which they belong. Even though the university is an independent body, they explained that this hardline movement is allied with the government against the educational process.



Dr. Al-Tarrah

'Govt jobs only for Kuwaitis'

Hire expats only when needed: Assembly Speaker

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun submitted a proposal to recommend dedicating jobs in the public sector exclusively for Kuwaiti citizens.



Al-Sa'adoun

He suggested allowing to contract with expatriate workers to do jobs in the public sector only if no Kuwaitis who hold the required qualification or have the required experience have applied for such jobs. These workers should not be given salaries higher than the salaries of Kuwaiti workers occupying similar jobs. Meanwhile, MP Fayez Al-Jomhour submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Health Ahmad Al-Awadhi, asking to be provided with a copy of the contract signed by the ministry and the relevant insurance company for the health insurance for retirees "Afia", as well as copies of the entire relevant contracts signed later. He wanted to know the number of beneficiaries of Afia, the number of retirees holding Afia cards per year from the time the contract was enforced until today. The lawmaker also asked if there are expatriates among the beneficiaries. If yes, he wanted to know their names and the legal basis upon which they were added to the list of beneficiaries. MP Al-Jomhour wanted to know the amount of money provided by the Ministry of Health to the relevant insurance company, the maximum amount allocated annually for every beneficiary, and a report from the department in the Ministry of Health that is assigned to follow up on the commitment of the insurance company to the contract requirements. He asked about the method adopted to settle the remaining balance allocated for the beneficiary by the end of every year when the maximum amount allocated for a beneficiary is not exhausted. The lawmaker asked if any violations have been recorded against the hospitals and clinics that provide Afia health service to retirees. If yes, he wanted to know the procedures taken by the ministry against them.

KPL airing not banned: Info
Libya thankful for Kuwait's help

RABAT, Sept 26, (KUNA): Libya's Health Ministry spokesperson Muhyiddin Nweji on Monday said his government and people are very thankful for the aid presented by Kuwait in helping combat Hurricane Daniel's affects. The air bridge built by Kuwait has massively helped in alleviating the effects of the hurricane while also providing the basic needs for the affected areas, he added via a phone call to KUNA. "It's not strange that the State of Kuwait who regularly supports and aids countries and their people in disasters and crises" said Muhyiddin who also serves with the Crisis Committee. The heavy floods hit the eastern region of Libya causing a lot of damage, and the initiative taken by the State of Kuwait has helped in dealing with the effects thanks to implementations of its political leadership. Report refuted: The Ministry of Information on Monday denied speculations that it banned airing Kuwait Premier League, also known as STC Premier League, by a local TV station. The Ministry received a request from the broadcaster in question this morning for leasing two SNG units to air the Premier League and no decision has been made so far on the request, according to a press release from the Ministry. It affirmed keenness on cooperation with all media outlets to meet the aspirations of the Kuwaiti media and the public as per the set rules and laws.



The press conference in progress.

KUNA photo

Charities launch donation campaign

The head of Kuwaiti Charitable Societies Union Dr. Nasser Al-Ajmi, announced Tuesday, the launch of the donations national campaign to pay fees of needy students inside Kuwait to be held next Friday for five days. In a press conference Al-Ajmi said that the campaign will be launched in cooperation with Kuwaiti Federation of Private Schools, aims to collect donations for students who are unable to pay fees due to the limited financial situation of their families. The initiative comes to strengthen partnership and social responsibility and achieve social solidarity between individuals, institutions

and needy families, noting that the campaign aims to collect KD 750,000 about (USD 2.4 million) to pay school fees for 3,000 students at an amount of KD 250 for each student, he said. Among the sponsors, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Kuwait Banking Association, the General Secretariat of Endowments and the Zakat House, in addition to 15 associations and other charitable bodies, noting that the campaign would be in several locations to collect donations, in the Mubarakia School, Al-Babtain Library, the National Library, and Bait Al-Othman. (KUNA)



A new batch of Kuwaiti relief aid to help refugees from Ukraine.

KUNA photo

Official approval of e-sick leave

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday officially approved the issuance of electronic sick leave. The decision was issued by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, and Acting Chairman of the Civil Service Council Issa Al-Kandari. The decision stipulates that, "Sick leaves of no more than seven days at a time and no more than sixty uninterrupted days per year granted by government primary health care centers to which the employee belongs according to what is stated in their civil card or the government center assigned to a specific employer or granted through electronic means approved by the Ministry of Health without the employee visiting the aforementioned health centers, shall be issued within the following limits:- 1. Sick leave with full pay for the

first fifteen days
2. Sick leave with half salary for the next fifteen days
3. Sick leave with a quarter of salary for the next fifteen days.
4. Sick leave without pay for the last fifteen days. The decision also stipulates that the duration of sick leave granted without the employee visiting health centers and through electronic means approved by the Ministry of Health shall not exceed three days per month. Granting this leave by this means shall not result in an increase or modification in the maximum duration of the leave or type of determined salary for each period in accordance with what is stated in this clause. The decision allowed the approved medical report to be replaced by means of electronic communication between the Ministry of Health, the Civil Service Commission and government agencies, provided that the decision is implemented from the date of its issuance and is published in the official gazette.

Kuwait sends new aid batch
Power generators for Ukraine

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): On Monday, Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, announced that the Ukrainian Red Cross had been delivered power generators to address the repercussions of the energy crisis in Ukraine. Dr. Al-Sayer conveyed in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this donation symbolizes the depth of solidarity between the leadership, government, and people of the State of Kuwait and the suffering populations, especially in the face of challenging humanitarian conditions. He further noted that this humanitarian assistance underscores Kuwait's prompt response to Ukraine's most pressing needs. He highlighted that the Kuwait Red Crescent Society had previously supplied over 33.5 tons of relief aid to support Ukrainian refugees. On his part, Khaled Al-Fadhli, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Poland, emphasized Kuwait's commitment to alleviating the hardships faced by the Ukrainian people during their exceptional circumstances. He stressed that Kuwait's humanitarian aid originates from the directives of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sa-

bah, and the political leadership, as part of Kuwait's ongoing tradition of generosity. Ambassador Al-Fadhli also commended the rapid response of various Kuwaiti institutions and their efficient mobilization of available resources to facilitate the delivery of this aid. He praised the pivotal role played by the Red Crescent Society in promptly responding to Ukraine's request for support. In a similar statement to KUNA, Vitaly Belay, Counselor at the Ukrainian Embassy in Poland, lauded the strong bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and Ukraine. He expressed his pride in the collaborative efforts between the two nations in various fields and conveyed sincere gratitude to the leadership, government, and people of Kuwait for their unwavering support and solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Previously, the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers had made the decision to provide humanitarian aid amounting to two million US dollars to Ukrainian refugees, with the assistance being channeled through the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in accordance with high-level directives.

