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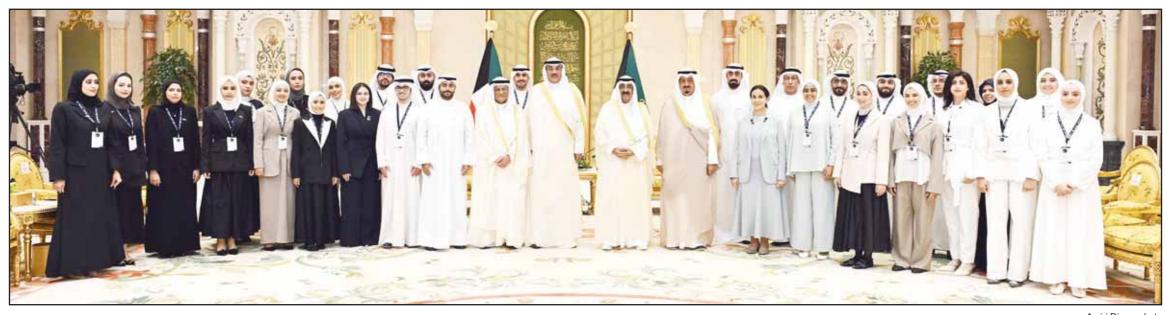
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THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT

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His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister and senior state officials at the launching of the space science center.

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

and **Agencies**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Cabi-

net has endorsed the tempo-

rary suspension of Law No.

114 of 2024 regarding pro-

viding health insurance for

retired citizens, and the Law

No. 71 of 2023 for one year.

held Tuesday at Bayan Palace

under the chairmanship of His

Highness the Prime Minister

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-

Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of

Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi

told the Cabinet about the termi-

nation of a contract between the

Ministry and the company which provides services to health insur-

ance for citizens as the company

The move aimed at preserving

public health and money, Âl-Awadhi

said, stressing the Ministry's atten-

tion to provide required healthcare

Meanwhile, the Cabinet expressed

condolences to His Highness the

Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled

Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Al-

Sabah Family over the death of His

Highness former premier Sheikh Ja-ber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

The Cabinet was informed about the

accompanying official delegation to

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's rep-

resentatives, His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Ha-

mad Al-Sabah, to the 79th session of

UN National Assembly (UNGA 79)

The delegation includes Minis-

ter of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-

Yahya, Director General of Kuwait

Direct Investment Promotion Au-

thority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal

Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and other

senior officials at His Highness the

Crown Prince's Diwan and the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs, Shereeda

Abdullah Al-Mousherji, Deputy

Prime Minister and Minister of State

due on September 19-26.

who passed away on Saturday.

for citizens.

did not honor its commitments.

During the Cabinet meeting

Kuwait Amir patronizes, attends space science center launching ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a ceremony was held at Bayan Palace on Wednesday to launch a national space science center.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior state officials attended the event. His Highness the Amir arrived at the venue and was

warmly welcomed by Director-General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr. Ameenah Rajab Farhan and board members. His Highness the Amir was apprised of Kuwaiti

satellite images and listened to a detailed explanation from Director of the National Satellite Project Dr.

Addressing the event, His Highness the Amir commended the efforts of Kuwaiti creative and distinguished researchers in serving their country. He underlined that supporting scientific research is

the key to advancement, in which the State of Kuwait is interested, amid an evolving era of artificial intelligence, renewable energy and space science. He regarded backing scientific research, along with

promoting the national identity as the basis of the country's vision, reminiscing the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's insight for establishing a prosperous scientific, technological and innovative culture for the sake of a sustainable Kuwait.

He added that while seeking to create a scientific environment that is based on state-of-the-art scientific research and contributes to developing Kuwaiti people's capabilities in all scientific fields, especially space science, it is necessary to laud the KFAS' un-

The eagerness of KFAS administration and staff to boost the efficiency of distinguished and creative people amid mounting requirements and future ambitions must also be admired, he affirmed.

In this context, His Highness the Amir instructed this august foundation's staff to keep drawing in distinguished Kuwaitis specializing in various domains and to exert ardent efforts to place Kuwait among pioneering countries in scientific and technological areas,

Continued on Page 5

MoE principals, senior officials eye retirement

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Amid rumors of potential staff reductions and changes to end-of-service bonuses, which the Ministry of Education has officially denied, there has been a noticeable increase in retirement requests among various educational supervisory positions.

According to educational sources, the ministry has been insisting that these rumors are completely unfounded. Despite this, the ministry received a wave of early retirement applications yesterday from a number of employees who occupy educational supervisory roles, effective September 30.

In response to this widely circulated rumor, many school principals and educational supervisors have opted to submit their retirement requests with the hope of securing their full end-of-service bonuses before any potential changes that could affect their financial rights.

This wave of resignations has led to a state of confusion within the educational sector, particularly with the start of the new school year.

It has become evident that many important supervisory positions, such as school principals and educational supervisors, will soon be vacant at a critical time when the sector requires administrative and organizational stability to deal with the challenges of returning to school.

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Amiri Diwan on Wednesday issued the following statement, "On behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber **Al-Sabah** and the gracious Al-Sabah family, the Diwan extends deep gratitude to the citizens and residents of the country who took part in offering condolences on demise of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah." (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) clarified on Wednesday that no discussions or decisions have been made regarding the cancellation or amendment of the end-of-service bonus for state

In a statement posted on its official account on the social networking platform X, the CSC emphasized its commitment to maintaining open communication with the public, addressing all inquiries through social media and the government's Sahel application. (KUNA)

CAIRO: Egypt and the United States are responsible for maintaining peace and stability in the "turbulent" region, said Egyptian Foreign Minister Bader Abde-

laati on Wednesday.

This came in the opening speech of the strategic dialogue session between the two countries, chaired by Abdelaati and US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in Cairo. (KUNA)

Citizenship of six Kuwaitis revoked

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Supreme Committee for the Investigation of Kuwaiti Nationality has issued a decision to revoke the citizenship of six

individuals, in accordance with Article 11 of Amiri Decree No. 15 of 1959, pertaining to the Kuwaiti Nationality Law, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The individuals affected by this decision are: Dalia Hussein Haji Taqi, Aida Abdel Hadi Mohammed Al-Ajmi, Omar Abdul Hadi Mohammed Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Nasser Hassan Al-Ajmi Al-Ajmi, Mohammed Nasser Hassan Al-Ajmi, Safiyya Jabara Qurai Al-Mari and Mohammed Dhuwaihi Ayed Al-Hajri.

This decision reflects the committee's ongoing efforts to review and enforce nationality regulations in Kuwait.

Death toll mounts

Walkie-talkies explode in new Lebanon blasts

BEIRUT, Sept 18, (AP): Explosions went off in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon in an apparent second wave of detonations of electronic devices, Hezbollah officials and state media said Wednesday, reporting walkie-talkies and even so-



lar equipment detonating a day after hundreds of pagers blew up. At least 9 people were killed and more than 300 people wounded, the Health Ministry said.

Several blasts were heard at the funeral in Beirut for three Hezbollah members and a child killed by exploding pagers the day before, according to

Associated Press journalists at the scene. An AP photographer in the southern coastal city of Sidon saw a car and a mobile phone shop damaged after devices exploded inside of them.

A Hezbollah official told the AP that walkietalkies used by the group exploded. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Lebanon's official news agency reports that solar energy systems exploded in homes in several areas of Beirut and in southern Lebanon, wounding at least one girl.

The new blasts hit a country still thrown into confusion and anger after Tuesday's pager bombings, which appeared to be a complex Israeli attack targeting Hezbollah members that caused civilian casualties, too. At least 12 people were

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More hospitalized in hot & dusty weather

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: A recent study by the Dasman Diabetes Institute, which was established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), has revealed that high temperatures and dust storms in the country are linked with the frequency of hospitalization among diabetics.

A research team at the institute, in cooperation with Harvard University and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), conducted the study that was published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) issued by the British Medical Association in collaboration with the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

The study showed the health challenges the country is facing in terms of the spread of diabetes and obesity under harsh environmental conditions like dust storms and extreme heat.

Entitled, "The Combined Effect of Dust Storms and Extreme Heat on Diabetics in Kuwait," the study was based on the daily collection of dust samples from 2017 to 2019. These samples were analyzed to determine dust pollution levels, in addition to the collection of temperature data from

Continued on Page 5



Cabinet nods Afia suspension

Anger erupts as private clinics offer discounts post-Afia

PM Diwan photo His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the

UN Assembly backs Palestinian resolution for Israeli withdrawal

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 18, (AP): The U.N. General Assembly strongly supported a non-binding Palestinian resolution Wednesday demanding that Israel end its "unlawful presence" in Gaza and the occupied West Bank within a

The vote in the 193-member world body was 124-14, with 43 abstentions. Israel's U.N. Ambassador, Danny Danon, called it "a shameful decision that backs the Palestinian Authority's diplomatic terrorism."

"Instead of marking the anniversary of the Oct. 7 massacre by condemning Hamas and calling for the release of all 101 of the remaining hostages, the General Assembly continues to dance to the music of the Palestinian Authority, which backs the Hamas murderers," Danon

The resolution comes as Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza approaches its first anniversary and as violence in the West Bank reaches new highs. The war was triggered by Hamas attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

The resolution, which also demands the withdrawal of all Israeli forces and the evacuation of settlers from the occupied Palestinian territories "without delay," is not legally binding, but the extent of its support reflects world opinion. There are no vetoes in the General Assembly, unlike in the 15-member Security

Continued on Page 5

VIENNA, Sept 18, (KUNA): The State of Ku-

wait on Wednesday affirmed the role of the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

in know-how transfer, benefiting from nuclear

applications, bolstering the nuclear security

safety in the member states as well as its role

in enforcing safeguards in line with the Nuclear

The stand was expressed by the State of Ku-

wait Ambassador to Austria and its Permanent

Representative at the international agency Talal

Al-Fassam during the 68th session of the agen-

affirmed the State of Kuwait's continuous keen-

ness on cooperating with the IAEA's various

departments for building capacities of the rele-

vant national institutions to execute key projects

for economic and social development, cement

the coordination and and work with the member

countries for executing the concept, "the nucle-

IAEA, Al-Fassam noted that this year marks

the 60th anniversary of Kuwait's joining of the

Touching on Kuwait's relationship with the

ar energy for peace and development."

Ambassador Al-Fassam, in his address, has

cy's general convention, currently held here.

non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

KD 25 fine, jail in car horn misuse

By Munif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: To address the disturbances caused by vehicle horns on the roads, Assistant Director of Traffic Awareness at the General Traffic Department Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Bu Hassan says using a car horn for purposes other than intended constitutes a traffic violation.

He revealed that this offense incurs one point on the traffic points system, a fine of KD 25, and could lead to jail time if the case is taken to court and a conviction is secured.

In an interview with Kuwait TV, Lieutenant Colonel Bu Hassan clarified that car horns are intended only to warn other drivers of imminent danger or an accident, rather than to attract attention to themselves or to annoy others.

He urged all drivers to adhere to traffic laws, especially considering the presence of elderly and vulnerable drivers on the roads.

agency, in 1964.

Continued on Page 5

for Cabinet Affairs, said.



The first day for kindergarten students is a new experience for their

Kindergarteners back

Kindergarten students started their first day of the academic year 2024-'25 on Wednesday, with en-

thusiasm and keenness. The pupils began their educational journey with eagerness as their parents accompanied them to their classes, meeting their classmates and teachers. (KUNA)

ing the national potentials. **Continued on Page 5**

in the UN framework conference on climate

change (28COP) and presenting the Kuwaiti ex-

Kuwait's participation in the event emanates

from its belief in the necessity of joint action

and international cooperation to address pend-

ing global issues such as the climate change

and oceans pollution, Ambassador Al-Fassam

stated, expressing aspiration to chance the coop-

eration at these levels to make further achieve-

the Kuwaiti Ambassador HAS affirmed that the

State of Kuwait dedicates speciual concern for

the program for it constitutes a basis for build-

As to the technical cooperation progream,

ments at the national and international levels.

plorer's ship during the convention.

Kuwait touts IAEA role in boosting nuclear safety for member states The State of Kuwait, throughout these 60 years, keeenly supported the IAEA, contributing in he three stages of the overhaul programs of the agency's laboratories, in the fund for nuclear energy peaceful usage initiative, setting up the nuclear fuel bank, in addition to Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research's participation

parents as well.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-

By Night: Hot to rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind

Weather to light to moderate northwest-

erly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h. Salmiyah Station Max Exp Ahmadi **Kuwait City** 40 Jal Aliyah Kuwait Airport 41 Nuwaisib Abdalv

Bubyan 24 Failaka Island 27 42

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

Kuwait leadership offers condolences to president of Vietnam over flood victims

HH Amir offers condolences to Portugal over wildfire victims

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed sincere condolences and sympathy for the victims of the fires that swept through areas in Northern Portugal and resulted in a number of deaths, injuries and the destruction of several public facilities.

His Highness the Amir wished the injured people speedy recovery and for the Portugal officials to overcome the effects of this natural disaster.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Portugal's president. In the cable, His Highness expressed

sincere condolences and sympathy for the victims of the fires that swept through areas in north and resulted in a number of deaths, injuries and the destruction of several public

His Highness wished the injured people

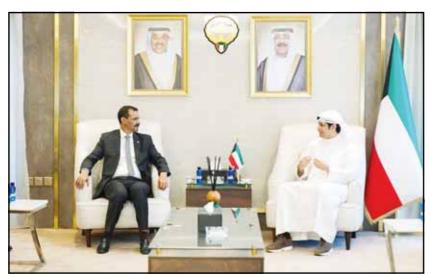
speedy recovery.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of condolences to President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad sent a condolence cable on Wednesday to the President of Vietnam To Lam over victims of floods caused by a destructive typhoon that hit northern Vietnam and resulted in casualties, injuries, and the destruction of public facilities and property. His Highness the Amir wished speedy re-

covery for the injured. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled sent a cable of condolences to President To Lam over victims of floods

caused by a destructive typhoon. Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah sent a cable of condolences to President To Lam over victims of floods caused by a destructive typhoon that hit northern Vietnam.



KUNA photo

Minister Al-Mutairi discusses with the Mauritanian Minister of Culture on means to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Madou on official visit to Kuwait

Info minister and Mauritanian culture minister discuss co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi discussed on Wednesday with his Mauritanian counterpart Al-Hussein Madou ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The Ministry of Information stated in press statement on Wednesday that this came during Minister Al-Mutairi's reception of Minister Madou at the ministry building on the occasion of his official visit to the country.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the importance of continuous cooperation on various fields that reflects the history and legacy of the two countries

Other Voices

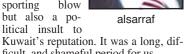
Our strange story with beloved 'Olympic' and the strange 'FIFA'

By Ahmed alsarraf

Years ago, we endured deprivation and war, but this time, the battleground was international sports arenas and stadiums. FIFA and the Internation-

al Olympic Committee (ÎOC) imposed decisions banning us from participating in all matches and competitions, both locally and internationally.

These rulings were not only a sporting but also a po-



ficult, and shameful period for us.

The root of this crisis was some of our own people, who, fearing that the sports laws proposed by the National Assembly would threaten their positions and interests, chose to incite international organizations against their own country and government.

They claimed, rightly or wrongly, that these laws constituted government interference in sports, violating the rules of international sports bodies.

After much struggle and delay, which caused us significant harm, and with high-level interventions, the suspension was finally lifted. However, for some, this marked the beginning of the decline of our sports sector, one that has yet to fully recover to this day.

Despite the immense moral and material power held by FIFA and its elder counterpart, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and the significant authority they wield, allowing them to exclude even major nations from international events -- as was the case with Russia recently -- their power evolved in a unique and noteworthy way, without official governmental backing.

FIFA was established in 1904 in Paris with the mission of overseeing international football competitions, thanks to the support of various European federations. The driving force behind its formation was journalist Robert Guerin, who went on to become FIFA's first president.

Initially, FIFA's primary goal was to promote football, organize international matches, and standardize the game's rules. Over time, it expanded to include nations from around the world and emerged as the governing body of global football competitions.

The IOC, the older and more senior organization, was founded in 1894, also in Paris, under the vision of Pierre de Coubertin. As an educator and historian, de Coubertin aimed to revive the ancient Olympic Games of Greece, believing that sports could promote peace, understanding, and cooperation among nations, while

encouraging physical education for youth. The IOC was formed during a meeting at Sorbonne University, attended by representatives from 12 countries, where Dimitrios Vikelas of Greece was

elected as the first president. The committee's initial goal was to organize the modern Olympic Games every four years, providing a legal and sporting framework, selecting host cities, and ensuring that the games adhered to Olympic ideals. The first modern Olympics took place in Greece with athletes from 14 countries.

Over time, both FIFA and the IOC grew in stature and influence, drawing participation from countries across the globe. However, their considerable power also attracted controversy, as both organizations have faced allegations of corruption within their international committees.

The occasion to talk about FIFA and the Olympics goes back to what is currently being said that Kuwait may be subject to a boycott again, on the pretext that the Kuwaiti government has interfered, or will interfere, in the work of the Football Association, which operates according to FIFA laws, not the laws of the state.

This is something that must be avoided if we want to remain in the international organization and play by its rules. However, to the best of my knowledge, the government has not issued any signals or instructions, written or verbal that represent interference in the work of the association.

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Condolences

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and the Royal Family received on Wednesday the King of Saudi Arabia's envoy, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, Minister of Interior Affairs Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud Al-Saud and the accompanying delegation, to offer condolences over the death of Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Bahrain

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah and the Royal Family received on Wednesday the envoy of Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Essa Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Advisor to the King Sheikh Khaled Al-Khalifa and the accompanying delegation, to offer condolences over the death of Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled, His Highness the Prime Minister



KUNA photo

The envoy of the King of Bahrain offers his condolences.

Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah and Al-Sabah family received, Tuesday, the representative of the President of UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and the accompanying delegation.

The guests offered their condolences over the passing of His Highness the late Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

'Fraudulent online sales lure victims with deep discounts'

'Need to deal only with trusted websites and entities'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Several citizens and expatriates have fallen victims to scammers who promote products online at a quarter of the market price in order to steal from bank accounts, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a security source.

The source warned the public about scammers who steal from citizens and expatriates by offering food and consumer products at a quarter of the market price, as well as demanding for a down payment of as low as 500 fils. He clarified this is a fraudulent operation, through which the scammers lure people into giving full banking information that they use to steal from bank ac-

Deceived

The source confirmed many citizens and expatriates have filed cases, indicating they were deceived through the promotion of food and consumer products on social media. He disclosed the consumers are lured into purchasing items through an application. If the customer indicates he wants to pay in cash; the scammers will ask him for at least 500 fils down payment, which he pays through a link sent to him or by entering the application, the

source explained. Earlier, the Cybercrime Department suspended 662 WhatsApp accounts under Kuwaiti telephone numbers; and explained a way to differentiate a fake link from a real link. It continues to monitor fake websites in order to block them, stressing it is keen on taking the necessary legal measures to combat illegal activities and protect the public from fraudu-

lent operations. In addition, the Public Relations and Security Media General Department has emphasized the need to deal only with trusted websites and entities, as well as to verify any website before authenticating the transaction through the 'My Identity' application or making purchases to protect one's money and personal information and avoid falling victim to scams.