'Over 7,000 visas issued to Kuwaitis for Austria'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Chargé d' Affaires of the Austrian Embassy in Kuwait Christian Vlazny affirmed that the embassy issued more than 7,000 visas in 2023, which is an increase of about 40 percent compared to the previous year, reports Al-Qabas daily. In a press statement, he explained that the number of days of residence for Kuwaiti citizens in Austria is likely to be much higher, as the Schengen visa is often used to visit several countries within the Schengen area. The features of the new regulations adopted by the European Commission for Schengen visas for Kuwaitis represent a profitable matter for the Kuwaiti and European sides. A one-time application could lead to the immediate issuance of a Schengen visa for Kuwaiti citizens with validity of five years. It entitles them to stay for 90 days every six months. Therefore, Kuwaiti citizens will be able to make their travel plans more flexibly in the future, and will not have to worry about re-applying for a visa before each trip. The new feature will also help in saving significant costs and time, over a period of five years. This will benefit not only travelers, but also the tourism sector in Austria and the entire Schengen region. Ambassador Vlazny revealed that the embassy implemented the new regulations immediately, in accordance with the European Commission's decision issued on September 8, 2023. He said, "We have already granted the new visa for a validity period of five years. However, if the passport is valid for a period shorter than that, the visa will be valid for up to three months before the expiry of the travel document for all applications received since then".

Accolade a 'tremendous honor': Dr Al-Rumaihi

Arab gathering names Kuwait's Al-Rumaihi media personality of year

By Salem Al-Methen

DUBAI, Sept 26, (KUNA): Pan-Arab talks bringing together media bodies from across the region have named Kuwait's Dr. Mohammad Al-Rumaihi as the personality of the year in recognition of his contributions in the field.

As he received his award, Al-Rumaihi, a professor of political sociology at Kuwait University, dedicated the achievement to his compatriots who have made notable contributions in the field of media and journalism, saying the accolade was a "tremendous honor."

He hailed the gathering as a significant initiative that helps propel the field of media and journalism in the region to greater levels, be-

sides shining light on the importance of this crucial sector.

Al-Rumaihi has enjoyed a prolific career in the field of journalism, having served as the chief editor of numerous Kuwaiti publications, while he has also authored a number of books delving into Arab social and political affairs.

Govt agencies' salary data not stored in our systems: Finance

Priority given to projects in northern region, Mubarak Port

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Ministry of Finance said that since the first day of the cyber-attack, the Ministry of Finance's systems were isolated from the rest of the government agencies' systems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Fahd Al-Shula

The ministry had formed a technical team consisting of several parties headed by the National Center for Cybersecurity, and with the assistance of a specialized international company that is relied upon by major international private and government agencies in combating this type of cybercrime.

It follows a strict and systematic framework to recover from the effects of the cyberattack that took place on September 18, 2023 and to follow up on everything new and everything related to this cyberattack and deal with it in the utmost professionalism.

The Ministry of Finance confirms

that all data related to the salaries of employees in government agencies is not stored in the ministry's systems, and that the financial transactions for all government agencies are continuing and proceeding normally.

The ministry praises the national efforts of the technical team and workers in the Ministry of Finance who have continued to work around the clock since the first hours of the cyberattack until the present time.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Finance urges those interested to obtain its news from its accounts on Twitter and Instagram @MOFKW and from reliable sources. The ministry also reserves the right to take legal measures against anyone who promotes incorrect news.

Structural plan: While the Council of Ministers approved a draft decree regarding the fourth general structural plan for the State of Kuwait 2040, and submitted it to His Highness the Crown Prince, the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shula confirmed that the project has a close connection with all the memorandums that were signed a few days ago with China, whether it is related to Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port or renewable energy, as they are sites that are simultaneous and compatible with the plan, including also residential cities as well as the metro and railway, reports Al-Rai daily.

The Cabinet reviewed the visual presentation submitted by Al-Shula and municipal leaders regarding the project, which includes 4 regions -- the Kuwait Urban Region, the Northern Regional Economic Re-

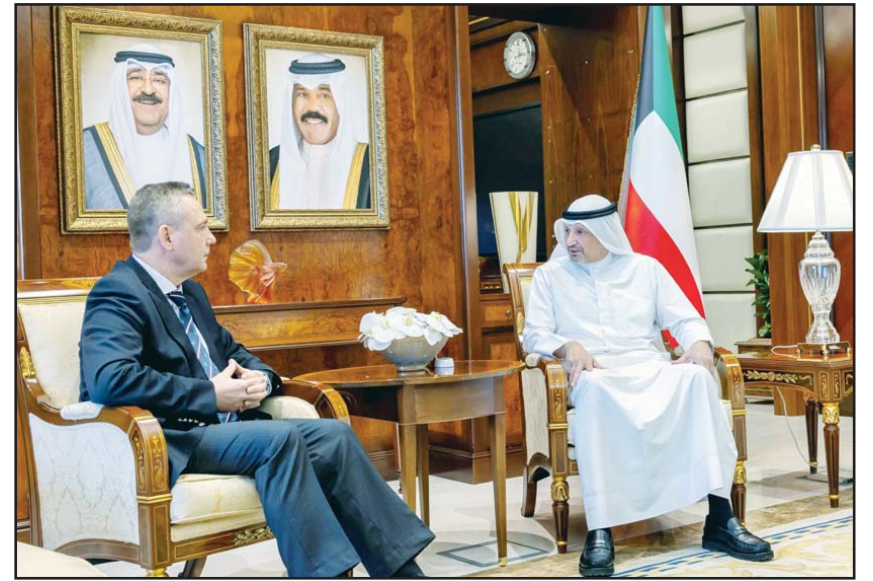
gion, the Southern Regional Region, and the Western Regional Region.

Al-Shula revealed, in a statement to Al-Rai, that the municipality intends to hold an extensive meeting with the authorities and institutions, to inform them of the components of the structural plan, after its approval and publication in the Official Gazette, especially 30 notes are attached to the project and what has been published is the useful summary, revealing that the priorities in implementing the projects will be for the northern economic region, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, and residential areas, in addition to distributing population density among the regions.

In turn, the head of the Municipal Council, Abdullah Al-Mahri, said in a statement to Al-Rai that the master plan will serve as a road map for building a "new Kuwait" in line with the huge development projects included in the government's action plan, in addition to the memorandums of understanding that were signed with China, stressing the necessity of immediate meetings should be held between the municipality and the rest of the government agencies to formulate general policy to implement the content of the plan.



French Ambassador Le Flecher.



Russian Ambassador Zheltov.

FM meets French, Russian ambassadors

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met Tuesday with French Ambassador to the country, Claire Le Flecher and Russian Ambassador, Vladimir Zheltov.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that they touched on the recent developments in the region, mainly the Iraqi Federal Supreme Court's ruling over the Khor Abdullah waterway agreement. (KUNA)

albander hotel & resort

September

Room Promotion



Spanish ambassador honoring former CEO of Kuwait Airways Razouki.