It warned against clicking fake links from search engines or advertisements on social media sites, particularly 'wixsite' sites as they are unreliable. It also underscored the need to check the domain name of the website in the link to prevent hacking or online theft.



Acting Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force discusses with the Senegalese ambassador the most important topics

of common interest. Fire Force chief receives Senegalese ambassador

Acting Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Khaled Fahd received the Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Kuwait Ibrahim Al-Khalil Seck, reports Al-Anba daily

During the meeting, Major General Khaled Fahd highlighted the strong bilateral and fraternal relations between the two countries, and discussed topics of mutual interest in firefighting, rescue operations, and civil protection, as well as ways to enhance collaboration in these areas.

The visit was attended by Acting Deputy Chief for Financial and Administrative Affairs at KFF Brigadier Mohammed Ali, and Acting Deputy Chief for Combating Affairs at KFF Brigadier Ahmed Haif.

23 medical projects being recognized

MoH honors winners of 2023 Safety Star Award

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Ministry of Health has announced the winners of the 2023 Safety Star Award, recognizing 23 medical projects from both

government and private health institutions out of the 56 projects that were submitted for review, reports Al-

Dr. Al-Hassawi

Rai daily. This award highlights the outstanding achievements in patient safety and aims to foster a culture of excellence and positive competition within the healthcare sector.

During a ceremony organized by the Ministry's Quality and Accreditation Department, Dr. Munther Al-Hassawi, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs, delivered a speech on behalf of Health Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi.

He noted that the Safety Star Award, established by the Quality Department a decade ago, aligns with World Patient Safety Day. The award celebrates exemplary efforts in patient safety and is a testament to Kuwait's commitment to enhancing healthcare standards.

Dr. Al-Hassawi emphasized that this year's award represents a significant advancement in patient safety across the GCC countries.

It aims to raise awareness among health sector workers, recognize outstanding performers, and inspire a competitive spirit in safety practices.

He expressed hope that this recognition would motivate further efforts towards implementing safety programs and creating a secure and competitive environment for high-

quality health services. Dr. Talal Al-Fadala, Director of the Quality and Accreditation Department, highlighted

that the award serves as a platform to showcase best practices and improvements in safety programs and risk management. He commended the dedica-

tion of healthcare workers and congratulated the winners for their contributions to patient safety. Dr. Hana Al-Ghanem, Head

of Safety Programs, explained the nomination and evaluation process for the award.

She emphasized the importance of thorough documentation and adherence to award criteria, and expressed optimism that the award would help spread a culture of patient safety and improve awareness among health sector professionals.

The Safety Star Award not only acknowledges excellence in patient safety but also encourages the continuous enhancement of healthcare practices, reflecting the ministry's commitment to high standards and the well-being of patients and healthcare providers.

طيوانية 🕈 diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Before judging someone, it's vital to hear 'from' them, not just 'about' them'

"THE words 'about' and 'who' can make a big difference in your relationships and judgments about the people around you, especially those you have never known closely," columnist and former deputy directorgeneral of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Iqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The easiest and quickest thing is to listen to gossip, this one praising, that one criticizing, this one commending, that one accusing, so we must learn a lesson from this world, that we must not make pre-judgments about any person or event, except after we hear directly from the person concerned or the person himself.

'We should not just hear about it, what we hear may be toxic for various reasons, some intentional and others not.

"It is nice to ask about a person and hear about him, but it is wrong for our final judgment about him to be

Iqbal Al-Ahmed based on what we have heard only, especially if negativity is the last thought about him, after everything we have heard here and there.

"The first lesson I learned at the beginning of my media career is that respect for any institution or journalistic or media outlet is only achieved through its objectivity

"Meaning that both points of view are required on any subject and the field must be opened with the same force to respond to any news related to an important matter that is questionable or even doubtful.

"Different points of view, both for and against, must be presented so that the final judgment can be objective.

"There are those who quote someone's words about another person, after adding their own personal spices and poison to them for a purpose within themselves, which creates an immediate negative reaction.

"However, after investigating the matter, the situation looks completely different, because what was said was not in the same form and with the same purpose that was quoted from

"So let us hear "from" much more than we hear "about," so that we do not regret it on a day when regret will be of no use."

Also:

"A critical issue that must be examined and understood regarding the modern state, which we define as a state governed by a constitution, where power is transferred and reguough multiple authorities, adheres to the principle of legitimacy, promotes political pluralism, and upholds broad freedoms with guarantees -- this description broadly applies to Western countries and their followers. We aim to address this issue thoughtfully,' columnist, constitutional expert Dr Mohammed Al-Moqati wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Upon observation, it becomes clear that the prevailing systems today have converged on a key point: regardless of whether a state is democratic, presidential, parliamentary, authoritarian, totalitarian, monarchical, republican, or multiparty, these systems are governed by small ruling elite.

"In many cases, this elite group does not exceed a few hundred people, and in some countries, it may be as few as twenty or thirty. The common thread in today's ruling systems is their lack of true democracy.

'Whether under the dictatorship of an individual, a ruling party, or an elite supposedly representing the majority that elected them, power is now

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Criminal

Court has denied bail for a former military

attaché of an embassy who is accused of un-

lawfully seizing over a million dollars from

an increase in a health insurance contract

without the approval of the relevant author-

ities. The court has adjourned the case to al-

low for the defense to present its arguments. The Public Prosecution has charged the

defendant with misappropriating more than

USD 100,000 through forged checks and

documents. He was also accused of facili-

tating other foreigners in obtaining over

USD 64,000 in travel tickets despite not be-

It is worth mentioning that the defendant

was previously convicted by the Court of

Cassation for seizing public funds from the

Ministry of Defense. In that case, he was

sentenced to two-year imprisonment with

hard labor and fined KD 300,000, but his

sentence was suspended for three years.

ing employed in that office.

Al-Tabtabaie's case adjourned for Thursday

Court denies bail for former military

attaché accused of \$1 million fraud

concentrated in the hands of a limited group, controlling the state and its institutions

"As a result, contemporary systems have largely become undemocratic, with true democracy fading as the rotation and real distribution of power among the people of the state diminishes. This is evident in Western countries, where ruling elites such as the French President Emmanuel Macron, (former) British prime minister Rishi Sunak, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and others demonstrate this concentration of power, especially when considering events such as the genocide in Gaza.

"Meanwhile, the West views democracy -- despite its flaws -- as their exclusive right. In their interactions with other nations, they deem democracy something others are undeserving of. They strip our people of their rights, undermine our national sovereignty, exploit our resources, and suppress our intellectual, cultural, political, and social identities, often striving to erase our cultural heritage.

"In response, we reject their democracy, which is based on tyranny, elitism, injustice, and the oppression of other peoples. Instead, we can look to the civil state established in Medina by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), where the first written constitution in human history was enacted, embodying the concept of a "basic law of the state."

"With the advent of globalization in the Arab world and the rise of the technological revolution, we were struck by a unique sensation," columnist Dr Nada Suleiman Al-Mutawa wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"It felt as though we were navigating a vast sea of endless information. The era of rapid development in the realms of news and information had begun, marked by the speed at which information was transmitted and the public's immediate engagement with

"In academic circles, it is often said that the written word is the news, but in today's digital age, it is the image that holds this power. An image can convey thousands of words, shape public opinion, and exert both positive and negative influences.

"This heightened interaction with images has amplified the role of the media, transforming ordinary individuals into active participants in journalism and publishing, acting as the "chroniclers of the moment" through sound and visuals.

"The image has now become a gateway for the information seeker, leading them to the contours of knowledge. With the rise of artificial intelligence, globalization's tools have grown more complex, sometimes exaggerating events or intertwining facts, influencing the way news is crafted even before it reaches

social media platforms. "There is no doubt that we are facing a global technological and informational wave, one that has brought even the most remote villages into the spotlight, making them the focus of

attention. "In the event of a flood here or an earthquake there, digital media strives to create human connections, rallying support for humanitarian ef-

"Today, our Arab world finds itself under intense scrutiny, and the Arab citizen often feels a sense of alienation, holding on to the auditory memory of the "transistor radio," which once connected them to their issues from all angles.

"Now, gazing at their mobile phone, they feel a nostalgic longing, navigating the vast digital space before returning to their homeland, wondering what the future holds."

- Compiled by PFX Fernandes





KUNA photos

Left: Major General Al-Hamlan meets Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, and (right) meets Commander of the Eastern Fleet of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

Kuwaiti Naval Force boosts ties with UAE, Saudi Arabia

The Ministry of Defense has announced that Assistant Commander of Kuwaiti Naval Force Major General Saif Al-Hamlan recently visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia; during which he met with Com-mander of the UAE Naval Force Major General Sheikh Saeed

bin Hamdan bin Mohammed Al-Nahyan and Commander of the Eastern Fleet of the Royal Saudi Naval Force Major General Sajer Al-Anzi, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed "these two offi-cial visits, which took place last week, is part of ongoing efforts

to strengthen military cooperation between the naval forces of sisterly countries. They discussed ways to develop joint work, training and exchange of expertise; as well as the importance of continuous coordination between the naval officials to improve joint naval operational capabilities.

KD 47m budget to support disabled

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: According to sources from the Public Authority for the Disability Affairs (PADA). the authority has disbursed the fourth installment of educational support for the 2023/2024 academic year to 31 nurseries, and nine private schools that do not fall under its jurisdiction but have students enrolled. Also, financial support was offered to two schools operating in the evening shift, 17 Arab schools, and 21 foreign schools, reports Al-Anba daily.

They revealed that work is ongoing to disburse the remaining financial dues for 11 rehabilitation centers, benefiting over 13,000 students.Regarding the educational support budget, the sources indi-cated that the current year's allocation amounts to KD 47 million, which is expected to increase in the next budget based on a projected rise in the number of beneficiary students with educational decisions issued by PADA.

Women's bags and shoes among 15,000 fake items seized in mall

GTD issues 54,844 violations, refers 68 juveniles to prosecution

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi, Munif Nayef Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff & Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The emergency team of the Commercial Control Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, during a thorough inspection campaign at a shopping mall in the Al-Siddiq area has seized approximately 15,000 counterfeit items, including women's handbags and shoes carrying well-known brand names.

The offending shops were promptly shut down administratively and legal actions have been initiated against the shop owners.

Also, the Commercial and Precious Metals Control Team at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Farwaniya during an inspection tour of the shopping centers have seized 100 counterfeit women's handbags. The operation, termed part of the '1000 Days of Holiday' program, was carried out during the Prophet's birthday holiday by the so-called Tripartite Committee comprising officials from the ministries of Commerce and Interior and the Public Authority for Manpower.

Faisal Al-Ansari, Director of the Commercial Control Department at the ministry, reported that the inspection, led by Mohammed Al-Mutairi from the Jabriya Commercial Control Center, uncovered counterfeit goods in three stores.

The team also issued violation reports for not displaying signs regarding the 'exchange' and 'return policy'. The offending shops were referred to the relevant authorities for further legal action.

Al-Ansari emphasized the ministry's commitment to combating violations and ensuring compliance with regulations. He assured that efforts to address such breaches and protect the interests of both citizens and residents would continue.

Traffic violations surge: In an 8-day enforcement period, the General Traffic Department and the General Rescue Police Department recorded a staggering 54,844 traffic violations and referred 68 juveniles to the Public Prosecution, reports Al-

From the Sept 7 to Sept 13, the General Traffic Department's statistics show 111 vehicles were



A Ministry of Commerce inspector checking the merchandise

impounded including 31 motorcycles and 66 vehicles wanted by the security authorities.

This is in addition to 13 wanted persons and four individuals who did not carry any identification documents and one person found in an abnormal condition.

Three persons were also arrested for possessing narcotic substances and were referred to the Directorate-General for Drugs Control.

In a separate report, the Operations Department recorded 3,252 reports and 1,480 traffic accidents during this period. The General Department of Emergency Police, between the Sept 8 and 14, arrested 203 wanted persons, impounded 155 vehicles for various reasons and detained 103 persons for not carrying identification papers.

toxicated and 8 were found to possess materials suspected to be alcoholic beverages.

Additionally, the rescue teams provided humanitarian assistance to 298 persons and impounded nine vehicles.

Asian 'commits suicide': An unidentified Asian man allegedly committed suicide at a farm in Ab-

According to a security source, after the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior received a report about the victim hanging from a rope with one end tied to the ceiling of his room and the other around his neck, security men and emergency medical services personnel rushed to the spot and referred the corpse to Forensics.

A case has been registered, and an investigation into the incident is underway.

Visitor's valuables stolen: A foreigner on visit visa has filed a report at Qasr Police Station, stating that valuable items were stolen from him while he was inside a clinic and it remains unknown whether or not the clinic has surveillance cameras that can be used to identify and arrest the thief, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the complainant informed police that a bag containing 250,000 Iraqi dinars, his Iraqi driving license and passport were stolen from him. A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to arrest the culprit.

Drugs dealer arrested: Farwaniya security patrols arrested an expatriate for selling drugs in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh with an undisclosed quantity of narcotics in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source told the daily that during the implementation of the security plan in Farwaniya Governorate under the supervision of Director General of Farwaniya Security Directorate Brigadier Saleh Al-Azmi, the security patrols got suspicious after noticing the erratic movement of a vehicle. They forced the driver -- an expatriate -to pull over. When they approached the vehicle, they immediately noticed signs of fear and confusion on the expatriate's demeanor. Once interrogated about his identification, he tried to escape, but the officers overpowered him and searched his car, where they found the narcotics.

During investigation, the expatriate that he is trafficking in drugs and he was on his way to deliver the contraband to his 'customers'. He was referred to the concerned authorities. along with the confiscated narcotics.

Wife accuses husband of assault: A 23-yearold expatriate woman filed a report at Hawally and Shaab Police Station, stating her 25-year-old husband assaulted her and threatened to kill her. reports Al-Anba daily. The woman told police that she was at a hotel

with her husband - a compatriot - when they had an argument, then her husband assaulted her and threatened to kill her. She said they stayed in room no. 1000 on the 10th floor of a hotel in Shaab Al-Bahri; adding that her husband pushed her against the glass shower enclosure, so she sustained injuries. She submitted a medical report issued by a government hospital, indicating she got abrasions and bruises without any fracture.



Municipality uproots illegal facilities

Cooperation vital

Jahra Municipality 'removes' illegal facilities in north areas

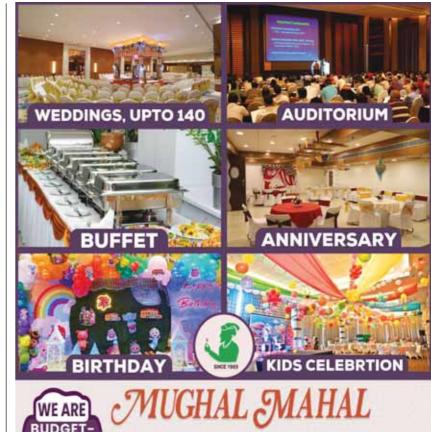
KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Eng. Abdullah Al-Daihani, head of the Violations Removal Department at Jahra Municipality, announced the removal of both mobile and fixed illegal facilities in various locations across northern Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida

In a press statement, Al-Daihani highlighted that the campaign to eliminate these violations is ongoing and will continue until all detected issues are addressed.

Al-Daihani emphasized that the Violations Removal Departments in Kuwait Municipality are working closely with the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources and the Kuwait Oil Company.

These collaborative field campaigns target illegal facilities situated near vital services and oil and gas pipelines in north-He underlined the importance of cooperating with field

teams to enforce municipal laws, regulations, and systems. Al-Daihani stressed that there would be no tolerance for violations and encroachments, and that all necessary legal measures would be taken against those who defy regulations.





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Ex-MP's case adjourned: The Court of Appeals yesterday adjourned to Thursday session for the issuance of a ruling on the State Security case filed against former MP

Walid Al-Tabtabaie due to his absence from the session for the third time as he is receiving treatment in a hospital. Earlier, the Criminal Court had sentenced

Al-Tabtabaie to four-year imprisonment with hard labor for transgressing against the powers of His Highness the Amir and misusing a phone. He is currently incarcerated at the Central Prison.

Strange suicide methods: The most common ways of committing suicide include cutting the wrist, taking a large quantity of pills or hanging; but strange suicide methods were observed in the country recently, reports Al-Anba daily.

Several hours after an expatriate tried to take his own life by drinking a petroleum-based thinner - a report of which was published by the daily on Sunday, another expatriate tried to commit suicide by drinking two bottles of shampoo. A 26-year-old expatriate filed a report that his 40-year-old colleague who lives with him in a shared accommodation drank two bottles of shampoo (500 ml each bottle). He immediately called the Operations Unit at the Ministry of Interior, then an ambulance came and took his colleague to Farwaniya Hospital.

MoCI bans cash on all car sales

New rule starts October 1

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel has issued a decision to ban cash transactions in all car sales and to limit payment transactions to banking channels starting from October 1.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry stated in a



this decision is part of its efforts to reduce suspicions of money laundering and financial crimes in the country. The ministry indicated that banning cash transactions will effectively contribute to reducing financial crimes and closing loopholes related to money laundering in particular.

press release on Wednesday that

Al-Ajeel

The ministry explained that restricting cash sales will allow the concerned authorities to track the movement of funds, ensure their sources, and verify that they are free from any unlawful activities.

It affirmed its full commitment to combating financial crimes, including money laundering, which pose a challenge to economic growth and sustainable development. The ministry noted that these practices harm society and damage the country's international reputation, necessitating concerted efforts to combat them.

MPW conducts engineer hiring with online exams

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Ministry of Public Works conducted online tests for engineers applying to head road maintenance projects, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting MPW sources.

This initiative, coordinated with various departments and sectors, aims to ensure that the right individuals are selected based on their experience and skills in managing road maintenance, including tasks such as asphalt paving, excavation, and replacing services and infrastructure.

A committee comprising members from sectors such as the Maintenance Engineering Sector and the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport was formed to conduct interviews with applicants.

After these interviews, online tests were administered to assess the capabilities of engineers in project management and their ability to expedite completion.

This new process marks a shift from previous years when engineers were assigned without such tests, addressing past project and maintenance issues to prevent future recurrences.



Minister of Social Affairs poses for a group photo during the inauguration.







Part of the opening of the new hall.

5th PADA visitors hall inaugurated

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah has inaugurated the Visitors Hall at the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) branch in West Abdullah Mubarak.

In a press statement, Al-Huwailah affirmed that PADA is keen on providing integrated services in a prompt manner; such that the transactions of people with disabilities are completed easily and smoothly in line with the vision of Kuwait to fully support this important segment of the population.

She said the ministry is keen on addressing all issues concerning those with special needs and working with other concerned authorities to find plausible solutions. She emphasized the importance of listening to the suggestions of those with disabilities and their families in

order to keep on improving the services offered to them as per the applicable laws.

She disclosed this is the fifth hall that the authority has opened so far; indicating the other halls are located in its headquarters in Hawally, Jahra (Kuwait Mall), Sabah Al-Ahmad (Kuwait Mall) and Granada (Deaf Club). She added the new hall has five counters manned by competent employees.

On the other hand, Director of PADA Wafaa Al-Muhanna confirmed that the opening of more branches in various governorates will facilitate the completion of transactions for people with disabilities and their families.

Al-Muhanna revealed the services provided include opening files for the first time, renewing a disability certificate, issuing a disabled identification card, applying for a traffic plate and updating data; in addition to the electronic services on the website of PADA and Sahel application.

Crown Prince, PM send best wishes

Kuwait HH Amir congratulates Chilean President on Nat'l Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable on Wednesday to Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font, congratulating him on Chile's National Day. His Highness wished the President good health and extended his best wishes for continued progress and prosperity to Chile and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable to President Boric, wishing him good health and well-being on the occasion of Chile's National Day.

Similarly, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable congratulating President Boric on Chile's National Day.

Move aims to develop student skills

MoE's Al-Enezi launches scouting initiative for school year 2024/'25

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities at the Ministry of Education Maryam Al-Enezi issued a general bulletin to all public and pri-

vate schools, including religious and foreign schools, regarding the activation of scouting teams for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The bulletin stated that the scouting move-

Al-Enezi ment aims to prepare students to be responsible citizens who contribute to and develop society. It also provided detailed instructions on the role and objectives of scouting teams, along with the necessary steps to enhance student participation in scouting activities.

Al-Enezi affirmed that scouting activities play a crucial role in instilling educational, national, and social values by enhancing the spirit of cooperation and teamwork, adding that these activities help build self-confidence and develop leadership skills among students.

She highlighted the importance of integrating scouting activities with curricula, revealing that field activities, which apply academic concepts in practical and interactive ways, can significantly enhance the educational process.

Al-Enezi stressed the need to develop the leadership skills of scout team members by encouraging them to take on various responsibilities and work collaboratively.

She said it is important to prepare high school students to become leaders within scout teams, as this will help them lead student groups effectively and develop their management and communication skills.

Al-Enezi highlighted the impor-

tance of schools adhering to the activation of scout teams in line with educational goals.

She urged all school administrations to collaborate to ensure the success of this initiative.

Al-Enezi affirmed that scout teams are a vital component of the modern educational curriculum, aimed at preparing a generation of young people to face future challenges with a sense of responsibility and effective patriotism.



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Part of the audience during the 'New Standards for Healthy Cities' training course.

Over 10K individuals trained in first aid

EMS teams commended in new healthy cities standards training

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Director of the Emergency Medical Department and former National Coordinator of Healthy Cities Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti praised the emergency medical teams for their exceptional participation in the "New Standards for Healthy Cities" training course under the Healthy Cities Initiative.

In a press release issued yesterday, he highlighted their contributions through their experiences in emergency clinics, awareness campaigns, mock exercises, and participation in evaluation committees.

Dr. Al-Shatti revealed that the emergency medical team's involvement in the initiative included reviewing various relevant experiences and areas of expertise such as First Aid clinics in medical office buildings and a manual detailing basic technical requirements concerning location, content,

monitoring, and ongoing development.

He highlighted the "A Paramedic in Every Home" campaign, which has trained over 10,000 individuals, and has been instrumental in raising First Aid awareness among residents of health cities seeking to join the Healthy Cities Network.

Dr. Al-Shatti affirmed the Emergency

Medical Department's efforts to enhance public awareness of emergency manage-ment techniques. This included planning simulated evacuation drills to assess people's readiness and their ability to handle such situations, as well as ensuring ongoing evaluation and training at assembly and evacuation sites.

He underscored the department's involvement in health assessment committees for applicants seeking to join the network of cities, universities, governorates, malls, and commercial complexes.

Dr. Al-Shatti indicated that over 150 specialists from various related bodies and entities participated, including representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Environment Public Authority, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, media, and Medical Emergency Department, as well as from the WHO, the Social Development Office, Kuwait University, and the registered healthy cities in Kuwait.

It is noteworthy that the Healthy Cities Office at the Ministry of Health organized the course to review the new indicators proposed by the WHO. The aim was to standardize efforts, stimulate participation, and encourage contributions from various sectors in promoting health.

KRCS hands out aid to Eastern Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sept 18, (KUNA): Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced Tuesday, the delivery of humanitarian aid to 137 families in the city of Tokar, eastern Sudan, which was exposed to the worst floods in its history.

The head of KRCS delegation to Sudan, Abdulrahman Al-Saleh, told KUNA after a field visit to the city, that KRCS began the aid distribution program in the affected (Tokar) with the support and coopera-tion of the Ambassador of Kuwait to Sudan, Dr. Fahd Al-Dhafiri, and members of the mission.

He added that the Kuwaiti aid, which covers about 50,000 residents of the city, included essential needs, in addition to 10 boats, 4 large water pumps, and pesticide machines, expressing his hope that this aid would



The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society provides assistance to families affected by floods in eastern Sudan.

contribute to alleviating the severity of the disaster. Al-Saleh stressed that KRCS will continue to provide support and aid within the Sudanese market, in implementation of the directives of the Kuwaiti leadership to support the

the war and flood crises. He thanked the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and everyone who contributed to making the visit and enabling the Kuwaiti delegation to reach those affected in their areas.

Sudanese people in facing

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Plot reorganization requests tackled, pressing flood study concerns addressed

Technical Committee endorses Jahra Corniche development

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: During the third session of its meeting Tuesday, the Technical Committee, chaired by Munira Al-Amir, approved the development project for the Jahra Corniche.

The committee reviewed and endorsed the new plan for the waterfront development and acknowledged the communication from the Acting Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers regarding the Jahra development initiative.

The committee addressed two additional agenda items. The first was a request to reorganize Plot 14, which encompasses several plots, including the Al-Salhiya

Police Station and the public facilities in the Qibla area to align with the regulations governing such plots.

The second item focused on a request for the Municipal executive body to respond to a letter from member Abdul Latif Al-Da'i.

This letter pertains to the study of rainwater flooding issues prior to the allocation of new cities, particularly residential areas, and includes an invitation to the Structural Plan Administration.

The committee also noted the response from the executive body to a letter from the mukhtar of Failaka District concerning the expropriation of remaining properties on Failaka Island.

In an exciting astronomical phenomenon, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) captured the partial lunar eclipse in Kuwait's sky at dawn on Wednesday at 3:14 a.m., reaching its maximum phase at 4:55 a.m.

The partial lunar eclipse is the second and last in 2024 and was seen in most countries of the world with the naked eye without the need to use special equipment or setup.

People, who were interested in this unique phenomenon, were keen to use binoculars or a small telescope for a better experience.

Diverse programs offered

Kuwait University to enhance student engagement amid election suspension

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Kuwait University has announced plans to bolster student activities in response to the suspension of student elections across government universities and colleges, reports Al-Seyas-

The Council of Governmental Universities has mandated this suspension, focusing instead on enhancing scientific, sports, social, and cultural activities within higher education institutions.

In alignment with this directive, the Deanship of Student Affairs will intensify its efforts to engage students through various professional clubs and activities.

The university will organize a range of events across different disciplines and form student committees to invigorate these activities, aiming to boost student participation and develop their skills.

The Deanship reaffirms its commitment to supporting students by creating a vibrant educational environment that fosters creativity and innovation, thereby enriching the overall university experience.

Cabinet nods

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the ministers listened to Al-Yahya's presentation about the results of his visit to Egypt last Tuesday while chairing the Kuwaiti delegation to the 13th session of the joint Egyptian-Kuwaiti committee.

He also told the Cabinet about the main ideas about his meeting with Egypt's President Abdulfattah Al-Sisi and Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly that focused on the deeprooted ties and means of enhancing mutual cooperation in all fields to serve the two countries' interest as well as the latest developments in the region, and some regional and international issues of mutual concern, Al-Mousherii added.

Furthermore, Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, and Acting Oil Minister Noura Al-Fassam briefed the Cabinet on Fitch rankings of Kuwait that was 'AA' with a stable outlook.

In addition, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Abdullah Al-Jalal informed the ministers about the suspension of students' elections at all Kuwait's universities and colleges inside and outside the country.

Al-Jalal, who also Acing Minister of Education, said the move was taken due to violations happened in the elections and a deviation from the primary objectives of these union

He stressed the importance of the Ministry's support for scientific, sports, social, and cultural student activities across all higher education institutions as these activities play a key role in developing students skills and innovative capabilities.

Expressing concern, Al-Jalal noted that the students' electoral process no longer serves their interests.

Finally, the Cabinet approved the report of the High Committee for Citizenship Investigation, which includes revoking citizenship, in accordance with the Law No. 15 of 1959, from some people who obtained it by fraud and forgery.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet's decision to suspend the Afia health insurance policy for retirees has prompted some private hospitals to take advantage of the situation by offering discounts on health services ranging from 30 percent to 50 percent. This has sparked outrage among many doctors and patients, who view it as a stark display of greed and exploitation by certain hospitals in light of the suspension of the Afia insurance

In an interview, Head of the Union of Private Medical Professions Dr. Essam Al-Saleh revealed that the Ministry of Health has observed and recorded violations committed by some private health facilities following their announcement of discounts on health services ranging from 30 percent to 50 percent, indicating that these actions contravene health advertising regulations and laws.

He explained that the Ministry of Health has notified him about private facilities engaging in advertising violations. With the union's awareness, the matter has been referred to the appropriate authorities for further

action. Medical advertising regulations prohibit the promotion of medical services at discounted prices, as health services are not to be treated as commercial commodities that are subject to discounts. Consequently, the ministry has implemented necessary legal measures against the violating facilities.

The suspension of the Afia project has significantly impacted major hospitals more than the smaller facilities. The larger hospitals, which provide a wide range of medical services and specialties to patients in one location, have felt the effects more acutely. In contrast, medium and small facilities have experienced less disruption and harm from the

Dr. Khalil Al-Awadhi, a consultant in kidney and urinary tract surgery, affirmed on his social media account that the suspension of Afia insurance service has led many hospitals, centers, and medical clinics to reduce their service prices by 30 to 50 percent.

He indicated that it is hard for some to believe that private hospitals would incur losses following the suspension of the project.

Dr. Al-Awadhi highlighted that the actions of these hospitals inadvertently exposed their greed and exploitation of the Afia insurance

program.

He called for a reevaluation of the

retirees, expressing concern that the

Al-Awadhi stated, "I do not want our grandmothers to wait for a long time for their turn at their age and face humiliation with appointments. While I support the idea of evening clinics, it should not come at the expense of our patients and their suf-

More hospitalized

Continued from Page 1

Acting Director General of the institute Dr. Faisal Hamed Al-Rifai said the study proved that dust storms and extreme heat contributed to the frequency of hospitalization among diabetics.

He revealed the aim of publishing the results of such a study is to raise public awareness, especially among diabetics, and urge them to take the necessary measures and precautions, such as avoiding going out during unstable weather conditions, intense heat and dust; and the necessity of drinking a lot of water, wearing masks and other precautions to avoid hospitalization.

Director of the Research Sector at the institute Professor Fahd Al-Mulla pointed out that high temperature increases heat stress, which exacerbates glucose control problems and increases the likelihood of complications like foot ulcers and high or low blood sugar levels; while fine dust particles could damage the blood vessels and increase inflammation, which further complicates the condition of diabetics.

MoE principals,

Continued from Page 1

The sources explained that these unexpected vacancies will increase the workload for the remaining administrative and teaching staff, and cause disarray in school manage-

Given that the Ministry of Education is already facing a personnel shortage during this transitional period, it may take time to select qualified candidates to fill these positions, which could potentially impact the quality of instruction.

The ministry is actively working to manage this administrative crisis; however, the ongoing rumors could result in further resignations and early retirements. The sources affirmed the impor-

educational sector and protecting the interests of its employees. They highlighted the need to handle this issue sensibly and swiftly to ensure educational continuity and

tance of maintaining stability in the

In addition, the sources insisted on the necessity for transparency and openness when dealing with such sensitive matters.

UN Assembly

Continued from Page 1

It comes in response to a ruling by the top United Nations court in July that said Israel's presence in the Palestinian territories is unlawful and must end.

In the sweeping condemnation of Israel's rule over the lands it captured during the 1967 war, the International Court of Justice said Israel had no right to sovereignty over the Palestinian territories and was violating international laws against acquiring the lands by force.

The court's opinion also is not legally binding. Nonetheless, the Palestinians drafted the resolution to try to implement the ruling, saying Israel's "abuse of its status as the occupying power" renders its "presence in the occupied Palestinian territory unlawful.'

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, stressed that any country that thinks the Palestinian people "will accept a life of servitude" or that claims peace is possible without a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is "not being realistic."

The solution remains an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side in peace and security with Israel, he said.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas Greenfield told reporters that the resolution has "a significant number of flaws," saying it goes beyond the ICJ ruling. It also doesn't recognize that "Hamas is a terrorist organization" in control of Gaza and that Israel has a right to defend itself,

decision to open evening clinics for move may be a reactionary measure.

Kuwait Amir

Continued from Page 1 He affirmed that it would build

national capabilities to design, run and operate Kuwaiti space projects following the successful launching of the first Kuwaiti satellite (Kuwait Sat-1) in 2023, and to maintain Kuwait's position on the map of regional and international scientific and technological accomplishments.

For her part, Director-General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr. Ameenah Rajab Farhan said the planned national space center is mainly intended to promote the national identity by means of building capabilities and conducting scientific

She spoke highly of the KFAS' great efforts in this regard, hailing this foundation as one of the most significant feats of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

She also commended His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for following Sheikh Jaber's footsteps in view of loyalty, belonging and dedication.

Kuwait touts

Continued from Page 1

Last year witnessed cooperation for executing a number of projects, distinguished with a high degree of success, he said, noting that the national program for technical cooperation comprises nine ventuRes, based on the state plan for the 2020-2025 period. They cover a wide range of sectors for producing genetically modified crops, extracting clean water from the lower earth strata, combating and treating cancerous diseases, monitoring plastic pollution of the sea and its effect on

He boasted that the State of Kuwait hosts three service and cooperation centers with the IAEA. specialized in medicines, marine environment and protection against radiation. These centers have been chosen by the IAEA to help it in the execution of research programs, backing regional and internatonal ventures. Additionally, the center for environmental and biological research at KISR for 2023-2024 has been designated to monitor marine radiation.

Ambassador Al-Fassam has expressed his aspiration toward more establishing new cooperation, partnerships through the agency's initiatives such as "the initiative of the hope radiation," noting that a delegation from Kuwait center for combating cancer visited the IAEA headquarters last week for examining best services and medical care for the cancer patients.

Walkie-talkies

Continued from Page 1

killed, including two children, and some 2,800 people wounded as hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah members began detonating wherever they happened to be - in homes, cars, at grocery stores and in cafes.

In the first wave of bombings, it appeared that small amounts of explosives had been hidden in the thousands of pagers delivered to Hezbollah and remotely detonated. The reports of further electronic devices exploding suggested even greater infiltration of boobytraps into Lebanon's supply chain. It also deepens concerns over the attacks in which hundreds of blasts went off in public areas, often with many bystanders, with no certainty of who was holding the rigged de-

The attacks, which Israel has not commented on, renewed fears that the simmering conflict between Israel and Hezbollah could escalate into all-out war. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday the U.S. is still assessing how the attack could affect efforts to negotiate a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war

Lebanon Health Minister Firas Abiad told journalists during a tour of hospitals Wednesday morning that many of the wounded had severe injuries to the eyes, and others had limbs amputated. Journalists were not allowed to enter hospital rooms or film patients.

Abiad said the wounded had been sent to various area hospitals to avoid any single facility being overloaded and added that Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Egypt offered to help treat the patients.

New customs complex to enter design phase

Tender set for December

By Mohammed Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Public Works, a contract for the study and design of the main building of the General Administration of Customs and a multi-storey car park has been included in the ministry's current annual plan.

They explained that the ministry is expected to announce the tender for this contract in December through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT). Offices interested in submitting bids will have the opportunity to compete for the design contract. Upon completion of the design phase, a separate tender will be issued for the construction contract.

The duration of the study and design contract will be 24 months, with an additional 39 months allocated for supervising the implementation.

The project involves the construction of an administrative building in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, which will house multiple sectors, a reception hall, and a designated space for a customs museum. Also, an attached multistorey car park will be constructed to accommodate the vehicles of both employees and visitors.

The ministry's Construction Projects Sector will oversee the implementation of the project until it is handed over to the beneficiary, which is the General Administration of Customs. The sector will coordinate with the

administration to identify its requirements and needs for the building, as well as all related technical and construction details. The sources affirmed the Ministry

of Public Works' commitment to execute government building projects, as it serves as the main government contractor responsible for most ministry and agency buildings. They highlighted the ministry's keen-

ness to build government buildings according to the latest standards, incorporate modern construction technologies, particularly those that are environmentally friendly, and use advanced equipment both inside and outside the buildings.

Support urged

Hanin project aids over '800 orphans'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Jassim Al-Ansari, Director of Zakat Kaifan that is affiliated with the Programs and Projects Sector at Al-Najat Charitable Society, revealed that more than 800 orphans in and outside the country are benefitting from the 'Hanin' project for sponsoring

orphans, reports Al-Anba daily. In a press statement, Al-Ansari said the cost of sponsoring an orphan in Kuwait is KD20 per month and KD15 for those outside the country. He urged the benevolent people to participate in this blessed project by sponsoring orphans who are waiting for benefactors to alleviate their suffering.

He explained the 'Hanin' project does not only provide financial support for the orphans; as it includes psychological support programs, various activities, recreational trips, gifts, school uniforms, tuition fees, Eid money, Eid clothing, food baskets, food supplies, sacrificial meat and humanitarian services.

He then quoted the Hadith of the Prophet (PBÛH): "I and the one who sponsors an orphan will be in Paradise." He also affirmed the commitment to teach the Holy Quran to the orphans including memorization, organize awareness and advocacy lectures, follow up their academic files, and encourage them to excel in school.

All those interested in participating in the project can visit the headquarters in Kaifan, Block 1, Street 11, Building 32 or call these numbers -- 24833804 95516222 or through the social media accounts @ZakatKaifan.



KUNA photo

The Secretary-General of the National Council and the Assistant Secretary-General inspect the discovered columns.

Council to assess historical impact

Historic columns in Mubarakiya Market draw NCCAL's attention

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18, (KUNA): Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar has emphasized the importance of studying the columns discovered in Mubarakiya Market in order to determine their historical value.