Performance of ex-KAC CEO commended

Spanish envoy honors Razouki

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Maan Razouki, the former CEO of Kuwait Airways, was honored with the Medal of Civil Merit by Spain in recognition of his significant efforts and contributions to fostering closer ties between Spain and Kuwait, reports Al-Qabas daily.

them loyal tourists to Spain. However, they had to travel through other airlines and countries due to the lack of direct flights.

The Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, Miguel Moro Aguilar, commended Razouki's outstanding performance during his tenure as the leader of Kuwait Airways in recent years. He highlighted that despite the strong bilateral relations between the two nations, direct flights had been absent for four decades since the last direct flight in the eighties.

Aguilar acknowledged Razouki's role in reopening the direct flight route between Madrid and Kuwait during his tenure, making it a highly sought-after travel destination.

He also mentioned the numerous Kuwaitis visiting Spain annually and purchasing real estate, considering

This reopening facilitated an influx of 100,000 Kuwaiti tourists during the summer, with expectations of increased travel due to visa facilities and diversified travel routes.

Expressing his gratitude, Razouki emphasized that the honor bestowed by the King of Spain was not just for him personally but for all Kuwaitis. He took pride in the robust bilateral relations shared between the two countries.

KDIPA to receive govt funding

AEZ to be launched in '24/'25 fiscal year

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: According to informed sources, the launch of the Abdali Economic Zone (AEZ) will take place in the second fiscal year of the government's work program, i.e. the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

They explained that the budget of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) will receive government funding through the relevant section to spend on its planned needs in the current fiscal year, including KD 600,000 allocated for consultations such as the management of special economic zones.

On February 5, KDIPA had launched an exercise to update the feasibility study for the Abdali Special Economic Zone. It has been mandated by the Council of Ministers since August 18, 2021 to proceed with offering it as a

public auction in a way that enhances the private sector's participation in the implementation of development projects and reduces the financial burden on the state budget.

KDIPA, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 116/2013, is responsible for developing economic zones in the north, south and west of the country on a total area estimated at 19 km, including (Abdali Economic Zone), for which financial appropriations began to be allocated in the authority's budget in the 2018/2019 fiscal year.

The economic zone, the structural plan of which was approved by the Municipal Council on March 24, 2022 on an area of 5.02 square kilometers, is one of the most important projects in the north of the country that will play a major role in cross-border export industries and will be a logistical center for Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

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NOW	NOW
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Promo period from 1st - 30th September 2023

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Summit to provide unique digital networking experience

Fundamental media space transformation shout out for Changemakers

LONDON, Sept 26: The media and advertising industry is at a crucial turning point with the magnitude of ongoing digital transformation and disruption. Leaders in the media and advertising space have more burning issues to deal with now than ever before – you can sweep it under the rug, or face them. Mediaspace Global Changemakers Summit is for the ones who belong to the latter and want to stay ahead of the curve and extend their network outside their current circles.



Walid Kanafani



Damien Douglas

Mediaspace.global, the social professional network for leaders in media, marketing, tech and regulation was designed to connect professionals from media, marketing, tech and regulation globally to facilitate conversations by meeting people, not just their social media profiles in the digital space.

The first Mediaspace Global Changemakers Summit on 28th September 2023 is the next step for the platform, its members and potential members to provide unique digital networking experience and high-level knowledge sharing through a full day virtual event.

It'll be followed by a post-summit meetup in London which also happens to be the Q3 session in the quarterly series of premium members' Mediaspace Leadership Club London Roundtable.

Shifts and disruption in focus - to look out for opportunities

At the summit you'll be part of digital networking and high-level conversations on cutting-edge topics:

- Addressing the biggest shift in digital advertising since the 1990s
- Addressing the biggest tech disruption since the internet: AI
- Addressing monetisation in a cross-media and platform competition
- Addressing sustainability & effectiveness in the media and ad space
- Addressing digital transformation in the media and ad space

Explore a new format: conversational, networking-focused and anti-elitist

To ensure quality interaction, Mediaspace leaders and ambassadors invite only 250 leaders, experts and innovators from the media, adtech, marketing and regulatory space globally.

Speakers - including TIME EMEA Managing Director and World Media Group chairman, Damien Douglas, worldwide known competition economist expert, Cristina Caffarra of Keystone and Navroop K. Sahdev, Founder and CEO of The Digital Economist and more-will also be part of the conversation that attendees can join.

The good news is that you can also join the conversation, no matter what your company size or location. Contact the Summit Ambassadors named below for an invitation.

Mediaspace.global is offering an 80% discounted ticket to women leaders, innovators, changemakers in the media, advertising, legal, policy making and tech space and 20 free tickets to next-

gen changemakers (under 30 years old).

Summit Ambassadors as gate-openers

- Patricio Pagani /LATAM, Founder & Lead Puma @TheBlackPuma, Growth Hacker, VC, Data & Tech Angel Investor & Advisor & Futurist
- Ellie Edwards-Scott/UK, Co-Founder of The Advisory Collective, Strategic Advisor
- Tamima Ibrahim/Africa, Business development and marketing manager, Pan-Africa Network Group
- Jane King/US, CEO and Founder, LilaMax Media at the NASDAQ, Host, New to the Street, NewsMax TV
- Farrell Tan and Dr Craig J Selby/Asia, Co-Founders of Orchan Asia Consulting and The Third Degree

■ Walid Kanafani, CPM/Middle East, Founder of Beyond Consulting Services, Global Vice President MENA- Education at the International Advertising Association

■ Kinga Incze / EU, Founder and CEO of Mediaspace.global (kinga.incze@whitereport.global)

■ Lavina Suthenthiran / any other regions, Head of Content and Comms at Mediaspace.global (lavina.suthenthiran@mediaspace.global)

Links

■ More details about Mediaspace.global: Mediaspace.global

■ More details about the Summit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mediaspace-global-changemakers-summit-tickets-617331484087>

Get invited to the Post-Summit London event and book your ticket here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mediaspace-leadership-club-london-q3-changemakers-summit-afterparty-tickets-698854110457?aff=oddtcreator>

World Peace Day celebration calls for rejection of violence & racism

Kuwait's international standing praised

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26, (KUNA): On Monday evening, the Women's Institute for Development and Peace hosted the eighth edition of the World Peace Day celebration. This event aligned with the United Nations' theme for the year, "Working for peace is our ambition to achieve global goals." The ceremony commenced with a recorded speech by Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, who initiated the event under his patronage.

He emphasized the profound belief in peace's values, advocated by both human and divine laws, striving for global peace, security, and stability that every human deserves. Sheikh Ahmed Nasser stated that peace should replace the destruction and devastation caused by wars and conflicts, underscoring Kuwait's historical commitment to the inseparable elements of peace and development.