Al-Jassar made the statement when he and a delegation from NC-CAL visited the fire incident site in the market to personally look into the progress of the ongoing renovation works in the area and to assess the recently discovered columns. He confirmed that the experts on historical buildings and antiquities will conduct a thorough assessment and the results will be announced later.

This visit is in line with the commitment of NCCAL to preserve Kuwait's cultural heritage and cooperate with the concerned authorities in rebuilding the market in a manner that is consistent with its historical, cultural and economic role; considering it is one of the country's historical landmarks.

The delegation consisted of the representatives of Alghanim International and Gulf Consult; in addition to Assistant Secretary General of the Arts, Antiquities and Museums Sector Musaed Al-Zamel and a number of experts tasked to study the site and the discovered columns.

On the other hand, Gulf Consult Chairperson Eng. Najla Al-Ghanim confirmed that work is underway to rebuild the fire-damaged area; stressing the project is proceeding as per the timetable, and that the discovery of the columns could enhance the artifacts market.

Large supply of imported fish, shrimp arrives at Sharq Market

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The fish

market in Sharq has recently seen the arrival of approximately 71 tons of imported fish and shrimp, to make seafood more affordable for consumers.

This significant influx, which includes fish from Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, is expected to help reduce prices and offer a wider variety of options.

According to commercial sources, the increased supply is the result of extensive discussions between the Commercial Control Department, the Union of Imported Fish Offices, and the Kuwaiti Fishermen's Union.

These meetings focused on overcoming obstacles to fish imports and promoting open competition in the market.

The diverse range of imported fish includes varieties from Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, with prices varying depending on the type and size of the fish.

PAI set to develop new recycling hub

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Public Authority for Industry is working to accelerate the implementation of a recycling industries project in the Shagaya region with the goal to finalize the infrastructure-related files by the end of this year and complete the project by 2028, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The latest updates indicate that the Authority is also considering initiating a practice related to consulting services for the project, which includes study, design, and supervision of the infrastructure for the recycling site.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has outlined a plan to establish a dedicated recycling industrial zone in Shagaya, which will be the first of its kind in the region.

This zone aims to focus on recycling industrial materials and creating products from these materials.

World News Roundup

Europe

Boy stabs 6 kids

Ukraine 'destroys' Russia army depot

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 18, (AP): Ukrainian drones struck a large military depot in a town deep inside Russia overnight, causing a huge blaze and prompting the evacuation of some local residents, a Ukrainian official and Russian news reports said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a senior US diplomat said that Ukrain-

ian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recently announced - but still confidential - plan for winning the war "can work" and help end the conflict that is now in its third year.

Ukraine claimed the strike destroyed Russian military warehouses in Toropets, a town in Russia's Tver region about 380 kilometers (240 miles) northwest of

Moscow and about 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the border with Ukraine. The attack was carried out

by Ukraine's Security Service, along with Ukraine's Intelligence and Special Operations Forces, a Kyiv security official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the opera-

According to the official, the depot housed Iskander and Tochka-U missiles, as well as glide bombs and artillery shells. He said the facility caught fire in the strike and was burning across an area 6 kilometers (4 miles) wide.

Repel

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti quoted regional authorities as saying air defense systems were working to repel a "massive drone attack" on Toropets, which has a population of around 11,000. The agency also reported a fire and the evacuation of some local residents.

There was no immediate information about whether the strikes had caused any casualties.

Successful Ukrainian strikes on targets deep inside Russia have become more common as the war has progressed and Kyiv developed its drone technology.

Portugal declares a state of calamity: More than 100 wildfires stretched thousands of firefighters to the limit in northern Portugal on Wednesday, with seven deaths since the worst spate of fires in recent years spread out of control over the weekend.

Portuguese Prime Minister Luís Montenegro declared a state of calamity for the hardest-hit areas late on Tuesday, invoking powers to mobilize more firefighters and civil servants. He also called on police investigators to redouble their efforts to find those who started the fires and pledged help for those who have lost their homes or have been evacuated.

"We are well aware that these difficult hours are not over yet," Montenegro told the nation in a televised address. "We have to continue to give everything we have and ask for help from our partners and friends so that we can reinforce the protection of our people and property.

The European Copernicus satellite service said that over 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) had been scorched and a combined 13 kilometers (8 miles) of fire fronts had been detected as on Tuesday night. It added that an area home to 210 000 people was exposed to the fire risl

The hot, dry conditions behind the outbreaks in Portugal coincided this week with flooding in central

Boy stabs, injures 6 kids in Portugal: Portugal was shaken Tuesday when a 12-year-old boy stabbed and injured six other children in a rare episode of violence inside a school.

Portuguese national police said that the victims were from 11 to 14 years old in the attack at the school in Azambuja near Lisbon.

One boy was seriously injured with a chest wound but his life is not in danger, Azambuja Mayor Silvino Lúcio said. The boy had been taken to a hospital in

The mayor said five girls suffered light wounds to their arms.

The attacker was in custody, the police said. No motive was immediately given for the attack.

Portuguese Prime Minister Luís Montenegro condemned the attack and wished for the quick recovery of the injured children in a message posted on social media platform X. He called it an "isolated attack" that was extremely rare in his country.

"It was an isolated act and a strange occurrence in Portuguese society, but one that should make everyone who works in public space reflect with a sense of responsibility," Montenegro wrote in Portuguese.

'Floods, wildfires show climate breakdown': Devastating floods through much of Central Europe and deadly wildfires in Portugal are joint proof of a "climate breakdown" that will become the norm un-

less drastic action is taken, the European Union's head

office said Wednesday.

"Make no mistake. This tragedy is not an anomaly. This is fast becoming the norm for our shared future,' said EU Crisis Management Commissioner Janez Lenarcic.

The worst flooding in years moved Tuesday across a broad swath of Central Europe, taking lives and destroying homes. At the other end of the 27-nation EU, raging fires through northern Portugal have killed at last six people.

"Europe is the fastest warming continent globally and is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events like the one we are discussing today. We could not return to a safer past," Lenarcic told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France.

He warned that beyond the human cost, nations are also struggling to cope with mounting bills for repairing the damage from emergencies and the lengthy recovery from disaster.

Cyprus court sacks govt accountant: Cyprus' top court ordered Wednesday that the country's comptroller general be removed from his post for alleged misconduct and interferences in the works of judiciary The ruling is believed to be the first of its kind in the

Mediterranean island nation's 64-year history.

The eight-judge panel of the Supreme Constitu-

tional Court said in a 209-page decision that Odysseas Michaelides had "violated boundaries" and exhibited

"behavior unbecoming" for his post. The ruling is the latest chapter in a long-running feud between Michaelides, the government's chief accountant, and Attorney General George Savvides and his deputy Savvas Angelides, who had brought the case before the top court.



Dutch Princess Alexia, Princess Amalia, King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima, Princess Laurentien and Prince Constantijn (from left to right) wave to people on the balcony of Noordeinde Palace on Prinsjesdag, Prince's Day, in The Hague, the Neth-

erlands, on Sept 17. The third Tuesday in September is Prince's Day in the Netherlands. It marks the opening of the Dutch parliamentary season, and on this day the reigning monarch outlines the government's plans for the year ahead. (Xinhua)

Dutch govt asks for formal opt-out from EU migration rules

The new Dutch government dominated by the far-right party of Geert Wilders officially asked the European Union for an exemption from its migration obligations on Wednesday, seeking to fulfill a campaign promise to drastically reduce the number of immigrants in the nation.

Dutch Migration Minister Marjolein Faber of Wilders' party wrote to the European Commission that the Netherlands wants out of regulations for accept-

ing refugees.
"I have just informed the EU Commission that I want a migration opt-out within Europe for the Neth-

Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau responds to questions during

Question Period, in Ottawa, Ontario

on Sept 16. (AP)

Kruczkiewicz

Ryder

tional park.

America

Hawaii's Kilauea erupts again: One of

the world's most active volcanoes is erupt-

ing again in a remote part of a Hawaii na-

Kilauea erupted briefly Sunday night in

an area of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park that's closed to the public. The volcano's

middle East Rift Zone eruption then re-

sumed Monday night, U.S. Geological Sur-

vey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said.

but there is no immediate threat to homes or in-

frastructure, the observatory said. Volcanic gas

known as "vog" may reach downwind subdi-

visions near the park, the observatory warned.

two of the world's most active volcanoes:

Kilauea and Mauna Loa. But the eruption's

location in a remote wilderness area more

than 6 miles (10 kilometers) from the near-

est road doesn't make public viewing pos-

The park encompasses the summits of

Eruptive activity increased early Tuesday

erlands. We need to be in charge of our own asylum policy again!" Faber wrote in a letter Ylva Johansson, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs, posted on social media.

On Tuesday, the government, which came to power in July, announced its policy blueprint for the coming year, including stricter policies to hold back or kick out migrants who don't qualify for asylum.

The announcement came just a day after party leaders were publicly bickering over their plans, un-derscoring divisions within the four-party governing coalition

Even before the plan was made public, the European Commission warned the Dutch government that its approach wouldn't work. "We have adopted legislation. It's adopted. You don't opt out of adopted legislation in the EU," spokesman Eric Mamer said last Friday.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander, a mostly ceremonial monarch, summarized the wide-ranging policy blueprint for the coming year and beyond a day after members of the hard right-led coalition publicly bickered over its plans to slash migration, underscoring divisions even within the four-party coalition over how to push through the reforms. (AP)

Politics

Thune strives to be next GOP Senate leader

Trump to meet Modi during visit to US

FLINT, Mich., Sept 18, (AP): Former US president Donald Trump said Tuesday that he's meeting next week with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when Modi visits the U.S.

Modi is scheduled to be in the United States this weekend, along with the leaders of Australia and Japan, for a summit of the so-called Quad hosted by President Joe Biden in his Wilmington, Delaware, hometown. The group is formally called the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, and it began as a partnership after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The popular and polarizing Indian prime minister has advanced Hindu nationalism in his decade-long tenure.

The meeting between Modi with Trump had not been previously reported. The Republican presidential nominee referenced it for the first time while speaking at an unrelated event in Flint, Michigan. The Indian embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday night.

Foreign leaders have argued that meetings with Trump are part of standard encounters they have with opposition figures.

Trump on Tuesday made his first public appearance since Sunday's second apparent assassination attempt against him, speaking to an crowd chanting "God bless Trump!" and "Fight, Fight, Fight" as U.S. Secret Service agents surrounded the stage to protect him.

There's more work to do after **Liberals suffer loss: Trudeau**

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Sept 18, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he's focused on the work ahead after the ruling Liberals lost in another by-election, raising more questions about his ability to lead the party into the next federal election.

For the second time in recent months the Liberals lost in a former stronghold when the Bloc Quebecois won the vote in the electoral district of LaSalle-Emard-Verdun Monday in Montreal in a tight three-way race with the New Democratic Party.

"Obviously it would have been

nicer to be able to win . . . but there's more work to do," Trudeau said in Ottawa.

"The big thing is to make sure that Canadians understand the choice they get to make in the next election," Trudeau said. "That's the work we're going to continue to do."

Election Canada results show the Bloc candidate Louis-Philippe Sauve finished with 28% of the vote. Liberals' candidate Laura Palestini collected 27.2% and finished just 248 votes behind the winner. The NDP collected 26.1% and was about 600 votes behind the winner.

Also:

MITCHELL, SD: The gold-leafed ceilings and crystal chandeliers of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort are a long way from the small town of Murdo, South Dakota, where Sen John Thune grew up. But that's where the senator found himself this spring as he launched a bid to become the next Senate Republican leader.

Even before Sen Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, announced he would end the longest leadership tenure in Senate history, Thune, 63, had approached the contest with the same quiet intensity - fueled by an aversion to losing - he learned on the basketball court and track of Murdo's high school.

The outcome of the secret leadership ballot, expected after the November election, is deeply uncertain. It's a weighty choice for Senate Republicans as they leave the McConnell era, creating a test of whether someone like Thune, who defines himself by the party's traditional values and has at times defied Trump's wishes, can still rise to power.

'Firehose' storm hits NC: The Carolinas

braced for a storm that forecasters warned could bring heavy rain - as much as 6 to 8 inches in some spots. But one narrow band got a "firehose" that dumped as much as 20 inches in a so-called 1,000-year flood that



Soldiers pack sandbags to reinforce the dam due to the flooding of the Danube River at Pilismarot, Hungary on Sept. 16. Devastating floods through much of Central Europe and deadly wildfires in Portugal are joint proof of a 'climate breakdown' that will become the norm unless drastic action is taken, the European Union's head office said on Sept 17. (AP)

shocked many with its intensity.

The storm that left homes flooded, cars submerged and schools closed Tuesday in parts of North Carolina wasn't really a surprise to scientists who have long said that such rainfalls are one marker of climate change.

"Data shows one of the strongest relationships between climate change and precipitation is that as the atmosphere warms, the capacity to hold water increases. Therefore we see more intense rainfall in a shorter period of time," said Andrew Kruczkiewicz, senior researcher at the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University. (AP)

3 shot to death in Vermont: A Ver-

mont town official, his wife and her son were found shot to death in their home over the weekend, state police said.

Police identified them Tuesday as Brian Crossman, 46, a selectboard member in Pawlet; Erica Crossman, 41; and Colin Taft, 13. The town of about 1,400 people is near the New York state line.

They were found dead Sunday, Vermont State Police said in a news release Tuesday. All three deaths were ruled homicides. Police said their investigation was active

and no one was in custody. Members of the Pawlet selectboard, who are elected by residents to oversee town expenditures and enact ordinances, held their regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday night. Crossman's seat was vacant and there were

flowers at his place at the table. (AP)





with mobile rocket launchers to a desolate island in the Aleutian chain of western Alaska amid a recent increase in Russian military planes and vessels approaching American territory. Eight Russian military planes and four

navy vessels, including two submarines, have come close to Alaska in the past week as Russia and China conducted joint military drills. None of the planes breached US airspace and a Pentagon spokesperson said Tuesday there was no cause for alarm. "It's not the first time that we've seen the

Russians and the Chinese flying, you know, in the vicinity, and that's something that we obviously closely monitor, and it's also something that we're prepared to respond

Africa

Militia attack kills 20

Algeria prez sworn in for second term

ALGIERS, Algeria, Sept 18, (AP): Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** was sworn in on Tuesday for a second term after being elected in a landslide vote marred by apathy and questions around the vote count.

The ceremony to inaugurate Tebboune's second five-year term took place at the People's Palace, in Club-des-Pins, a seaside resort on the west coast of the capital, Algiers. Tebboune's two challengers, Islamist Abdellali Hassan Cherif and Socialist Youcef Aouchiche attended the ceremony that came three days after Algeria's constitutional court certified Tebboune's landslide victory in the Sept. 7 elections.

The court announced on Saturday after a recounting of the vote that Tebboune and his two opponents had called into question.



The figures showed Tebboune leading Cherif who had run with the Movement of Society for Peace by around 75 percentage points. Cherif won nearly 950,000 votes, or roughly 9.6%. Aouchiche's Socialist Forces Front won more than 580,000 votes, about 6.1%.

580,000 votes, about 6.1%. With 7.7 million votes, the incumbent won 84.3% of the vote, surpassing his 2019 win by millions of votes and a double-digit margin.

Cherif and Aouchiche were criticized for participating in an election that government critics denounced as a way for Algeria's political elite to make a show of democracy amid broader political repression.

Throughout the campaign, each of the three candidates emphasized participation, calling on voters and youth to participate and defy calls to boycott the ballot.

The nationwide turnout was 46.1%, surpassing the 2019 presidential election when 39.9% of the electorate participated, according to the court's figures.

Ghana's NDC stages protests: Ghana's biggest opposition party held nationwide protests in regional capitals across the country Tuesday demanding an audit of the voter roll for the general election set for December.

Millions of supporters of the National Democratic Congress party, the country's main opposition party, participated in the protests, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, an NDC member of parliament, said in a live broadcast on TV3. Those numbers could not be independently verified but protests were held in all 16 regional capitals of Ghana, including the capital Accra.

"We are not asking for a big favor from the electoral commission, we are demanding our right to free and fair elections," Johnson Asiedu-Nketiah, the chairman of the NDC told party members before the protest march in Accra.

Ghana has held peaceful, free, fair and transparent elections for nearly two decades. The general election on Dec. 7 will be the ninth consecutive election since the country's return to multi-party democracy in 1992. But allegations of voter roll irregularities this year

have created concerns about a possible democratic backslide.

The NDC alleges it detected thousands of unauthorized transfers and gracuums of voter names on the voter.

The NDC alleges it detected thousands of unauthorized transfers and erasures of voter names on the voter roll for upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

Mali troops put down militant attack: Mali troops subdued the Islamic militants who attacked a military training camp and the airport in Mali's capital Tuesday after gunbattles that killed some soldiers, authorities said. An al-Qaida-linked group claimed the attack.

The militants tried to infiltrate the Faladie military police school in Bamako in a rare attack for the capital before government troops were able to "neutralize" the attackers, army Chief of Staff Oumar Diarra said on national TV, without elaborating.

At least 15 suspects were arrested, a security official who was inside the training camp at the time of the attack told The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to reporters.

Mali's army also confirmed the militants targeted the airport, in the statement.

The al-Qaida-linked militant group JNIM claimed responsibility for the attacks on its website Azallaq. Videos posted by JNIM show fighters setting a plane on fire. The group claimed to have inflicted "major human and material losses."

l losses.''

Lawyer for 3 Americans files appeal: The lawyer for three Americans sentenced to death in Congo on charges of participating in a coup attempt filed an appeal Tuesday, he told The Associated Press.

A military court in Congo handed down death sentences last Friday to 37 people, including three young Americans, after convicting them on charges of participating in a coup attempt.

The defendants, most of them Congolese but also

including a Briton, Belgian and Canadian, had five days to appeal the verdict on charges that include attempted coup, terrorism and criminal association. Fourteen people were acquitted in the trial.

Congo reinstated the death penalty earlier this year,

lifting a more than two-decade-old moratorium, as authorities struggle to curb violence and militant attacks in the country. The men convicted in the coup attempt would likely be executed by firing squad.

Congo is a member of the Treaty of Rome, and be-

Congo is a member of the Treaty of Rome, and because of that the reinstatement of the death penalty was illegal, according to Richard Bondo, the lawyer for the convicted Americans. The parliament should have decided on an alternative penalty, Bondo told the AP - but it hasn't so far.

Congo militia attack kills 20: A militia attack killed over a dozen villagers in northeastern Congo, local authorities said on Tuesday, the latest in a series of violent assaults targeting civilians.

Eastern Congo has been torn by decadelong fighting between government forces and more than 120 armed groups, often involving bombs targeting civilians as the militias seek a share of the region's gold and other resources. Violence in the region has worsened in recent months as security forces battle the militias.

Rebels from the Cooperative for the Diversion of Congo, or CODECO, killed at least 20 people with firearms and machetes in Fataki, a village in the territory of Djugu, the head of local administration Jean-Marie Makpela said. During Tuesday's attack, houses were set on fire and material goods stolen, as rebels looted mattresses from a local medical facility, he added.



A drone light show in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival is staged in Hong Kong, south China on Sept. 17. Inset: People watch a dragon dance during the Mid-Autumn Festival. (Xinhua)



This video grab shows Malian security personnel detaining a man after Mali's army said a military training camp in the capital Bamako has been attacked on Sept 17. Mali troops subdued the Islamic militants who attacked a military training camp and the airport in Mali's capital on Tuesday after gunbattles that killed some soldiers, authorities said. (AP)





Petro

Maduro

Lat/Am

March for Morales turns violent: Thousands of anti-government demonstrators marching in support of Bolivia's former President Evo Morales clashed on Tuesday with counterprotesters blocking their way, a stark sign of an escalating power struggle in the volatile Andean nation.

In his most brazen show of force yet against current President Luis Arce, Morales sent word to his followers to mobilize what he called a "March to Save Bolivia," a 190-kilometer (118 mile)-trek from the small village of Caracollo to the capital, La Paz, denouncing the government of his protege-turned-bitter rival.

Morales, a former coca grower, has retained significant support among poor and Indigenous Bolivians despite his resignation in 2019 amid mass protests over his disrupted re-election.

The Morales supporters, raising multicolored Indigenous flags and chanting against Bolivia's economic crisis, surged toward them, using slingshots to pelt their adversaries with rocks as police in pickup trucks and on motorbikes looked on. Morales' followers soon forced the counterprotesters to retreat, their shouts - "Evo, Bolivia wants you back!" - drowning out the pro-Arce activists who chanted, "Evo, you traitor, your time has passed." (AP)

'Base attack ends peace talks': An attack on a military base in eastern Colombia killed two soldiers and injured at least 21, Colombia's military said on Tuesday, as tensions escalate between Colombia's government and one of the nation's largest

remaining rebel groups.

Colombia's military blamed the National Liberation Army for the attack, with President **Gustavo Petro** hinting late on Tuesday that the attack will lead to a suspension, or a cancellation of peace talks with the rebel group.

"This is an attack that practically closes a peace process, with blood," Petro said during a ceremony, in which he named a new judge to one of Colombia's highest courts.

The National Liberation Army, or ELN, ended a cease-fire with the Colombian government in August, but is still involved in peace talks aimed at ending more than five decades of conflict. The army said Tuesday that the group fired homemade rockets from a cargo truck that had been parked near a base in Puerto Jordan, a small town in Colombia's Arauca province. (AP)

uiolanca kille 30

Mexico violence kills 30: At least 30 people have been killed in the past two weeks in Mexico's northern state of Sinaloa

Asia

Australia police infiltrates Ghost

North Korea test-fired ballistic missiles

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 18, (AP): North Korea on Wednesday test-fired multiple ballistic missiles toward its eastern seas, the South Korean and Japanese militaries said, adding to its military demonstrations as tensions with Washington and neighbors escalate.

The launches come days after North Korea offered a rare view into a secretive facility built to enrich uranium for nuclear bombs as leader Kim Jong Un called for a rapid expansion of his nuclear weapons program.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected North Korea firing multiple short-range ballistic missiles from north of its capital, Pyongyang, and said they traveled about 400 kilometers (244 miles) while flying toward the northeast. The joint chiefs said it was closely communicating with the United States and Japan while analyzing the launches but didn't immediately provide further flight details.

Japan's defense ministry said it detected at least two launches but didn't immediately say what types of missiles they were and how far they flew.

Japan's coast guard said the missiles were believed to have already fallen into waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan and urged vessels to watch out for falling objects. Japan's NHK television said the missiles were believed to have landed outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Australia infiltrates Ghost: Australian police said Wednesday they have infiltrated Ghost, an encrypted global communications app developed for criminals, leading to dozens of arrects.

The app's alleged administrator, **Jay Je Yoon Jung,** 32, appeared in a Sydney court Wednesday on charges including supporting a criminal organization and benefitting from proceeds of crime. Jung did not enter pleas or apply to be released on bail. He will remain behind bars until his case returns to court in November.

Australian police arrested 38 suspects in raids across four states in recent days while law enforcement agencies were also making arrests in Canada, Sweden, Ireland and Italy, Australian Federal Police Deputy Commissioner Ian McCartney said.

"We allege hundreds of criminals including Italian organized crime,

as two factions of the powerful Sinaloa

cartel continue to clash, authorities said

Tuesday. Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio

Sandoval said that two military personnel

were among those killed in the fighting that

started Sept. 9, despite the presence of more

than 2,000 security personnel.

Voting for a local govt opens in Indian-controlled Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 18, (AP): A three-phased election for choosing a local government in Indian-controlled Kashmir opened early Wednesday in the first such vote since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government stripped the disputed region of its special status five years ago.

Authorities deployed thousands of additional police and paramilitary soldiers in the region's seven southern districts where over 2.3 million residents are eligible to cast their votes and chose 24 lawmakers out of 219 candidates in the first phase of the polling.

Wearing riot gears and carrying as-

Wearing riot gears and carrying assault rifles, troops set up checkpoints and patrolled the constituencies in the districts as locals lined up to cast their votes in villages and towns.

The second and third phases are scheduled for Sept. 25 and Oct. 1 in a process that is staggered to allow troops to move around to stop potential violence. Votes will be counted on Oct. 8, with results expected that day. For the first time, authorities limited access of foreign media to polling sta-

tions and denied press credentials to most journalists working with international media, including to The Associated Press, without citing any reason. India and Pakistan each administer

India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the territory in its entirety. Militants in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have been fighting New Delhi's rule since 1989. Most Muslim Kashmiris support the rebels' goal of uniting the territory, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

India insists the Kashmir militancy

India insists the Kashmir militancy is Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. Pakistan denies the charge, and most Kashmiris consider it a legitimate freedom struggle. Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the conflict.

The vote is the first in a decade, and the first since Modi's Hindu nationalist government in 2019 scrapped the Muslim-majority region's semi-autonomy, downgraded the former state to a federally governed territory and stripped its separate constitution and inherited protections on land and jobs.

motorcycle gang members, Middle Eastern organized crime and Korean organized crime have used Ghost in Australia and overseas to import illicit drugs and order killings," McCartney told reporters.

NZ enters divisive era: On the eve of New Zealand's Māori language celebration week, the country's rightwing political leaders ordered public agencies to stop affirmative action policies for Māori people, who are disadvantaged on almost every metric.

The lawmakers then posted on social media about their enthusiasm for the Indigenous tongue. "In New Zealand we're lucky to have this language and I'm glad to celebrate it," Prime Minister Christopher Luxon of the center-right National party wrote on Facebook Monday.

Māori was not solely "the preserve of people who think a certain way," said **David Seymour**, the leader of populist party ACT - whose detractors accuse him of anti-Māori policies - in a video introducing his followers to eco-

ed after Joaquín Guzmán López, a son of

former Sinaloa cartel leader Joaquín "El

Chapo" Guzmán, landed near El Paso, Tex-

as on July 25 in a small plane with Ismael

Zambada was the cartel's elder figure and

reclusive leader. After his arrest, he said in

"El Mayo" Zambada.

nomic terms in the language.

China carrier enters Japan: A Chinese aircraft carrier entered an area near Japan's shores for the first time on Wednesday, leading Tokyo to convey its "serious concerns" to Beijing over China's increasingly assertive military actions around Japan, officials said.

The Chinese carrier Liaoning, accompanied by two destroyers, sailed between Japan's westernmost island of Yonaguni and nearby Iriomote, entering the country's co-called "contiguous zone," the Defense Ministry said. That's an area of sea beyond a country's territorial waters in which it can still exercise some control over maritime traffic, reaching up to 24 nautical miles offshore.

The Liaoning's transit was part of a fleet movement Tuesday and Wednesday, during which Chinese warships also passed off the western coast of the disputed Japanese-controlled islets it calls the Senkakus, the ministry said. China claims the same islets, calling them the Diaoyus.

been abducted by the younger Guzmán and taken to the U.S. against his will.

The clashes in the state's capital Culiacan are the latest example of the violence that continues to plague Mexico, where cartels employ increasingly sophisticated forms of warfare, including roadside bombs or IEDs, trenches, home-made armored vehicles and bomb-dropping drones. (AP)

O O O

'Fourth US citizen detained': Venezuela's government Tuesday announced the arrest of a fourth US citizen in connection with an alleged plot to kill President **Nicolás Maduro** in which authorities claim the CIA, Spain's intelligence agency, organized crime groups, sex workers and members of the opposition are involved.

Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello revealed the arrest and details of the plot during a speech before the National Assembly, whose members applauded the detention. Cabello did not identify the most recently detained American.

The alleged plan joins dozens of other anti-Maduro plans that his government earlier this year claimed to have foiled.

"Those who try to mess with Venezuela, we will screw them, regardless of their name," Cabello said.

He spoke hours after an independent panel of experts backed by the United Nations' Human Rights Council issued a scathing report against Maduro's government, accusing it of deploying the "harshest and most violent mechanisms of its repressive apparatus" in the wake of the disputed July presidential election. (AP)



Bolivia's former president Evo Morales, center, and his supporters march to the capital to protest against the government of current President Luis Arce, in an escalation of a political dispute between the two politicians, in Vila Vila, Bolivia on Sept 17. Thousands of anti-government demonstrators marching in support of Morales clashed on Tuesday with counterprotesters blocking their way, a stark sign of an escalating power struggle in the volatile Andean nation. (AP)

oil surges

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 84 cents to USD 74.54 per barrel on Tuesday as opposed to USD 73.70 pb on Monday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

The price of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate went up respectively by 95 cents and USD 1.10 to settle at USD 73.70 per barrel and USD 71.41 pb. (KUNA) Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan widened 15.0 percent from a year earlier to JPY 76.9 billion (USD 521 $\,$ million) in August, up for the first time in two months buoyed by strong exports, government data showed on Wednesday.

and seven months, the Finance Ministry said in a pre-Overall Kuwaiti exports to Japan grew 11.8 percent

Kuwait stayed in black ink with Japan for 16 years

year-on-year to JPY 98.4 billion (USD 673 million) for the first increase in two months. Imports from Japan rose 1.9 percent to JPY 21.5 billion (USD 142 million),

18-09-2024

up for the fourth month in a row

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan narrowed 4.8 percent to JPY 852.2 billion (USD 6.0 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports from the region sliding 1.0 percent from a year earlier.

Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 94.7 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, fell 2.3 percent.

The region's overall imports from Japan expanded 12.8 percent on demand for automobiles and machinery. The world's third-biggest economy logged a global trade deficit of JPY 695.3 billion yen (USD 4.9 billion) in August for the second straight month, as a weaker yen continued to push up the value of its imports. Exports rose 5.6 percent from the year before, thanks to shipment for

semiconductor-making equipment and related parts.

Imports grew 2.3 percent as pharmaceutical and oil products inflated costs amid the yen's depreciation against the dollar pharmaceutical and oil products.

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

Market Movements

Change Closing pts

SAUDI +35.28 11,920.94 **JAPAN** - Nikkei 225 +176.95 36.380.17 **EGYPT** EGX 30 +183.31 30,342.46 **PAKISTAN** +1,029.60 80,587.44

PHILIPPINES - PSEi

Change Closing pts -5.00 4,390.20 -19.46 7,155.90

Business

Kuwait's August trade surplus with Japan up 15%

Educating younger generation on the power of digital marketing as part of its 'weyak' initiative

stc hosts digital marketing workshop in collaboration with Ordable

Telecommunications - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, hosted a digital marketing workshop in collaboration with Ordable, an innovative platform that offers a wide range of custom-tailored solutions to businesses that include online ordering, scan or tap, point of sale, and B2B. The workshop, led by Ordable's Co-Founder, Salem Marafi, witnessed the participation of over 30 entrepreneurs representing various local businesses and restaurants.

The digital marketing workshop, organized under the 'weyak' initiative, is part of stc's broader efforts to support and empower local entrepreneurs and SMEs by providing them with the knowledge and tools needed to excel in today's fast-evolving digital landscape. As digital marketing becomes a vital component of business growth, particularly for small businesses, stc aims to leverage its network and expertise to position itself as the preferred digital enabler, offering tailored solutions and knowledge to enhance the success of SMEs in Kuwait.

Throughout the workshop, Marafi provided participants with valuable insights related to the power of successful digital marketing and its impact on businesses. He covered a range of topics within digital marketing, as well as the modern tools available today, the impact of ef-



Salem Marafi stands among the participants in the digital marketing workshop.

ficiently utilizing social media platforms, as well as engagement techniques tailored to different segments and sectors in the market. Marafi also held a Q&A session for participants, allowing them to speak about their current situations and ask questions related to their businesses.

In a statement, stc highlighted its commitment to enabling digital transformation and innovation across Kuwait's business ecosystem. The Company frequently organizes workshops and educational programs with the main focus being to educate and empower the community. These programs allow participants to understand and learn more about the different products and services available in the market that could help them achieve their goals or streamline segments of their operations, stc aims to support local businesses by leveraging techniques mentioned by experts to expand their online presence, engage with customers more effectively, and drive business growth.

stc emphasized its ongoing commitment to organizing workshops that actively engage the community and offer valuable insights across a range of topics. By fostering educational and interactive platforms, stc is dedicated to cultivating a supportive and dynamic environment. Additionally, the Company continues to strengthen its partnerships with both public and private sector entities to amplify its impact and broaden its reach.

About stc

Telecommunications Kuwait Company (stc) is a Kuwaiti shareholding company incorporated pursuant to Amiri Decree No. 187 on 22 July, 2008, to operate and manage the third GSM mobile network in Kuwait as per Law No. 2 of 2008. Accordingly, stc launched its operations in December 2008 and was listed on Boursa Kuwait in December 2014.

stc Kuwait is a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and solutions to customers, both for individuals and enterprises, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, and is a subsidiary of stc Group. stc Kuwait has expanded its portfolio by acquiring companies such as Qualitynet General Trading and Contracting Company (solutions by stc) in Kuwait, and e-portal Holding Company and its subsidiaries.

Boursa Kuwait index declines 0.3% amid cautious investor sentiment

Main market index drops by 1.3%

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Boursa Kuwait has maintained its downward trajectory since the start of the week.

The general index fell by 27.9 points, or 0.3 percent, closing at 7,128 points. Trading activity saw 303.6 million shares exchanged through 17,041 transactions, amounting to 60.9 million dinars (approximately \$185.7 million).

Consequently, the market value dropped by 165 million dinars, reaching 42.309 billion dinars compared to 42.144 billion dinars in the previous session. Investor sentiment is currently cautious as they await the outcome of today's US Federal Reserve meeting, which is anticipated to address potential in-

This uncertainty has contributed to global market anxiety and heightened investor apprehension about

unforeseen developments. Leading stocks experienced significant selling pressure, causing the main market index to fall by 82.3 points, or 1.3 percent, to 6,107 points.

This decline occurred with 200.2 million shares traded through 9,510 transactions, worth KWD 31.5 million (around \$96 million).

Similarly, the Premier Market index decreased by 14.8 points, or 0.19 percent, to 7,743 points, with 103.3 million shares traded through 7,531 transactions, valued at KWD 29.4 million (approximately \$89.6 million)

The (Main 50) index also dropped, falling 92.3 points, or 1.5 percent, to 5,924 points. This decline involved trading 110.5 million shares through 5,159 transactions, totaling 19.3 million dinars (about \$58.8 million).

The session saw declines in 8 sectors, with financial services leading the way with a 2.14 percent drop. Conversely, 3 sectors rose, led by communications with a 0.88 percent increase, while 2 sectors remained unchanged.

The session was marked by a decline in 85 shares, with "Inovest" experiencing a notable drop of 26.92 percent. In contrast, 31 shares rose, with "Madar" leading with a 6.12 percent increase. The price of 14 shares remained stable. "Inovest" was the most active in terms of volume, trading 53.75 million shares, while "EFA" led in liquidity with about 11.54 million dinars.

Among the top gainers were Madar, Hayat Com, Maaden, and Warqia, whereas the biggest decliners included Inovest, Eva, M Business, and MK Holding.

The analysts anticipate continued fluctuations in the Boursa Kuwait due to ongoing selling pressures on leading stocks and a general wait for new market incentives. This weakness is attributed in part to declining oil prices, which heighten concerns about reduced oil revenue and increased budgetary pressures in Gulf countries.

Analysts highlighted that attention is focused on the latest US inflation data, which showed a reading of 2.5 percent for August -- the lowest since Febru-

ary 2021. However, the monthly consumer price index, excluding food and energy, was higher than anticipated. This has heightened expectations that the Federal Reserve might cut interest rates by about 25 basis points today.

They emphasized that market fluctuations are likely to persist in the near term, with investors awaiting a clearer outlook on oil prices and the Federal Reserve's decision next week

Program to boost professional competence

MoCI & IBS introduce 'certified real estate appraiser' program

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The portance of real estate valuation Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Institute of Banking Studies have signed a memorandum of understanding to launch the 'Certified Real Estate Appraiser' program to enhance the qualifications of professionals in the real estate appraisal field in Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Ziad Al-Najem, Undersecretary of the Ministry, stated that the program aligns with the real estate appraisal standards set by the min-

Its goal is to improve the professional competence of real estate appraisers and strengthen the strategic role of the appraisal profession in accordance with these standards. The program was developed in collaboration with local real estate appraisal experts and incorporates the latest scientific and

practical methodologies. Al-Najem emphasized the imnot only within the real estate sector but also for the banking sector.

Accurate property valuation supports informed investment decisions, whether for buying or selling properties, and aids individuals seeking home ownership. Additionally, it ensures transparency and accuracy in financial data disclosure by providing a clear picture of real estate value in company budgets.

Rana Al-Nibari, Director General of the Institute, noted that the Certified Real Estate Appraiser Program (Level C) offers foundational knowledge of real estate and appraisal concepts.

This program provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to learn the basic principles and structures of real estate valuation, thereby enhancing career prospects in the field.

Kuwait's growth to rebound to 2.5% in 2025 after oil cut impact

GCC growth set to surge to 4.4 percent in 2025 as oil cuts reversed, reports ICAEW

DUBAI, Sept 18: The latest ICAEW Economic Insight report for the Middle East, prepared by Oxford Economics, paints a cautiously optimistic outlook for the region. While economic growth in the Middle East is projected at 2.1% in 2024, a significant acceleration to 3.7% is expected in 2025, largely driven by the reversal of oil production cuts by OPEC+.

GCC growth to surge in 2025

The GCC region is poised for a significant rebound, with growth projected to more than double to 4.4% in 2025 as oil production cuts are gradually phased out. The report highlights the resilience of the GCC's non-energy sectors, which are expected to expand by 4.4% in 2025. Strong domestic momentum, coupled with anticipated interest rate reductions, is expected to fuel consumption and private investment, boosting the region's overall economic

2024 growth impacted by oil production cuts

The extension of oil production cuts by OPEC+ has led to a slight downward revision of the GCC's 2024 growth forecast to 2.1% from 2.2% three months ago. While this reflects the temporary impact on the region's energy sector, the outlook for 2025 remains optimistic as oil production increases, providing a strong boost to the region's economies.