He highlighted Kuwait's prominent role as a global advocate for peace and humanitarian work, acknowledging its recognition by the United Nations as a center for humanitarian efforts and honoring its late Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as a Humanitarian Action Leader in 2014.

Resolution

He expressed his earnest desire for global peace, the resolution of disputes and conflicts, and the restoration of usurped rights, with a particular focus on the rights of



KUNA photo

Celebration of World Peace Day

Palestinians to a secure, sovereign, independent, and prosperous homeland within the borders of June 4, 1967.

Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, echoed these sentiments in a recorded speech, praising the Women's Institute's initiatives to empower Arab women in leadership roles, conflict prevention and resolution, peace building, and sustainability efforts. He stressed the importance of international and regional collaboration, emphasizing the need for governments and the international community to empower women, ensuring their full and equal participation in achieving and preserving peace. Aboul Gheit recognized the pivotal role women play in the peace equation and its sustainability. He also noted that the Women's

Rights Committee, established in 1971, has supported various programs aimed at achieving justice, political, economic, and social rights for women, and the inclusion of women's perspectives in peace-building initiatives.

Kawthar Al-Jawaan, the head of the institute and the Arab Women's Network for Peace, emphasized the urgent need for peace in today's world, which is plagued by wars, conflicts, poverty, homelessness, hunger, and climate crisis, even in seemingly peaceful nations. She called for collective action to promote peace, combat inequality, address climate change, and protect human rights. Al-Jawaan envisioned a world free of wars where individuals coexist peacefully, making the world a more beautiful and harmonious place.



Group photo of CCE and Gulf Bank representatives.

Shaping future of banking excellence

CCE-AUK, Gulf Bank collaborate on Ajyal 9th Edition

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Inspired by the collective vision of maintaining a robust sustainability program that contributes towards achieving the New Kuwait Vision 2035, the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) and Gulf Bank have continued their collaborative journey through the unique flagship annual development program, "AJYAL".

The Ajyal Program commenced its 9th edition, a six-month comprehensive learning journey, aiming to help learners develop key banking skills, cultivating high performing,

holistic bankers who are at the focus of the bank's long-term growth strategy by demonstrating promising potential on both personal and professional levels.

The objective of the program is to foster a performance-driven culture (PEOPLE), introduce technology solutions to enable a bank-wide digital transformation (TECHNOLOGY), and adopt world-class risk management practices (RISK), which in turn, would add value to the bank's vision.

Following the success of Ajyal 7 and 8, the Center continues to resound its motto "Learning never ends" by

وزارة التجارة والصناعة

RECALL INFORMATION

Mercedes-Benz Cars
MODEL: 206
Model year: 2022-2023
Total vehicles: 16

RECALL REASON

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain C-Class (206 platform) vehicles the bolts of specific 12V- and 48V-ground connections might be fastened with an insufficient torque. Furthermore, for plug-in-hybrid-variants the electrical drive train might be deactivated

REMEDY

As a precautionary measure, the bolting of the ground connections will be checked and repairs to be performed if necessary. The required work certainly be carried out free of charge.

CONTACT

Please contact Al Mulla Automobiles Co.
Phone 1-887-888
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area - 9 Street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre - Al Shuwaikh Industrial Area - 13 Street
Mercedes-Benz Service Centre for Passenger Cars - Al Ahmadi - 29 Street

World Tourism Day focuses on sustainable future

MADRID, Sept 26, (KUNA): The World Tourism Day 2023, to be celebrated on Wednesday in the Saudi capital Riyadh, will focus on bringing the world together around them theme of Tourism and Green Investments.

According to the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Member States would mark the occasion in every region through a range of special events and programs.

On this occasion, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Polo-

likashvili said, "Tourism has never been more important for our economies or for our societies. Its potential is enormous. And so on this World Tourism Day, we celebrate tourism's ability to drive growth while also highlighting the vital need for investments to ensure such growth is inclusive and sustainable."

During this year's celebrations, UNWTO will place the emphasis on Tourism and Green Investments.

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£1.490 K.O. 1.150	£1.540	£1.725 From 27 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 1.390	£4.990 K.O. 3.450
£0.385 From 28 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 0.195	£2.895 From 27 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 2.195	£3.995 From 27 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 2.495	£0.895 From 27 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 0.695
£1.295 K.O. 0.995	£1.345 From 27 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 0.995	£0.395 From 28 to 30.09.2023 K.O. 0.225	£4.690 From 27 to 30.09.2023
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This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 46 and 47) of no.39/2015 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection



Mohammed Taqi

Gulf Bank: Parents can pay their children's tuition fees on installments

As part of its efforts to provide distinguished services, and on the occasion of the beginning of the new academic year, Gulf Bank is providing credit card holders with the opportunity to pay their children's school fees over a period of 12-months, interest-free, through Gulf Bank's Easy Pay service.

In addition to pay school fees, customers can request to benefit from this service when shopping from all participating stores and institutions –

for purchases of KD 50 or more for each transaction – by requesting to transfer the transaction via the Easy Pay service.

When shopping locally or internationally, customers can pay KD 150 or more for each transaction, and would then receive a text message from the bank with the transactions eligible to be transferred to the Easy Pay feature.

Gulf Bank's Assistant General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Mo-

ammed Taqi, said: "As part of Gulf Bank's continuous efforts to establish the principles of social sustainability, Gulf Bank works to keep pace with the aspirations of its customers, and meet their requirements; in parallel with its continuous endeavors to provide the best products and services, and an outstanding customer experience."

Taqi mentioned that Gulf Bank aims to contribute to alleviating the burden on parents, with the beginning of the new academic year, by providing

them with the opportunity to pay their school fees in installments over a period of 12 months, interest-free, without any additional transaction fees.

He further stated that the Easy Pay service comes as part of a large package of services provided by the bank, and its ongoing strategy, which aims to consolidate the Bank's leading position as the Kuwaiti Bank of the Future, by providing customers with the best banking solutions and services.

CODED Academy & Agility conclude 'Kuwait Codes'



Kuwait Codes participants.

2023 program expanded girls participation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: CODED Academy, the first coding academy in the Middle East - based in Kuwait, has concluded its Kuwait Codes training program, providing free programming training for over 1,100 high schools students in partnership with Agility and other local companies.

The Kuwait Codes initiative provides basic digital skills that the country's future workforce needs in order to build a successful knowledge and innovation-led economy. The 2023 program focused on four distinct knowledge areas: website programming, game development, Python Programming, and app-building toolkit

Flutter.