Non-energy sectors show resilience

The report underscores the resilience of GCC non-energy sectors, which are projected to grow by 4.2% this year and 4.4% in 2025. Recent PMI readings suggest strong domestic activity, and anticipated interest rate reductionsis expected to further bolster consumption and private investment. These sectors, including tourism, trade, and finance, are becoming crucial growth drivers in the region's economic diversification efforts.

Kuwait faces challenges amid oil cuts

Kuwait's economy is forecast to grow by only 0.5% due to ongoing oil production cuts, but is expected to rebound to 2.5% in 2025-26. The recent discovery of the Al-Nokhatha oil field, with estimated reserves of 3.2 billion



Middle East.



Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor and Chief Economist and Managing Director at Oxford Eco-

barrels, promises higher future oil gains and supports Kuwait's agenda to expand production output to 4 million barrels per day by 2035.

Oman's public finances remain resilient

Oman's economy is projected to achieve a growth rate of 1.5% in 2024, supported by a resilient non-energy sector. Growth is expected to gain further traction, reaching 2.3% in 2025, as oil production restrictions are eased. Oman's public finances remain robust, with a budget surplus expected de-

spite lower energy revenues. The country's commitment to fiscal reforms and diversification efforts has been recognised by Moody's, which recently upgraded Oman's Ba1 credit rating to positive.

Geopolitical risks remain

The report highlights ongoing geopolitical risks, particularly regional conflicts, which could impact sectors linked to tourism and trade, and adds a layer of uncertainty to the forecast. However, a potential breakthrough in nuclear talks with Iran offers some upside potential for oil production and exports in the medium term.

Inflation outlook

The GCC inflation forecast for 2024 has been lowered to 1.7%, but is expected to rise to 2.1% next year. Inflation remains below 2% in all GCC countries except Kuwait and the UAE, where slightly higher rates persist due to housing price pressures.

Hanadi Khalife, Head of Middle East, ICAEW, said: "The report underscores the importance of resilience in navigating global economic and regional geopolitical headwinds. We are confident that the Middle East's business community, supported by the expertise of the accountancy profession, will continue to demonstrate its ability to innovate and thrive amid these chal-

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist and Managing Director, Oxford Economics Middle East, said: "The GCC's proactive and strategic investment in non-oil sectors, alongside the gradual recovery of oil production, is paving the way for robust growth in 2025, projected to more than double to 4.4%. In a global environment of slowing economic growth, the resilience of the GCC stands out. The region's strong performance across both energy and non-energy sectors - particularly in tourism, trade, and

finance – positions it for sustained success in the coming year.' Despite ongoing challenges, the latest ICAEW Economic Insight report paints a positive picture for the region's economic prospects in 2025, driven by the reversal of oil production cuts and continued strength in non-energy

Google wins legal bid to overturn 1.5 billion euro antitrust fine in EU digital ad case

Google won a court challenge on Wednesday against a 1.49 billion euro (\$1.66 billion) European Union antitrust fine imposed five years ago that targeted

its online advertising business. The EU's General Court said it was throwing out the 2019 penalty imposed by the European Commission, which is the 27-nation bloc's top antitrust enforcer.

The General Court annuls the Commission's decision in its entirety," the court said in a press release. The commission's ruling applied to a narrow portion of Google's ad business: ads that the U.S. tech giant sold next to Google search results on third-party websites

Regulators had accused Google of inserting exclusivity clauses in its contracts that barred these websites from running similarly placed ads sold by Google's rivals. The commission said when it issued the penalty that Google's behavior resulted in advertisers and website owners having less choice and likely facing higher prices that

would be passed on to consumers. But the General Court said the commis

sion "committed errors" when it assessed those clauses. The commission failed to demonstrate that Google's contracts deterred innovation, harmed consumers or helped the company hold on to and strengthen its dominant position in national online search advertising markets, it said.

The ruling can be appealed, but only on points of law, to the Court of Justice, the bloc's top court.

The commission said in a brief statement that it "will carefully study the judgment and reflect on possible next steps

Google said it changed its contracts in 2016 to remove the provisions in question, even before the commission imposed its decision. "We are pleased that the court has recognised errors in the original decision and annulled the fine," Google said in a statement. "We will review the full deci-sion closely."

The company's legal victory comes a week after it lost a final challenge against a separate EU antitrust case for its shopping comparison service that also involved a hefty fine. They were among three antitrust penalties totaling about 8 billion euros that the commission punished Google with in the previous decade. The penalties marked the beginning of an era of intensifying scru-

tiny for Big Tech companies.
Since then, Google has faced escalating pressure on both sides of the Atlantic over its digital ad business. It's currently battling the Justice Department in a U.S. federal court over allegations that its dominance over the technology that controls the sale of billions of internet display ads constitutes an illegal monopoly. (AP)

What's at stake?

Trump will soon be able to sell shares in Truth Social's parent co

NEW YORK, Sept 18, (AP): For all the debate about just how rich former President Donald Trump is, one thing is clear: His ownership stake in Trump Media & Technology Group makes him a billionaire.

The company behind the Truth Social platform is worth more than \$3.5 billion on Wall Street, and Trump owns more than half of it. So far, Trump and other insiders in the company known as TMTG have been unable to cash in because a "lock-up agreement" has prevented them from selling any

of their shares since TMTG began trading publicly in March. Trump's lock-up deal looks set to expire later this week. But if he sells, Trump risks sending a negative signal to other shareholders and prompting them to dump their shares. For

now, Trump says he's not selling.

Here's a look at what the end of the lock-up could mean and what Truth Social actually does:

Trump on Thursday will be free to start selling his shares of TMTG as long as they don't close below \$12 before then. They closed Friday at nearly \$18.

Trump entered into the lock-up agreement in March, when TMTG merged with a shell company named Digital World Acquisition Corp. and took its place on the Nasdaq stock

Trump does not run TMTG. Its CEO is Devin Nunes, the former Republican U.S. Representative from California. But Trump is the biggest draw for its Truth Social network, posting his "truths" on the social-media platform.

Trump owned 57.3% of all the company's shares, as of Aug. 15. Based on the company's total market value of nearly \$3.6 billion coming into the week, that made Trump's stake worth a little more than \$2 billion.

Trump launched Truth Social, in February 2022, after he was banned from major sites such as Facebook and the platform formerly known as Twitter following the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. He's since been reinstated to both - and endorsed by X owner Elon Musk - but he still mostly posts on his own platform.

While the platform sought to capitalize on the outrage over Trump's social media bans to attract a broad audience, Truth Social, much like fellow right-leaning social media platforms Gettr and Parler, has not been able to move much beyond an echo chamber of conservative political commen-

Truth Social is marketed as the antidote to mainstream social media apps, which Trump and his supporters say discriminate against their views and limit free expression, said

Roxana Muenster, a doctoral student at Cornell University who studies the far-right and digital communication. Its audience, she added, is mainly Trump's MAGA base. "There is also a lot of hate speech and extremism on the platform due to their lax approach to content moderation.

As part of an agreement that runs until February 2025, Trump has agreed to wait six hours after posting on Truth Social before he can post any "non-political communications" on other social media platforms

However, this is at the former president's sole discretion, and as the company notes in a regulatory filing, as "a candidate for president, most or all of President Trump's social media posts may be deemed by him to be politically related."

The company said in a recent regulatory filing that it relies on advertising for all of its revenue. That revenue is miniscule - it took in just \$836,900 in its most recent quarter, down 30% from \$1.2 million a year earlier. For the threemonth period that ended June 30, the company posted a loss of \$16.4 million. About half of that was legal expenses related to its merger with Digital World.

In its latest quarter, Trump Media said it also incurred \$3.1 million of technology consulting and software licensing expenses, mainly related to its software licensing agreement to

Unlike more mainstream social media platforms, Truth Social does not release information about certain measures of performance, such as signups and average revenue per user. This can make it more challenging for investors to determine how the company's business is doing.

Poorly, for the most part. After sitting above \$60 in March, it tumbled toward \$16 before perking up a bit on Friday and closing at \$17.97.

A stock's price is supposed to rise and fall with its prospects for making money, but critics say TMTG's stock has instead tended to move with investors' expectations for Trump's re-election chances. It's also been incredibly volatile, diving and soaring through pulse-raising swings day to day if not hour to hour. The stock has had 15 days since the start of April where it's jumped or dropped more than 10%.

At a press conference on Friday, he suggested it may be because of fears that he would sell his own shares. "It's different if I leave," he said.

The stock market works on supply and demand, and if many shares of any stock were suddenly to become available because a shareholder wanted to sell, that would likely

Target 2%

UK 'inflation' is steady at 2.2%

LONDON, Sept 18, (AP): Inflation in the U.K. held steady at an annual rate of 2.2% in August, with higher air fares offset by lower fuel costs and restaurant and hotel bills, official figures showed Wednesday.

The latest reading from the Office of National Statistics means inflation remains just above the Bank of England's target of 2%.

Last month, the central bank reduced its main interest rate by a quarter-point to 5%, the first cut since the onset of the pandemic

Central banks around the world dramatically increased borrowing costs from near zero during the coronavirus pandemic when prices started to shoot up, first as a result of supply chain issues built up during the pandemic and then because of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine which pushed up energy costs.

Most economists think the bank will opt to keep borrowing costs unchanged after its latest policy meeting on Thursday as a majority of the nine-member Monetary Policy Committee remains wary about inflation in the crucial services sector. Wednesday's data showed that services sector inflation jumped to 5.6% in August from 5.2% in July as a result of higher air fares across European routes.

However, they think that the bank will most likely cut again in November, in the wake of the government's budget on Oct. 30.

The new Labour government has said that it needs to plug a 22 billionpound (\$29 billion) hole in the public finances and has indicated that it may have to raise taxes and lower spending, which would likely weigh on the nearterm outlook for the British economy and put downward pressure on infla-

"An interest rate cut on Thursday is looking unlikely with the majority of the Monetary Policy Committee likely to want to assess the impact of next month's budget before deciding when to loosen policy again," said Suren Thiru, economics director at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Central banks around the world have started cutting interest rates as inflation rates have fallen from multidecade highs. Later Wednesday, the U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to cut rates for the first time in four years.

Japan's trade deficit grows

TOKYO, Sept 18, (AP): Japan posted a trade deficit for a second straight month in August, the Finance Ministry said Wednesday, despite signs of sluggish consumer spending that weighed on imports.

Japan's trade deficit totaled 695 billion yen, or \$4.9 billion, down 26% from a year earlier, the ministry said.

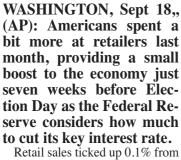
Exports totaled 8.4 trillion yen (\$59 billion), up 5.6% from the same month the previous year. Shipments to Asia rose while exports to the U.S.

Imports totaled 9.1 trillion yen (\$64 billion), up 2.3% from a year earlier. By region, imports from European nations, in categories such as pharmaceuticals, showed the strongest growth. Both numbers fell short of forecasts for 10% growth in exports and and even higher increases

for imports. The Japanese yen has gained in value against the U.S. dollar in recent weeks, helping to boost the country's purchasing power. The dollar had traded at levels over 150 yen earlier this year but in recent days has dipped to about 140 yen.

US retail sales ticked up last month in a sign of ongoing consumer resilience

'With consumption still very healthy, recession fears appear overblown'



July to August, after jumping the most in a year and a half the previous month, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Online retailers, sporting goods stores, and home and garden stores all reported higher sales.

The data indicate that consumers despite the cumulative impact of three years of excess inflation and the higher interest rates intended to combat those rising prices. Average paychecks, particularly for lower-income Americans, have also risen sharply since the pandemic, which has allowed many Americans to continue spending even as many necessities became more expensive. And price increases are slowing, with inflation falling to a threeyear low last month of 2.5%

The impact of inflation and consumers' health has been an ongoing issue in the presidential campaign, with former President Donald Trump blaming the Biden-Harris administration for the post-pandemic jump in prices. Vice President Kamala Harris has, in turn, charged that Trump's claim that he will slap 10% to 20% tariffs on all imports would amount to a "Trump tax" that will raise prices further.

A slowdown in hiring and a recent rise in the unemployment rate have fueled concerns the economy is sputtering, yet steady spending should boost growth. The Federal Reserve's Atlanta branch estimates that the economy grew at a solid 2.5% annual rate in the third quarter.

'With consumption still very healthy, for now, recession fears appear overblown," Olivia Cross, North America economist at Capital Economics, said.

The Fed could provide a further boost to consumers and the economy by lowering borrowing costs. It is likely to reduce its key rate at its meetings in November and December as well as on Wednesday. Such cuts should, over time, lower rates for mortgages, auto loans, and credit cards. Average mortgage rates have already fallen in anticipation of the Fed's actions.

Consumers have been showing signs of stress, with credit-card debt rising and savings rates falling, trends that could weigh on spending in future

Kamie Meeks, a 22-year-old college student in New York City, said that in-



US nuke repository among the federally owned spots identified for renewable energy projects

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Sept 18, (AP): The U.S. Department of Energy announced Tuesday that it is teaming up with yet another energy company as part of a mission to transform portions of government-owned property once used for the nation's nuclear weapons program into prime real estate for renewable energy endeavors.

The federal agency will be negotiating a lease agreement with Floridabased NextEra Energy Resources Development for nearly 3 square miles (7.8 square kilometers) of land surrounding the nation's only underground repository for nuclear waste.

The project at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southern New Mexico is the latest to be announced by the En-

flation has made her better at finding

lower priced goods. She does her food

shopping at the discounter Aldi. She

shops mostly online at Walmart and at

Chinese retailers like Shein and Temu.

It's easier to "find deals" online,

In August, sales jumped 1.4% for

online retailers in August and rose

ergy Department, which has identified more than 50 square miles (130 square kilometers) of government land that can be used for constructing solar arrays and battery storage systems that can supply utilities with emissions-free electricity.

Other lease agreements already are being negotiated for projects stretching from the Hanford Site in Washington state, where the U.S. produced plutonium, to national laboratories and other sites in Idaho, Nevada and South Carolina.

Andrew Mayock with the White House Council on Environmental Quality on Tuesday echoed a statement made earlier this year when the first negotiations were announced. He said

0.7% at health and personal care out-

lets. Yet they were flat for restaurants

and bars, a sign that consumers are

holding back from some discretionary

sales, which mostly reflected a decline

in prices last month. Auto sales also

Gas stations reported a 1.2% drop in

spending.

ticked lower.

federal agencies are using their scale and purchasing power to support the growth of the clean energy industry.

"We will spur new clean electric-

ity production, which is good for our climate, our economy, and our national security," he said.

At the nuclear repository in New Mexico, federal officials say there is

potential to install at least 150 mega-

watts of solar and another 100 megawatts of storage. be more than enough to meet the needs of the repository, none would feed

While the amount of energy generated by NextEra at the WIPP site would directly into government operations there. Officials said the energy from

the solar array would be sold to Xcel

On Wednesday, Fed policymakers

will decide whether to cut their key

interest rate by a typical quarter-point

or a larger-than-usual half-point, from

its current level of about 5.3%, a 23-

a reduction of a half-point. With infla-

tion headed back to the Fed's 2% tar-

Wall Street is increasingly expecting

Energy by NextEra and put into the utility's distribution system.

Xcel serves customers in parts of New Mexico and Texas, as well as other states.

Officials said there is no estimate of when ground could be broken, saying engineering and planning work would be needed once a lease is signed and regulatory approvals would be re-

auired. The largest of the so called cleanupto-clean-energy projects is slated for the Hanford Site, where Hecate Energy LLC has plans to deliver a gigawattscale system that would span thousands of acres on the southeastern edge

of the property. It could be several years before that project comes online. get, many economists also argue that the central bank does not need to keep

rates that high. At the same time, some

Fed policymakers who worry that in-

flation could remain stuck at its current

level of 2.5% may not want to cut rates

that fast. They could point to solid re-

tail sales as evidence that there is no

need to rush rate cuts.

ASEAN discusses strategies to boost supply chain connectivity

VIENTIANE, Sept 18, (Xinhua): A high-level forum on ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Supply Chain Connectivity: "Key Issues and Challenges" was held in Lao capital Vientiane, with participants discussing the critical need to enhance integration amid evolving global challenges. The forum, held on Monday and co-hosted by Laos' Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), brought together government officials, experts, and business leaders from across the region, Lao National Radio reported on Tuesday.

The discussions centered on strategies to bolster regional cooperation in supply chain management, aligning with Laos' ASEAN chairmanship

in 2024 under the theme of "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resil-

Speaking at the event, Lao Minister of Industry and Commerce Malaythong Kommasith addressed the key factors impacting ASEAN's supply chains, including geopolitical changes, digital advancements, and the growing emphasis on sustainability.

He emphasized the need for stronger digital infrastructure and policy coordination to boost competitiveness in emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, semiconductors, and digital services. Enhancing the free flow of data and supporting the mobility of digital talent within ASEAN were also identified as priority areas for regional collaboration.

In addition, Malaythong called for the development of institutional mechanisms to safeguard supply chains from potential disruptions, including global health risks.

The event concluded with insights from a distinguished panel of experts, who stressed the importance of supply chain connectivity in driving ASE-AN's long-term growth.



Early bird discounts from Sept 18th to Oct 5th, with standard pricing following until all slots are filled

National Bank of Kuwait opens early registration for 'NBK Run'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is set to open registration for the 2024 NBK Run, scheduled for December 14th. Early registration is available from September 18th to October 5th through the "Suffix" website, offering special discounts on race fees. Following this period, registration will continue at regular prices until all slots are

The NBK Run is the largest sporting event in Kuwait, renowned for its massive public participation and extensive media coverage. It stands out as the biggest family entertainment gathering, welcoming participants from all segments of the community, regardless of gender. The event aligns with the national goals for sustainable development in health and sports, supporting Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait". This year, NBK proudly celebrates

three decades of the NBK Run, commemorating its ongoing dedication to social responsibility and its role in promoting a healthy, active lifestyle as a cornerstone for building a vibrant

There will be enhanced collaboration with strategic partners, who will provide valuable prizes for winners and participants, as well as the audience. The Bank will also offer significant prizes to the top three contestants in each category.

The race will honor the top three winners in both the men's and women's 10 km categories with cash prizes of KWD 1,000, KWD 700, and KWD 500, re-



Manal Al-Mattar

spectively. The top three winners in the men's and women's 5 km categories will receive KWD 500, KWD 400, and KWD 300, respectively.

The race will start at 8:30a.m. on December 14th, featuring two distances, both beginning and ending at Kuwait Towers. The 10 km route will proceed towards Souq Sharq, then turn and follow the Gulf Road, reaching 200 meters before the intersection with Green Island, before returning to Kuwait Towers.

The second distance of the race is 5 km, starting from Kuwait Towers and heading towards Souq Sharq. Compet-

Al-Mattar:

- NBK Run is a key element of our expanding efforts to promote sustainability and support sports.
- The bank proudly celebrates 30 years of hosting Kuwait's premier sporting event.
- The event is scheduled for December 14th, with online registration open until October 5th.
- Our strategic partners will provide valuable prizes for winners and attendees.
- The race's 30-year legacy underscores the deeprooted connection between NBK and its community.
- Hosting the event every year highlights NBK's commitment to serving Kuwait and the bank's pride in its national identity.

itors will then turn and continue running until they reach the intersection at Kuwait Army Club.

Commenting on this significant event, Manal Al-Mattar, Head of Corporate Communications Group at NBK, said: "NBK takes immense pride in organizing this marathon for three decades, making it the largest



'NBK Run' poster

sporting event in Kuwait. Its significant popularity and media attention draw thousands of participants from all walks of life and age groups."

"We are committed to hosting this race annually as a key aspect of NBK's ongoing efforts to promote sustainability and support sports for a healthier and better life for our community. This event also reaffirms the bank's deeprooted connections with its community, demonstrating NBK's dedication to serving Kuwait and pride in its national

identity, affirming our role as the bank you know and trust." Al-Mattar added. She emphasized that the bank's tradition of hosting the NBK Run for three decades showcases its dedication to creating a lasting, positive impact on the communities it serves. She noted that this commitment extends to supporting diverse events that inspire the community to embrace healthy habits, enhancing the overall well-being and safety of its members.

Al-Mattar proudly highlighted the race as one of NBK's most significant and expansive community initiatives. She emphasized the bank's dedication to being a trailblazer in supporting sustainable development across all fields.

NBK hosts a variety of social events and initiatives each year, highlighting its significant role and steadfast dedication to community development. These efforts span a wide range of social, humanitarian, charitable, educational, sports, and environmental activities, all designed to support and

20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each

Five customers win 3,000 reward points in KIB's draw

KFH announces winners of AlRabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each for the 34th and 35th weeks of 2024, additionally, KFH announced Jassim Al-Janoubi as the monthly winner of 1 KG Gram of KFH Gold for the month of August 2024.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Hussain Al-Ajmi, Raja Al-Farhan, Bader Al-Sehali, Zainab Marafi, Asia Tartor, Fawaz Al-Sulaili, Muneerah Al-Subaiei, Muneerah Al-Otaibi, Ahmad Al-Marzouq, Khaled Al-Azmi, Amani Abu Qammaz, Abdullah Al-Rabaia, Saad Al-Ajmi, Najat Al-Kandari, Hadeyah Al-Rasheedi, Meshari Al-Damkhi, Amaal Al-Sahhaf, Hamad Al-Naser, Naser Al-Sanousi, Saad Al-Ajmi.

The AlRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

IMA



The campaign visual

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's lead-

تحد رعاية مراقبة الجاليات والتعريف بالإسلام بإدارة العادقات الخارجية وزارة الأوقاف والشؤون الاسلامية

لقد كان لكم في رسول الله أسوة حسنة

JANAB NISAR AHMED SB.

RENOWNED SPEAKER

إنما بعثت لأتمم مكارم الأخلاق

MOULANA UMAR FALAHI QASMI PRESIDENT - IHA KUWAIT

Masjid Yousuf Al-Adsani

Adjacent to Maliya Bus Stop

6000 1424

THURSDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

Immediately after Isha Salah

Event flyer.

indian muslim association

Invites you with family and friends to attend

Concluding program of

ership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The AlRabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts.

KIB discloses monthly draw winners of 'Win with KIB Rewards' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced the draw winners of its 'Win with KIB Rewards' campaign for the month of August. Running monthly until the end of the year, the campaign aims to reward customers who use KIB's Banking App to open an Al Dirwaza account, issue a Multicurrency prepaid card, or open a deposit investment of any kind. The fourth batch of winners who won 3,000 reward points each are Abdullah Fawzi AlHebail, Mohammad Nader AlKhader, Rabab Eissa AlMukhtar, Zainab Shater Taher and Hajar Mohamed Ahmed.

Commenting on the occasion, Nawaf Al-Khrayef, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "We are delighted to congratulate the fourth group of winners in this exceptional campaign, which is a great opportunity to reward our customers for their loyalty. We will continue our efforts to provide innovative banking solutions that meet their aspirations and fulfill all their needs, enhancing their overall banking experience and lifestyle, in line with our 'Bank for Life' slogan." He added: "At KIB, we remain committed to adopting a comprehensive strategy aimed at providing the best banking benefits, particularly with regard to the KIB Rewards Program, in addition to encouraging all



KIB's Nawaf Al-Khrayef

customer segments to use our digital platforms to complete their financial transactions with utmost convenience and ease.

Customers can qualify for and participate in the draws by using the KIB Banking App to open an AlDirwaza account, issue a Multicurrency prepaid card, or open a deposit investment of any kind. Winners can redeem their reward points on KIB's rewards online market platform, which features an extensive list of participating outlets. including electronics services, retail products, and e-vouchers, and much

In addition to this and numerous other campaigns, KIB offers a wide variety of products with unparalleled benefits. Those who open an Al Dirwaza account can enjoy weekly and monthly draws, with one chance to enter the draw for every KD 1 deposited, culminating in a Mega Draw. The Multicurrency prepaid card offers a great deal of flexibility, allowing customers to use six currencies simultaneously and choose from a total of 12 currencies. Additionally, deposits starting from KD 1,000 are given competitive profit rates.

The Bank encourages its customers to stay informed about the campaign's latest developments and news, as well as to learn more about the KIB Rewards Program, by following its social media accounts and visiting its website.

It is worth mentioning that KIB spares no effort in launching initiatives and campaigns that reward its customers, while continuously striving to enhance the quality of its banking products and services. The Bank aims to elevate its banking experience by complementing digital financial solutions with attractive rewards, maintaining its leading position as a reliable partner in

AMUOBA Kuwait hosts successful sports meet 2024 at SIMS

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: With this motivation AMU Old Boys' Association Kuwait organized sports meet 2024 in SIMS on 12th & 13th September 2024. Sports serve as a reflection of a community's culture and values.

The sports event showcased not only the astounding skill and talent, but enthusiasm of men, women and children led to the grand success of the various tournaments held on these two days.

Sports play a significant role in promoting solidarity, health, and education, it creates a positive ripple effect that enhances the quality of life in communities.

Engaging youth and children in sports provides them with valuable skills like teamwork, leadership, and discipline. Such events bring people together, encouraging interactions, social cohesion, enhances relationships, reduce tensions, and promote inclusivity. The tournament also emphasized the importance of sports in life.

Many organizations like Al-Bandoukia International Gen. Trad. & Cont. Co., Al Mulla Exchange, KDD and KITCO, they supported AMUO-BA to organize the event in a flawless manner. Letter of appreciation was given by the President, Mr. Aslam Parvez as a token of thanks to their representatives Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khan (Managing Director, Al-Bandoukia), Mr. PareshPatidar (CR Manager, Al Mulla Exchange) & Mr. Abdul Malik



Photo during the event.

(TF analyst, KDD)

There were many alumni of the association who volunteered in all the sports played. AMUOBA is grateful to all of them. The record attendance of participants as well as the viewers marked the day.

For the community to enjoy the event, it was conducted on two days. On 1st day- Race, Football and Table Tennis were played and on 2nd day-Badminton, Carrom and Chess were played.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement as everyone enthusiastically participated in a variety of engaging games, showcasing their talents and competitive spirit. It was open to all from LKG student to the seniors and super senior members of the association.

The day culminated with the presentation of medals to the victorious participants, acknowledging their outstanding achievements. Furthermore, medals of participation were distributed to all participants by the President, Vice President, General Secretary & the Advisory Committee members along with other senior members present there on the same day.

President Mr. Aslam Parvez appreciatively expressed his gratitude towards the alumni and the team members in his

short address to the gathering. The members of the AMUOBA Executive committee team under the leadership of the President Mr. Aslam Parvez worked tirelessly for the success of the event. Refreshments were distributed on the both the days and dinner was also organized on the closing ceremony.

Mr. AdilSareer coordinated the sports meet, supported by other respective group coordinators from Executive Council- Ms. Shazia Mansoor (GS), Mr. Yousuf Abdullah (OSD), Mr. Shahid Ali, Mr. Tauqir Ahmad, Mr. Shahnawaz Siddiqui, Ms. Talat-Fatma (Dy.OSD), Mr. M. Khurshid Anwar (JS), Mr. Masood Alam, Mr. Magsood Habib Khan & Dr. Ali Adnan. AMUOBA is grateful to the VP-Mr. Tariq Waseem and all the team members for their valuable contribu-

Voluntary support from Advisory Committee members Mr. Nisar Khan, Mr. Ilyas Ahmad Khan & Mr. Mohammad Salman Siddiqui needs special thanks & appreciation as they participated and graced the occasion. AMUOBA express its gratitude to all members of the association for their active participations to make the event

IDAK to host 21st IDAK Scientific Study Club in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Indian Dentists Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), in association with the Kuwait Dental Association (KDA), will be hosting the 21st IDAK Scientific Study Club on Friday, September 20th, 2024. The event will take place at Dasman Hall, Hotel Radisson Blu, beginning at 3:00

This significant scientific event has been accredited by the Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization (KIMS) with 5 CME points, drawing the attention of dental professionals across the

The IDAK Scientific Committee, headed by Dr. Jagan Baskaradoss, has curated a robust line-up of speakers who will present on a variety of critical topics in modern dentistry. The keynote address, titled 'Dental Trauma in the Growing Child', will be delivered by Dr. Hessa Albadar. Other prominent speakers and their topics include:

Dr. Kawther Ali, speaking on Digital Workflow in Dentistry.

Dr. Inamdar Saquib Ahmed, presenting on Healing of Chronic Periapical Lesions with Endodontic Laser: Fundamentals and Case Reports.

Dr. Jacob AmbookenLonappan, discussing Facemask or Reverse Pull Headgear Therapy Ex-Dr. Ranjitha RS, with a presentation on BOTOX

ALCHEMY - From Science to Beauty. The President of IDAK, Dr. George P. Alex, expressed optimism for the event, highlighting the immense interest shown by the dental community. "We are expecting around 225 dentists from across Kuwait to participate in this event," Dr. Alex noted,



emphasizing the importance of such scientific forums for continuous learning and professional development.

grant Combs bail and ordered him to be jailed pending trial. Combs was arrested late Monday in Manhattan, roughly six months

after federal authorities conducting a sex trafficking investigation raided his luxurious homes in Los Angeles and Miami.

Over the past year, Combs has been sued by people who say he subjected them to physical or sexual abuse. He has denied many of those allegations. Here is the Latest: The defense attorney for Sean "Diddy" Combs

says he will appeal the decision to deny his client bail. Combs has been indicted on sex trafficking and racketeering charges. A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the music mogul to be held

without bail pending his trial. As he left the courtroom, Combs' lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, said he is not surprised by the outcome and that he is looking forward to a bail

hearing soon, saying: "Tomorrow we fight again." A judge has refused to grant bail to Sean "Diddy" Combs and has ordered him to be sent to jail while awaiting trial on sex trafficking and racketeering charges.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Robyn Tarnofsky announced the decision Tuesday after hearing lengthy arguments from prosecutors and Combs'

Combs pleads not guilty to sex trafficking charges

Prosecutors asked that the music mogul be held without bail. Combs' attorneys proposed that he be released on a \$50 million bond to home detention with electronic monitoring.

Combs' defense attorney, who is asking that he be released on bail, has said in court that by coming to New York in anticipation of the charges, the music producer "did the exact opposite of what we see defendants do when they're presented with problems in the court."

Treatment

Marc Agnifilo said Tuesday that Combs came to New York to "wait

Agnifilo also says Combs is receiving "treatment and therapy for things that he needs treatment and therapy for." He says his client is "not a perfect person," that he has used drugs and has been in toxic relationships. Prosecutors seeking to have Combs' jailed without bail have pointed

to a 2016 video of the music producer assaulting a woman as she attempted to leave a California hotel.

In court Tuesday afternoon, Assistant US Attorney Emily Johnson said the assault happened after one of Combs' "Freak Offs," which is defined in the indictment as "elaborate and produced sex performances.

Johnson did not identify the woman who was attacked, but a video from that time first published by CNN this year shows Combs attacking R&B singer Cassie.

Johnson says Combs tried to bribe a hotel security officer "with a handful of cash in exchange for his silence," but was unsuccessful.

She says the video showing the attack disappeared from the hotel's servers within days and that this was no coincidence. Johnson says Combs only acknowledged this attack relatively re-

cently, after being confronted with the video, and that this proves he can't be taken at his word. Federal prosecutors have asked that Combs be jailed without bail,

while his attorneys have proposed he be released on a \$50 million bond. In court Tuesday afternoon, Assistant US Attorney Emily Johnson said the government is seeking Combs' detention on "multiple bases," including the severity of the charges against him and the potential punishment of life in prison. She argued that he is a flight risk and there is a risk of witness intimidation.

"Mr. Combs physically and sexually abused victims for decades," Johnson said. "He used the vast resources of his company to facilitate his abuse and cover up his crimes. Simply put, he is a serial abuser and a serial obstructor.'

Continued on Page 12

Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows character Orion Pax/Optimus Prime, voiced by Chris Hemsworth, in a scene from 'Transformers One.' (AP)

Film brings new depth to classic heroes and villains

Epic origin story in 'Transformers One'

He is apparently the last of the Primes and lives in

a marble palace, giving the people below spectacles

as a diversion, like an epic road race. It gives off an-

Orion Pax (voiced with puppy-dog sweetness

by Chris Hemsworth) is not satisfied by this life.

"There's got to be something more I can do," he

says. "Aren't you tired of being treated like you're

nothing?" Brian Tyree Henry voices D-16 with

The two friends join with mining manager Elita-1

(Scarlett Johansson, bland) and Keegan-Michael

Key's B-127 (who will later become fan favorite

Bumblebee) to journey to the surface of the planet,

find the Matrix of Leadership (a sort of necklace that

might have been sold in the Sharper Image catalog)

and get a hero's welcome. But they learn some un-

savory things about the ruler from the Transformer

elder statesman Alpha Trion (the instantly recogniz-

Compliment

play for "Inside Out" and helmed "Toy Story 4,"

never lets the action stop — and that's not a compli-

ment. The camera is constantly swiveling and the vi-

olence — assault-weapon lasers, booming cannons,

light torture, martial arts crunching moves, beating

a rival with their own amputated limb and ceaseless

pounding — is nauseating. ("Please stop punching

me in the face" is a joke line here.) If Transformers

The hyper-violence papers over some pretty ro-

botic — sorry! — dialogue. Why do all these movies

show the Transformers with cool upgrades like laser

knives but they remain speaking in stilted, operatic

prose? "I want him to suffer and die in darkness,"

'They are to be your undoing" and "Cybertron's fu-

There are some good moments, of course. When

our band of misfit bots get an upgrade to Transformer

ever bled, this would be an R-rated movie.

Director Josh Cooley, who co-wrote the screen-

cient Roman Coliseum vibes.

skepticism and resignation.

able Laurence Fishburne).

Film

By Mark Kennedy

Movie origin stories finally reach their nadir this week with "Transformers One," the super-vi-

olent, toy-selling vehicle that tells the tale of how

Optimus Prime and Megatron went from besties to

foes. Did anyone ask for this? Did Wile E. Coyote

The computer-animated "Transformers One" is

out of time, a throwback to a few years ago when

Hollywood mined popular IP for forgotten heroes,

built overly complex worlds and then ramped up

the action so that the audience just got numbed to a

blur of battles. But "Transformers One" isn't good

enough to watch on a plane, even a trans-Pacific

A map isn't a bad idea, actually: You may need

some sort of guide for this one — those uninitiated

to the folklore of Cybertron are flung helplessly into

references to Energon, Alpha Trion, Quintessons

and something called the Matrix of Leadership. You

The story by Andrew Barrer and Gabriel Ferrari

is basically the Bible's Cain and Abel with a detour

into the Roman Empire and the Hasbro figurines'

accumulated mythology, which seems to be a series

of never-ending epic battles between good and evil.

Some stuff just seems downright weird, like why

these robots need a gym or why after running they

D-16 — who will become mortal enemies Optimus

Prime and Megatron by the end — and we meet them

when they are lowly miners, basically non-trans-

forming bots digging for reserves of the energy clev-

erly called Energon. This is a society in which the

upper class is made up of Transformers who stomp

around preening while the lower classes do dirty jobs

They all serve Sentinel Prime, the leader of the

subterranean Iacon City, who is not what he seems.

The main heroes here are buddies Orion Pax and

flight. The inflight map is better.

come in halfway into a conversation.

become breathless.

like comb through garbage.

and the Road Runner ask for too much money?

its 2016 song with Nicky Jam after the Puerto Rican reggaeton singer expressed his support for Donald Trump.

"Maná does not work with racists," the group said in an Instagram post explaining the decision to remove "De pies a cabeza" from online platforms. The song is a remix of the 1992 original included on Maná's classic album "¿Dónde

supported and defended the rights of Latinos in the world. There is no business or promotion that is worth more than the dignity of our people," the band wrote on

Jam, known for songs such as "Travesuras," "Voy a Beber" and the J Balvin collaboration "X" expressed his support for Trump last Friday at a rally in Las Vegas When introducing the singer, Trump seemed to mistake him for a woman: "Latin Music superstar Nicky Jam! Do you know Nicky, she's hot. Where's Nicky?" he

expressed pleasure at meeting Trump, who since his first presidential campaign has promised to close the border and espoused harsh anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Maná has supported the cause of migrants in the **United States** for more than two decades. In 2018, upon receiving the Latin Recording Academy's Person of the Year award, their vocalist **Fher Olvera** promised: "We will continue to fight for the rights of migrants who have made this country great; in the last century, they were the difference for this country to be as great

LONDON: News publisher Guardian Media Group said Tuesday it is in talks to sell The Observer newspaper to Tortoise Media, a "slow news" outlet founded by a former BBC executive and a US

Founded in 1791, the Observer is the world's oldest Sunday newspaper. It was bought by Guardian Media Group, which also publishes the Guardian, in 1993.

Tortoise was co-founded in 2019 by James Harding, a former

MEXICO CITY: The Mexican pop-rock band Maná has removed Republican presidential candidate

"For the last 30 years Maná has

Despite the confusion, Jam

as it is." (AP)

BBC news executive and editor of The Times newspaper, and Matthew Barzun, who was a US ambassador to Britain between 2013 and 2017.

Tortoise has produced multimedia investigations including the popular podcast "Sweet Bobby," which is set to be made into a Netflix documentary.