The training ran through three main cohorts that welcomed 1147 students, 565 boys and 482 girls. An additional 102 girls participated in a special program, 'Ra'idat al Taqnia,' developed by CODED to increase female participation. 'Ra'idat al Taqnia' program participants undertook

intensive training UI/UX and design of an interface for a website or mobile application; a startup workshop to teach about entrepreneurship; and Women in Tech.

During the graduation ceremony, Agility presented the Best Woman Project Award to Jenan Faisal, who developed an application using Python

that helps people finding destinations during their travels which is also integrated with speech recognition for easier customer usability.

Henadi Al Saleh, Agility Chairperson, said: "Congratulations to all the participants in this year's Kuwait Codes program. Digital skills are essential for the jobs of the future, and

we're proud to have supported 1147 young people in strengthening their digital capabilities – with nearly 50% female participation. Agility is committed to creating opportunities for our young people to thrive – and our CODED partnership has helped train nearly 1,500 young people in total since 2022."

ABK announces its closure on the occasion of the Prophet's Birthday

Bank extends greetings to the Kuwaiti leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) extends its greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as the government, people, and residents of Kuwait on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday (PBUH), hoping it bestows an abundance of blessings.

ABK discloses that its branches will be closed on Thursday, 28th of September 2023 to resume operations on Sunday, 1st of October 2023. During this time, ABK's newly launched digital branch in Al Khiran Mall will be functional to service customers from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Bank has also confirmed its full operational readiness to serve customers 24/7 via its various digital platforms throughout the holiday. This includes Online Banking via eahl.com, Mobile Banking through the ABK app, as well as the Bank's call center Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how



Miami – Burgan concert poster



Hessa AlNajadah

Burgan sponsors biggest audio-visual concert 'Feykom Tarab? A Night with Miami' in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: In ongoing support of the local arts and culture scene, Burgan Bank announced its sponsorship of the mega audio-visual concert titled "Feykom Tarab? A Night with Miami" in Kuwait, which is considered one of the biggest performances of the year. Between September 28 and October 2, the audience will be transported to the multi-sensory world of Miami Band at The Arena Kuwait.

With this sponsorship, Burgan Bank reaffirms its commitment to enriching Kuwait's art scene and supporting its creative energies that satisfy various tastes as part of its comprehensive social responsibility program.

The much-anticipated grand performance promises music lovers across age groups five memorable nights that explore the limits of creativity in the music industry through its crossover with other arts, such as dynamic visual effects and outstanding live performances.

Adding to the allure of the concert, "Feykom Tarab" will also feature a number of musicians who will be performing their top hits alongside Miami Band with a special, never-before-heard twist.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager - Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said:

to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

"We are very proud of our continued support for the entertainment sector in Kuwait, which we renew, this time around, through our sponsorship of the biggest and most notable music performance, 'Feykom Tarab? A Night with Miami' in Kuwait.

The highly awaited concert marks a leap in the live performance industry and a celebration of Kuwait's most prominent bands and musicians whose wonderful music remains a cross-generational companion. To me and to many others my age, Miami's music brings about a refreshing nostalgia that transports us back to memories, places, and situations that will forever stay with us."

"We are also delighted to be partners with Free Jabriya Productions, who are celebrated as one of the top in the domestic industry," she added. "This partnership comes in extension to Burgan's committed support for Kuwait's youthful talents and faith in their ability to elevate the arts scene through their innovative approach to music and performing arts that satisfies different tastes."

Al-Najadah went on to note that a number of top-tier Kuwaiti creatives and select international experts will be collaborating and sharing their expertise in décor, video, lighting, costume design, and music to deliver a world-class entertainment experience that marks one of the biggest live music

productions of the year. The performance announcement was met with great enthusiasm, leading to the tickets completely selling out in a very brief period.

On his part, Mr. Ali Al-Nusif, Executive Producer and Co-Founder - Free Jabriya, stated: "It is very important to us that we continue contributing to and producing new, creative, and inspiring works of art, and we have, indeed, introduced many outstanding projects that left a notable print on the industry. That's why we are very excited to contribute to the success of Feykom Tarab, which is set to take us all, audience and back-stage talents, on an unprecedented musical journey that is adorned with visual effects and mesmerizing stage performances that add a new flare to many of the songs we grew up listening to. We are delighted to be part of an exceptional team of worldwide talents and experts who bring phenomenal skills, each in their own scope, to this mega event."

"We would like to extend our thanks to Burgan Bank for its support and generous sponsorship of this event, which is more than a mere concert, but a celebration of the artistic journey of one of the region's most notable music icons," Al-Nusif added. "It is delightful to see institutions such as Burgan continue to dedicate efforts and resources to putting young Kuwaiti talents center stage."

contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.

Oct 1st last day for depositing to enter Al Dirwaza account Nov monthly draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that October 1st is the last date to open or deposit in Al Dirwaza account to enter the November monthly draw for a chance to win prizes of KD 20,000 for 11 winners. Accordingly, the Bank is reminding its current and potential customers to open or deposit more in Al Dirwaza account to increase their chances in November's Draw that will take place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from KIB.

Ali AISane, Manager - Product Development, Digital Transformation & Innovation at KIB, said: "We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to open or deposit more in Al Dirwaza account to increase their chances in November's Draw. Each KD 1 completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. We would like to remind our customers who already opened Al Dirwaza account that their winning chances in the draw on cash prizes increase with higher deposits. As for our future customers, we invite them to open Al Dirwaza account by visiting the branches or through KIB mobile application and benefit from the best draw account in Kuwait."

Ali AISane further highlighted KIB's commitment to meeting and exceeding its customers' expectations by designing tailored prize offers, introducing innovative banking products, and launching promotional campaigns that add value to their lives, in line with KIB's "Bank for Life" slogan.

Each month, 11 account holders have the chance of winning valuable cash prizes, with the first winner receiving KD 10,000 and the remaining 10 receiving KD 1,000. The Bank announces the winners of the monthly



Ali AISane

draw on its website and social media channels, as well as in newspapers.

The cash prizes are deposited in their Al Dirwaza accounts within two business days from the announcement. To enter the upcoming Al Dirwaza draws, KIB customers can open an account at any time and at any place. A minimum of KD 100 is required to open an account and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is the best-in-class savings account in the sector, with annual expected profits up to 2% disbursed on monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Moreover, Al Dirwaza account, which is compliant with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Board, comes with a wide range of benefits.



Dirwaza

Writers strike is not over yet with key votes remaining on deal

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 26, (AP) — The deal is made, the pickets have been suspended, and Hollywood's writers are on the verge of getting back to work after months on strike. Actors, meanwhile, wait in the wings for their own resolution.

Crucial steps remain for the writers, who technically remain on strike, and for other workers awaiting a return to production of new shows. The next phase comes Tuesday, when the governing boards of the two branches of the Writers Guild of America are expected to vote on the tentative agreement reached by union negotiators with Hollywood studios.

Following the approval from the boards — which is likely — comes a vote from the writers themselves, whose timing is uncertain. The guild and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, streaming services and production companies in the negotiations, were still finalizing language Monday on their agreement.

That could prompt a delay of Tuesday's voting and has kept union leaders from sharing with writers the details of what nearly five months of striking and hardship has earned them. The leaders have promised a series of meetings later this week where writers can learn about the terms of the deal regarding pay, show staffing, and control of artificial intelligence in storytelling.

The guild's leaders told them only that the agreement is "exceptional," with gains for every member. A successful yes vote from the membership will finally, officially, bring the strike to an end.

Meanwhile, though their own pickets have been suspended, writers were encouraged to join actors in solidarity on their lines starting Tuesday, just as many actors did with writers in the two months before their own strike started in July.

The studio alliance has chosen to negotiate only with the writers so far, and has made no overtures yet toward restarting talks with the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. That will presumably change soon.

SAG-AFTRA leaders have said they will look closely at the agreement struck by the writers, who have many of the same issues they do, but it will not effect the demands they have.

PBS was looking forward to a relatively free lane to offer fresh television to viewers downtrodden by the Hollywood strikes this fall, but that advantage may only last a couple of months now.

A tentative deal reached late Sunday in the crippling TV writers strike, with hopes that actors would soon follow suit, has given rise to hopes that new episodes of favorite scripted shows might return sometime this winter.

Reality

With commercial networks largely bereft of fresh material beyond reality shows, sports and game shows, PBS has a fall schedule of new programming, including a heavy dose of nonfiction, led by Ken Burns' look at "The American Buffalo."

"I have to believe that people are looking for new stuff," said Paula Kerger, CEO of the Public Broadcasting Service.

PBS' plans were virtually unaffected by the strike. One exception is a delay making "American Historia," a three-part documentary series helmed by actor John Leguizamo about Latino figures in history, Kerger said. PBS acquired the docuseries "Becoming Frida Kahlo," about the artist, to replace it and it premiered last week.

PBS has also bought a few more scripted series that were made outside of the US, she said. Most of them are aimed at PBS' streaming service, although the Danish series "Seaside Hotel" has aired on the television network.

For the most part, however, PBS has to plan well in advance and isn't nimble enough to quickly switch things up to take advantage of how rivals were affected by the strike, she said.

A British drama about the lives of people fighting World War II, "World on Fire," is premiering its second season in October. Its first season aired two years ago, but production has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Burns' series premieres on Oct. 15. Among the nonfiction projects on the docket this fall are "Evolution Earth," about how animals are adapting to changes in their habitat caused by humans; "The Busing Battleground," about the 1970s-era integration fight in Boston; along with "American Masters" programs on Jerry Brown, lawyer Floyd Abrams and drummer Max Roach.

"Frontline" will sink its teeth into Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter, Vladimir Putin's crackdown on the Russian press and the Houston Astros' cheating scandal. The "Frontline" documentary collaboration with The Associated Press, "20 Days in Mariupol," premieres on the service on Nov. 21.

"Nova" will have a five-part series on "Ancient Earth" in October and will also look at the fight against malaria.

Other scripted series are on the docket, including "Unforgotten," "Van Der Valk," and "Little Bird," the latter about an adopted woman who tries to investigate her personal history.

Entertainment

Variety

Features

ARABIC TIMES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023



This image released by Neon shows Megan Suri in a scene from 'It Lives Inside.' (AP)

Film

'Cassandro,' with Bernal as a liberated luchador, a winner

Immigrant teen's nightmare in 'It Lives Inside'

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 26, (AP) — A beautiful Indian American teen, Samidha (Megan Suri), just wants to fit in with her suburban classmates in the new horror "It Lives Inside." But there's a demon at large and it's not hormones or puberty — it's a literal monster that will maim and kill you and anyone who tries to help in this grisly, if imperfect, metaphor for the immigrant experience.

It's the feature debut of Bishal Dutta, who co-wrote the film with Ashish Mehta, and crafts an effectively menacing PG-13 rated nail-biter centered around the interesting and conflicting dynamics of an Indian American family. The mom, Poorna (Neeru Bajwa) is determined to keep up with the traditions of the country they left behind. Samidha — sorry, Sam — would rather not, which her dad supports, in theory. She shaves her arms in the morning and posts a Kardashian-level selfie with a carefully chosen filter. She "forgets" the lunch her mother has packed her. She resents the Indian customs and holidays that prevent her from hanging out with the cute guy in her class. And she's cast aside her old best friend, a fellow Indian American named Tamira (Mohana Krishnan), hoping that maybe she can just blend in and not be the "Indian girl" anymore. Essentially, she's a normal teen, through and through.

Unfortunately for Sam, Tamira has gotten pretty weird. Her childhood friend skulks around school like a ghost, hidden behind a curtain of unbrushed hair and cradling a cloudy Mason jar like her life depended on it — not exactly the kind of person that an aspiring popular girl wants on her resume. And it just gets worse because, naturally, IT does live inside that Mason jar and that Mason jar is unable to withstand a fall to the floor. Oops.

Dutta gets your heart rate going off the bat, with a creepy prologue as screams flood out of a normal suburban house, but Sam's descent into one of the haunted never quite finds a suitable or consistent tone. It's all moody, wide-eyed paranoia with "Stranger Things" vibes that's occasionally interrupted by run-of-the-mill jump-scares and demonic nightmare visions. It'll startle and spook, but it also doesn't feel incredibly

original, which is an odd failure for a story that has chosen to focus on a very original threat.

Her parents are a bit confounding and frustrating too — as she becomes increasingly paranoid and scared (which seems reasonable after she witnesses the shocking death of a classmate, regardless of whether it was invisible demon or rabid wild animal) they respond like she's just a delinquent who has broken curfew or been caught skipping school. The only one who seems to care and listen is her teacher ("Get Out's" Betty Gabriel), which does not put her in the good graces of the vindictive, flesh-eating Pishacha.

The story also doesn't really grapple enough with the intriguing themes of assimilation, alienation and identity once the monster is at large — perhaps it's because we're simply plopped in the middle of a mystery that doesn't give us enough to really care about anyone involved. One kid's already dead. Tamira is already weird. Sam is already cool.

"It Lives Inside" is still a welcome respite from the other long-in-the-tooth horror franchises populating theaters this time of year in that it's just something new — new faces, new themes, a promising filmmaker to watch — but I wish it would have embraced more of the things that make it unique as opposed to trying to fit in with its genre brethren. Sort of like Sam. I mean, Samidha.

"It Lives Inside," is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Anyone who has eagerly followed **Gabriel Garcia Bernal** since his breakthrough roles in "Amores Perros" and "Y tu mamá también" likely never foresaw him one day in the world of lucha libre wrestling.

Bernal, far from the most brawny actor, has been a slyer shape-shifter, whether in heels as a femme fatale in **Pedro Almodovar's** "Bad Education" or on a motorcycle as Che Guevara in Walter Salles' "Motorcycle Diaries."

But while almost anything with Bernal in it has been worth seeing, it's been a little while — maybe his pair of movies with **Pablo Larrain**, 2012's "No" and 2016's "Neruda" — since Bernal had a sufficiently good part

to, well, really go to the mat for.

He's found it, though, in "Cassandro," **Roger Ross Williams'** based-on-a-true-story drama about the Mexican wrestler **Saúl Armendáriz**. He was an exótico in 1990s lucha libre wrestling who rose to become one of the sport's most popular champions.

Exóticos, who first emerged in the 1940s, evolved to be male fighters dressed in drag who served as a contrast to the macho main events. But Armendáriz, a gay man, wanted his character, Cassandro, to be more than that. He wanted to spar with luchadores on equal ground.

"Cassandro," which opens in limited theaters Friday and debuts Sept. 22 on Amazon Prime Video, follows Armendáriz' rise from scrawny outsider to center stage. The odds are always against him, but Bernal plays Armendáriz with an infectious innocence, even when he's doing lines in the bathroom. Most of all, his transformation of the exótico into something more than is prescribed by luchador tradition makes for a stirring metaphor of gay empowerment.

Armendáriz, after struggling to catch on as the wrestler El Topo, is convinced by his trainer (**Roberta Colindrez**) to jump into the ring as an exótico. Armendáriz, though, has no interest in playing Cassandro as he's supposed to. For starters, he wants to win, and exóticos were intended to be fey, flamboyant victims for the hulking luchadores to easily dispatch.

They were also masked, but Armendáriz chooses to go without — an especially bold move considering the withering waves of homophobia directed at him by many in the crowd. But Armendáriz wins them over, and in doing so, achieves something spectacular, turning a gay stereotype into a hero. "I felt like Wonder Woman," the real Armendáriz once said.

"Cassandro," which co-stars **Bad Bunny**, doesn't always make time for some of the inner pain that Armendáriz was experiencing. (He dealt with depression and drug addiction.) And the filmmaking by Williams, in the narrative debut for the longtime documentarian, can be muddled. The story is so sensational that you almost wish "Cassandro" was instead a feature-length documentary.

million followers. The site has been criticized for allowing — and at times promoting — disinformation and conspiracy theories. (AP)

PLAINS, Ga: Former US President **Jimmy Carter** and his wife, **Rosalynn**, on Saturday made a surprise appearance at the Plains Peanut



Perry



Brand

Festival in their **Georgia** hometown, the Carter Center wrote in a social media post on X, formerly known as Twitter. The former president and his wife are seen in a reposted video riding through the festivities in a Black SUV.

"Beautiful day for President & Mrs. Carter to enjoy a ride through the Plains Peanut Festival! And just

a week before he turns 99," the Carter Center wrote on X after sharing the video taken by a spectator.

The former president is 98 and has been in home hospice care since February. He turns 99 on Oct 4. The former first lady has since been diagnosed with dementia. The couple this summer marked their 77th wedding anniversary,

extending their record as the nation's longest-married first couple.

"It was amazing considering that he is in hospice care, and he is tough enough to come out here. In my opinion, he is one of the toughest men to serve as President, and he is my favorite," **Reed Elliotte**, a **Corbin, Kentucky** resident, told WALB-TV. (AP)



China's Ma Zhenzhao in white reacts as she fights Japan's Takayama Rika in the women's - 78kg gold medal match at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait make strong start in squash at Asiad

Turki shines

HANGZHOU, China, Sept 26: Kuwait national squash team embarked made a strong start with a 3-0 victory against the Nepalese team at the 19th Asian Games. They Kuwait stars Abdullah Al-Muzain, Ammar Al-Tamimi, and Ali Al-Ramzi dominated the match from the beginning, asserting their playing style and controlling the course of the game.

Walid Al-Sumaie, President of the Kuwait Squash Federation, expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, highlighting the exceptional display by Al-Muzayen, Al-Ramzi, and Al-Tamimi in their debut match. He mentioned that the team has five more matches to go in the team competition and hopes to advance to the second round and compete for one of the three medals.

Al-Sumaie acknowledged that the group stage competitions would be challenging, given the presence of strong teams vying for a spot in the semi-finals. However, he expressed confidence in the players' ability to deliver top-notch performances that reflect the development of squash in Kuwait and yield positive results.

ASIAN GAMES

Kuwait is competing in the first group, which includes teams from Qatar, Pakistan, Singapore, India, and Nepal. The participating teams are divided into two groups, with the top team and runner-up from each group qualifying for the semi-finals. Today, our national squash team will face India and Qatar.

In handball competitions, our first national team is set to face the host nation, China, in the third round of the first group at 1:00 PM Kuwait time. Both teams secured their spots in the second round after defeating the Thai team. Besides today's match, the outcome of this match will determine the group leader.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia will play against Iran, and Qatar will face South Korea today. The second round matches are scheduled for the day after tomorrow, with tomorrow being a rest day for the handball teams.

Kuwait national shooting team continues to compete in the men's and women's skeet competitions, with three out of five rounds completed in the qualifying stage. Abdullah Al-Taraqi achieved 71 targets out of 75, Mansour Al-Rashidi hit 69 targets, and Abdulaziz Al-Saad scored 67. In the women's category, Iman Al-Shamaa achieved 64 targets, Afrah Al-Mohammad scored 64, and Fatima Al-Zaabi reached 60 targets.

Abdullah Al-Taraqi, a player on our national team, expressed optimism about their chances of qualifying for the final round. He mentioned that there are two critical rounds remaining, and they are determined to give their best to secure a spot in the final. The competition is fierce among the players. Meanwhile, Amira Awad continues competing in the women's 25m pistol shooting qualifiers for the second stage.

In boxing, Kuwait's Turki Abu Qadhailah defeated his Afghan opponent by a narrow margin, securing a place in the round of 16. His next opponent will be from the Indian national team. Abu Qadhailah suffered a hand injury during the bout, and the team's medical staff is



Abu Qadhailah during a skeet competition.



Kuwait's Al-Muzayen in action during squash match at the Asian Games.



Abu Qadhailah outperformed his Afghan opponent.

Ministry refutes allegations

Zain Premier League is set to resume after a 26-day hiatus

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 26: The Zain Premier League is set to resume after a 26-day hiatus, attributed to the Olympic team's involvement in the Asian Cup qualifiers and their participation in the ongoing Asian Games in China.

There two scheduled matches with Al-Arabi facing off against Khaitan at Jaber International Stadium while Al-Salmiya will be the guests of Al-Kuwait.

Friday, featuring a single match between Kazma and Al-Jahra. The round will conclude next Saturday with two matches; first, Al-Qadisia will meet Al-Fahaheel, followed by a matchup between Al-Nasr and Al-Shabab.

Al-Arabi and Al-Kuwait game is postponed due to their involvement in the AFC Cup competitions. "The Green" is set to host Lebanese counterpart Nejmeh next Monday in the second round of the third group competitions. Meanwhile, "Al-Abyad" will welcome their Jordanian guests, Al-Wehdat, next Tuesday for the second round of the second group competitions.

In today's confrontations, Al-Kuwait aims for a third consecutive victory to maintain its position

assessing its impact on his ability to continue in the tournament.

Turki Abu Qadhailah described the fight against the Afghan player as intense, and he credited the Tunisian coach Muhammad Al-Hamrani for helping him secure victory in the final round. He is awaiting the medical staff's report and tests to determine if he can continue competing.

In taekwondo, Bandar Al-Enezi

at the top of the standings. Meanwhile, Al-Salmiya seeks a second consecutive win after defeating Al-Nasr 3-2 in the second round, a victory that could temporarily secure them the league lead.

In the second match, Al-Arabi looks to capitalize on the high morale of its players following their recent victory over Iraq's Al-Zawraa in the AFC Cup. However, Al-Akhdar remains cautious, aware of the potential for surprises from their opponent, Khaitan, who has displayed convincing performances in the previous two rounds.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of

SOCCER

Information rebuffed claims that it had obstructed a local channel's ability to broadcast Premier League football matches (Zain League).

In a statement, the ministry clarified that it had received a request two days ago from the same channel to lease two SNG devices for broadcasting the matches. The ministry affirmed that it is currently processing the request in adherence to established procedures and protocols.

will face off against his competitor from Kazakhstan, Gasunov.

Swimmers Walid Abdel Razzaq and Saud Al-Shamroukh are participating in the 100m butterfly and 200m freestyle qualifiers, respectively.

Lastly, chess competitors Amna Al-Awadi and Badr Al-Hajri are continuing their journey in the chess qualifying competitions.

Thailand make history in esports

Boheng wins men's all-around at Asian Games

HANGZHOU, China, Sept 26, (AP): Chinese gymnast Zhang Boheng won the men's all-around title Tuesday at the Asian Games, putting himself up as a name to watch at next year's Paris Olympics.

Zhang missed out on competing at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, but won the all-around title later in the year in Japan at the world championships.

"Missing Tokyo was actually a very precious learning experience for me," Zhang said in his biography for the Asian Games.

Takeru Kitazono of Japan took silver, with bronze for Lan Xingyu of China.

The all-around medal was one of the most high-profile events on Day 3 at the Asian Games.

Other countries win medals at the Asian Games in addition to China, but it can be difficult to notice with the host country's total dominance. Through 93 gold medals awarded so far, China has claimed 49. South Korea and Japan are far behind as China's

ASIAN GAMES

major challengers.

Thailand won the first medal ever awarded at the Asian Games in esports, beating Vietnam on Tuesday in Arena of Valor Asian Games Version to take bronze in the competition.

China won the gold medal, with silver for Malaysia.

Online games are swelling globally in players and revenue, and the esports competition at a purpose-built 4,500-seat stadium in Hangzhou has proved to be one of the most popular events at this year's games.

After being a demonstration sport at the last games in Jakarta, Indonesia, it's part of the medal competition for the first time this year.

The competition features five PC games and two mobile games, covering both the multiplayer online battle arena, or MOBA, and single-player genre.

The International Olympic Committee would like to be involved in esports in some way because of the revenue possibilities, but IOC president Thomas Bach has spoken out against the violence portrayed in esports.

Arena of Valor Asian Games Version, also known as Honor of Kings, is a mobile game that pits two teams of five against each other on a simulated battlefield.

The other games in this year's competition are: League of Legends; Peace Elite Asian Games Version (also known as PUBG Mobile); Dota 2; Dream Three Kingdoms 2; Street Fighter V: Champion Edition; and EA Sports FC (also known as FIFA Online

Pakistan get visas for Cricket World Cup in India after expressing concerns to ICC

ISLAMABAD, Sept 26, (AP): Pakistan has received its visas for next month's World Cup in India after expressing concerns to the International Cricket Council over delays and complaining about "inequitable treatment".

The team is scheduled to leave for Hyderabad, via Dubai, in the early hours of Wednesday and Pakistan Cricket Board spokesperson Umar Farooq said his organization had received confirmation from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad late on Monday to collect their passports.

Earlier, the PCB had expressed its disappointment with the ICC over the delays.

"It's a matter of disappointment the Pakistan team has to go through this uncertainty ahead of the major tournament," Farooq said in a statement.

"There has been an extraordinary delay in getting clearance and securing Indian visas... we have written to the ICC raising our concerns about inequitable treatment towards Pakistan and reminding them of these obligations towards the World Cup."

Farooq said Pakistan had reminded the ICC governing body for three years about its obligations but it "has all come down to the last two days".

The PCB was forced to cancel its original plan to organize a team-building process in Dubai on the way to India. "We had to rework our plan and book new

flights," Farooq said. Pakistan is due to play New Zealand in Hyderabad on Friday before taking on Australia in another warm-up on Oct. 3.

It launches its World Cup campaign against the Netherlands on Oct. 6.

Meanwhile, Dasun Shanaka will captain Sri Lanka at the upcoming Cricket World Cup despite his poor form with the bat while injured strike bowler Wanindu Hasaranga wasn't included in the 15-man squad announced Tuesday.

CRICKET

Shanaka has scored only 150 runs in his last 17 one-day innings but has a decent captaincy record.

Spinner Hasaranga was replaced by bowling allrounder Dushan Hemantha - a legspinner who has played just three one-day internationals for Sri Lanka. Injured quick Dushantha Chameera will also miss the tournament.

The squad consists of six specialist batters, allrounders Shanaka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Hemantha and Dunith Wellalage, and five specialist seam bowlers.

Veteran Angelo Mathews was expected to be drafted in to strengthen the brittle batting but his exclusion in the final 15 effectively ends the limited-overs career of the 36-year-old player.

The World Cup starts in India on Oct. 5. Sri Lanka begins its campaign against South Africa two days later in New Delhi.

Brunei has never won a gold medal at the Asian Games, but Basma Lachkar took silver in wushu this year for the country's best-ever result. Wushu was introduced into Brunei about 15 years ago by China.

India and Pakistan are favored to reach the men's cricket final on Oct. 7. The powers in the tournament - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh - don't enter play until the quarterfinal stage on Oct. 3-4. Meanwhile, teams like Mongolia will be in action. Mongolia's average cricket team age is 19.

Hong Kong defeated South Korea 14-7 to take the men's title on Tuesday, and China edged Japan 22-21 for the women's gold.