The companies did not disclose the price or terms of the potential deal Guardian editor-in-chief Katharine Viner said a deal with Tortoise "has the potential to be a

ture is in your hands.'

very positive thing. "My number one priority is a future in which both titles continue to thrive and deliver high quality

journalism to our readers," she

said. (AP)

well worth a watch. (AP)

BEIJING: China's box office revenue for the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, which lasted three days until Tuesday, reached 389 million yuan (54.89 million U.S. dollars), according to data released

by the China Film Administration on Wednesday.

status, they cutely don't know how to do it seamlessly

at first, with limbs awkwardly getting mixed with

vehicle parts. Anyone who has played with the toys

knows the feeling. And Key never fails to generate

a chuckle, proving a masterful comedic voice actor.

included — hardly register and the movie's main song

ler's Are We Dreaming — feels like AI wrote both the uninteresting rap-rock beat and soupy lyrics ("I'm

the alpha, omega, got lights on me, Vegas." Vegas?)
The saddest thing about "Transformers One"

is the wastefulness of another dull outing in a uni-

verse geared toward kids just learning to transform

themselves. The lessons here, unfortunately, are that

friends can become enemies overnight and you only

win if you beat someone hard enough. "We're better

than this," Orion Pax screams at his sudden rival at

lands in theaters Friday, is rated PG for "sci-fi

violence and animated action throughout, and lan-

guage." Running time: 103 minutes. Half a star out

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Alex Garland's "Civil War" is fi-

nally making its debut on MAX on Friday. The film

stars Kirsten Dunst as a veteran photojournalist covering a violent war that's divided America; She

reluctantly allows an aspiring photographer, played

by Cailee Spaeny, to tag along as she, an editor

(Stephen McKinley Henderson) and a reporter

(Wagner Moura) make the dangerous journey to

Washington, D.C., to interview the president (Nick

Offerman), a blustery, rising despot who has given

himself a third term, taken to attacking his citizens

and shut himself off from the press. In my review, I

called it a bellowing and haunting experience; Smart

and thought-provoking with great performances. It's

"Transformers One," a Paramount release that

one point. No, they're not.

The other actors — Jon Hamm and Steve Buscemi,

"If I Fall" by Quavo, Ty Dolla \$ign and Brian Ty-

The figure marks a slight increase from the 367 million yuan recorded in 2023 and the 371 million yuan in 2022, according to box office tracker Maoyan.

In comparison, the Mid-Autumn box office hit a record high of over 800 million yuan in 2019. (Xinhua)



People & Places

People

'Bail denied'

Prosecutors highlight flight risk, tampering

Continued from Page 11

Sean "Diddy" Combs has pleaded not guilty to federal sex trafficking and racketeering charges. Combs stood up to enter his plea in a New York courtroom Tuesday.

An indictment unsealed Tuesday alleges Combs presided over a sordid empire of sexual crimes, coercing and abusing women for years while using blackmail and shocking acts of violence to keep his victims

A motion for bail from Combs' attorneys proposes he be released on a \$50 million bond secured by his

home in Miami. The motion filed Tuesday also proposes his deten-



tion at home with GPS monitoring, with his travel restricted to federal districts in south Florida and southern New York. The motion says Combs

will turn over his passport and that he is attempting to sell his private jet. It says he has remained in the country even though there were no restrictions on his travel, and that his attorneys have kept authorities updated on his location.

It adds that "conditions at Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn are not fit for pre-trial detention.' Prosecutors say Combs repeatedly engaged in violence towards his employees and others.

Witnesses

In a court filing Tuesday, prosecutors say Combs and an unidentified co-conspirator kidnapped someone at gunpoint a few days before Christmas in 2011 in order to facilitate a break-in at another person's home. They say multiple witnesses, police reports and other records corroborate the incident.

The detention memo also says that two weeks later, Combs' allies set fire to a vehicle by slicing open its convertible top and dropping a Molotov cocktail in-

Prosecutors say police and fire department reports document the arson and that multiple witnesses heard Combs brag about his involvement.

Prosecutors say Combs should be denied bail because he is a serious flight risk.

In a detention memo filed in court, prosecutors say Combs has "seemingly limitless resources" to flee, pointing out that his net worth is close to \$1 billion, including over \$1 million in personal cash on hand as of last December.

They said he has had a personal plane for international travel since 2019, along with multiple vehicles in multiple locations.

The letter says Combs "has the money, manpower, and tools" to flee without detection.

Prosecutors say the violence Combs exacted on his victims was so extreme that he should be denied bail. In a detention letter written for the federal judge overseeing the music mogul's case, prosecutors described how Combs would assault women, employees and others "by throwing objects at them, choking them, pushing them, kicking them, and slamming

them against walls and on to the ground." The letter says the violence was sometimes spontaneous and sometimes premeditated, including "resorting to kidnapping and arson when the defendant's power and control were threatened."

Prosecutors say Combs' "disposition to violence cannot be reasonably prevented through bail conditions.'

The letter also says Combs should be denied bail because he has already reached out to potential witnesses in the case and that further attempts at witness tampering are likely.

US Attorney Damian Williams says Combs did not act alone.

During a news conference Tuesday, Williams said Combs' security and household staff, as well as operators high up in the music industry were complicit. Williams says they cleaned up damaged hotel rooms and "delivered large quantities of cash to Combs to pay for the commercial sex workers.'

Williams says the investigation is ongoing, and is urging "anyone with information about this case to come forward and to do it quickly.'

US Attorney Damian Williams, whose office is bringing the case against Sean "Diddy" Combs, says the music mogul led a criminal organization that carried out kidnapping, forced labor and sex trafficking, among other crimes

Ammunition

Speaking at a news conference Tuesday, Williams said authorities will seek to have Combs detained while he awaits trial.

He spoke before a display board showing images of some of the items recovered in searches of Combs' homes in Los Angeles and Miami in March, including AR-15s and a drum magazine containing dozens of rounds of ammunition. He says agents also seized electronic devices that contain images and videos of sexual encounters.

Williams says: "Combs led and participated in a racketeering conspiracy that used the business empire he controlled to carry out criminal activity, including sex trafficking, forced labor, kidnapping, arson, bribery, and the obstruction of justice.'

Combs' lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, has said he will fight to keep his client free. He says Combs is innocent and will plead not guilty.

Comb's former longtime girlfriend, whom he was seen attacking in a March 2016 security video, has declined to comment on the federal case against

Douglas Wigdor, an attorney for the singer Cassie Ventura, said in a statement released before Combs was due to appear in court Tuesday that neither he nor his client have anything to say on the matter.

Wigdor says: "We appreciate your understanding and if that changes, we will certainly let you know.' Ventura reached a settlement with Combs last No-

vember, one day after filing a lawsuit containing allegations of beatings and abuse by the music producer. Outside the Manhattan courthouse early Tuesday, Combs' lawyer, noted that his client came to New

York City voluntarily because they knew the charges were coming. Marc Agnifilo said: "Not a lot of defendants do that.

He came to New York to, to basically engage the court system and start the case.'

Though the indictment was not unsealed at the time of his comments, Agnifilo said they know what the charges will be and that Combs is "innocent of these charges." He vowed to "fight like hell" to get Combs released from federal custody.



Models wear creations as part of the Alberta Ferretti Spring Summer 2025 collection, that was presented in Milan, Italy, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024. (AP)



Actor Chris Hemsworth attends the premiere of 'Transformers One' at AMC Lincoln Square on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024, in New York. (AP) - Details Page 11

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Convicted con artist Anna Sorokin has hit the dancefloor on "Dancing With the Stars" with a featherweight - and very sparkly - ankle monitor.

The so-called 'fake heiress,' who was convicted of swindling banks, hotels and friends in 2019 after falsely building a reputation as a wealthy German heiress named Anna Delvey, debuted the ballroom-worthy ankle monitor dur-ing the premiere of "Dancing With the Stars" new season Tuesday night.

"It's actually not a big issue at all. It's pretty light and I asked them to make it tight so it doesn't dangle. So it's not so bad," she told The Associated Press after the premiere. She and dance pro **Ezra** Sosa performed a routine set to Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso.'

"It's the real star of the show, let's be honest here," Sosa said of Sorokin's bedazzled ankle monitor. (AP)

NEW YORK: Harvey Weinstein is expected to be arraigned Wednesday in Manhattan on a new indictment charging him with up to three additional sex offenses, his lawyer said.

Weinstein's lawyer Arthur Aidala said the jailed ex-movie mogul will appear in court in person to face his latest legal hurdle after he was excused from a hearing last week while recovering from emergency heart surgery.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office disclosed at the Sept. 12 hearing last week that a grand jury had returned a new indictment charging Weinstein with previously uncharged

The indictment will remain under seal

Fashion

Dreamy summery dresses

Ethereal yet grounded looks rule Milan Week

MILAN, Sept 18, (Agencies): Just as the northern hemisphere starts the wardrobe transition from summer to fall, runway shows in the world's fashion capitals seek to stir the imagination, and desire, for the next warm weather season.

Milan designers have been ambiguous about seasons in recent fashion weeks, with summer collections not corresponding to the soaring temperatures. That was not the case during the first day of Milan Fashion Week previews on Tuesday, featuring diaphanous, dreamy summery dresses, alongside crisp cotton.

Here are highlights from the first day of Milan Fashion Week of runway previews of mostly womenswear for Spring-Summer 2025:

Fendi honored its upcoming centenary with a Spring-Summer 2025 collection that paid elegant homage to the founding era, from art deco detailing to a flapper silhouette, light on

In snippets of conversation that punctuated the show's soundtrack, Silvia Venturini Fendi emphasized the matriarchal lineage that has made her the third generation to play a key Fendi role. "My mother was the energy of the house," Venturini Fendi recalled.

The collection by Fendi womenswear artistic director Kim Jones sought to spotlight "100 years of very chic Roman women," combining ready-to-wear with artisanal detailing

of couture. Diaphanous dresses with art-deco embroidery were grounded with boots. Slip dresses were turned upside down as skirts, worn with a sheer top embellished with crystals. Knitwear defined the silhouette, under sheers or hugging the body over diaphanous trousers.

Bags by Venturini Fendi, artistic director of accessories, were soft and huggable, often carried in triplicate.

Alberta Ferretti showed her summery creations in the courtyard of a former cloister, now a science museum, with an elegant dome rising in the background, the juxtaposition emphasizing the artisanal heritage in her collection.

Instead of embellishments, Ferretti focused on technique. Laser cut cotton created an almost lace effect. Individual cotton leaves were stitched together as dresses or accents on bodices. Pleating elevated dresses, while boxer shorts gave a casual flair.

The day looks were in earthy tones of sand, ecru and black. For evening, chiffon dresses flowed in bright

"They are real summer clothes, because the world in the summer is very warm. I know a show is supposed to be a show but reality is important,' Ferretti said backstage.

Marni maintained its zany heritage under creative director Francesco Risso, with a wardrobe of whimsically tailored everyday looks for him and for her.

until Weinstein is arraigned. Prosecutors have said that the grand jury heard evidence of up to three alleged assaults: in the mid-2000s at the Tribeca Grand Hotel, now known as the Roxy Hotel, and a Lower Manhattan residential building, and, in



May 2016, at a Tribeca hotel.(AP)

NEW YORK: A New York woman is challenging the longstanding rules of Miss America and Miss World that disqualify mothers from their beauty

Danielle Hazel said Monday that she's always dreamed of entering the competitions but was devastated to learn that she's no longer eligible because she had a son when she was just 19 years old.

"When I told Zion, who is now 6 years old, about these rules he had an immediate gut reaction: he said that these rules are stupid," she said, speaking at the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument in New York's Central Park. "His sense of fairness at only 6 years old tells him that this is unjust and makes no sense." (AP)

Music

Latin Grammys

Epic concert film of Houston soon

LOS ANGELES, Sept 18, (AP): Whitney Houston's epic concert in South Africa staged after President Nelson Mandela's landmark election will be hitting theater screens this fall.

Houston's performance in 1994 has been turned into a fully-remastered theatrical release called "The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)," according to a statement Tuesday from several collaborators, including Houston's estate, Sony Music Entertainment and Trafalgar Releasing.

The ited theatrical screening debut Oct. 23 and feature the singer's never-beforereleased show from Durban, South Africa The project will come ahead of a new live album,



'The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)," which will be released

"She loved South Africa; she loved the people, and she loved Nelson Mandela," said Pat Houston, the singer's sister-in-law and Houston estate executor who is an executive producer on the concert film. "This concert is one of the most consequential concerts of her career. On this momentous 30th anniversary, we are thrilled that we can release this film not only to her fans, but to the people of South Africa and its new generation."

In 1994, Houston took the stage for three concerts in South Africa including in Durban at Kings Park Stadium, Johannesburg and Cape Town. Her performances came in a newly unified post-apartheid nation following Mandela's historic election victory

Charities

The concerts drew more than 200,000 attendees in a show filled with celebration of freedom, hope and unity. The proceeds from her concerts benefited numerous local South African children's charities through her foundation.

For the film, Houston's performance was remastered into 4K video along with enhanced audio. The concert film will be shown in nearly 900 cinemas in more than 25 countries.

"It was my first time in South Africa, and I don't think that I was truly prepared for how this trip would change me forever," said Rickey Minor, a three-time Emmy winner who was Houston's musical director for 25 years. "The energy was electric, and the audience was incredible, as we celebrated the end of apartheid. Whitney shared her love and shined her light.'

Earlier that year, Houston won three Grammys, including album of the year for "The Bodyguard" soundtrack. She won record of the year and best female pop vocal performance for massive hit " I Will Always Love You."

Houston was one of the world's bestselling artists with her effortless, powerful vocals rooted in the Black church but made palatable to the masses with her pop persona. She sold over 200 million records worldwide during her 25-year career and won six Grammys, 16 Billboard Music Awards and two Emmys before her death in 2012.

Houston's live album will include some of her greatest hits from " I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)," " How Will I Know," "I Have Nothing " and " Greatest Love of All " It will also included the unreleased track "Love

"The message of hope and unity from the Durban, South Africa performance is still as relevant today as it was 30 years ago," said Marc Allenby, the CEO of Trafalgar Releasing. "Fans are going to be blown away by how powerful this is on the

Also:

NEW YORK: Édgar Barrera - the producer and songwriter known for his work with such artists as Madonna, Karol G, Peso Pluma, Shakira, Grupo Frontera and beyond - leads the Latin Grammy nominations for a second year in a row. This year, he's up for nine awards; last year he received 13 nominations and won three.

The Latin Recording Academy announced this year's nominees in a livestream Tuesday.

Barrera is nominated for producer, songwriter, record and album of the year. He's also nominated twice in the best Regional Mexican song category, and three times in the song of the year category, for his work on Shakira and Grupo Frontera's "Entre Paréntesis", Karol G's "Mi Ex Tenía Razón," and **Maluma** and **Carin León**'s "Según Quién."

Just behind Barrera are some of his collaborators, like Karol G and

Pressure mounts on the app to protect children

Instagram makes teen accounts private in safety push

Mental health risks rise

How parents can keep their kids 'safe' on social media

NEW YORK, Sept 18, (AP): At what age should kids be on social media? Should they be on it at all? If they aren't, will they be social pariahs? Should parents monitor their conversations? Do parental controls work?

Navigating social media as a parent not to mention a child - is not easy. Using social media platforms is still the default for most American teenagers, with the Pew Research Center reporting that 58% of teens are daily users of TikTok, including 17% who describe their Tik-Tok use as almost constant. About half of teens use Snapchat and Instagram daily, with near-constant use at 14% and 8% for each, respectively.

But parents - and even some teens themselves - are growing increasingly concerned about the effects of social media use on young people. Lawmakers have taken notice and have held multiple congressional hearings on child online safety. But even with apparent bipartisan unity, making laws and regulating companies takes time. So far, no regulation has passed.

What are parents - and teens - supposed to do in the meantime? Here are some tips on staying safe, communicating and setting limits on social media for kids as well as their parents.

There's already, technically, a rule that prohibits kids under 13 from using platforms that advertise to them without parental consent: The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act that went into effect in 2000, before today's teenagers were even born.

The goal was to protect kids' online privacy by requiring websites and online services to disclose clear privacy policies and get parents' consent before gathering personal information on their kids, among other things. To comply, social media companies have generally banned kids under 13 from signing up for their services.

Disorders

But times have changed, and online privacy is no longer the only concern when it comes to kids being online. There's bullying, harassment, the risk of developing eating disorders, suicidal thoughts or worse.

For years, there has been a push among parents, educators and tech experts to wait to give children phones and access to social media - until they are older, such as the "Wait Until 8th" pledge that has parents sign a pledge not to give their kids a smartphone until the 8th grade, or about age 13 or 14. Some wait even later, like 16 or 17.

But neither social media companies nor the government have done anything concrete to increase the age limit.

"There is not necessarily a magical age," said Christine Elgersma, a social dia expert at the nonprofit Common Sense Media. But, she added, "13 is probably not the best age for kids to get on social media.

The laws currently being proposed include blanket bans on the under-13 set when it comes to social media. The problem? There's no easy way to verify a person's age when they sign up for apps and online services. And the apps popular with teens today were created for adults first. Companies have added some safeguards over the years, Elgersma noted, but these are piecemeal changes, not fundamental rethinks of the services.

"Developers need to start building apps with kids in mind," she said.

Some tech executives, celebrities such as Jennifer Garner and parents from all walks of life have resorted to banning their kids from social media

altogether. While the decision is a personal one that depends on each child and parent, some experts say this could lead to isolating kids, who could be left out of activities and discussions with friends that take place on social media or chat

Another hurdle - kids who have never been on social media may find themselves ill-equipped to navigate the platforms when they are suddenly allowed free rein the day they turn 18.

A more realistic and effective approach to social media, experts say, is a slow, deliberate onboarding that gives children the tools and information they need to navigate a world in which places like TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat are almost impossible to

Instruction

"You cannot just expect that the kids will jump into the world of social media, learn how to swim on their own," said Natalie Bazarova, a professor of communications and director of the Cornell Social Media Lab. "They need to have instruction.

Start early, earlier than you think. Elgersma suggests that parents go through their own social media feeds with their children before they are old enough to be online and have open discussions on what they see. How would your child handle a situation where a friend of a friend asks them to send a photo? Or if they see an article that makes them so angry they just want to share it right

For older kids, Elgersma says to approach them with curiosity and interest, "asking about what their friends are doing or just not asking direct questions like, 'What are you doing on Instagram?' but rather, 'Hey, I heard this influencer is really popular." And even if your kid rolled their eyes it could be a window.'

Don't say things like "Turn that thing off!" when your kid has been scrolling for a long time, says Jean Rogers, the director of the nonprofit Fairplay's Screen Time Action Network.

'That's not respectful," Rogers said. "It doesn't respect that they have a whole life and a whole world in that

Instead, Rogers suggests asking them questions about what they do on their phone, and see what your child is willing to share.



Parents whose children died or were grievously harmed by social media prepare to deliver a 100,000-signature petition from parents to Congress demanding online safety legislation on Thursday, September 12. (AP)

NEW YORK, Sept 18, (AP): Instagram is making teen accounts private by default as it tries to make the platform safer for children amid a growing backlash against how social media affects young

Beginning Tuesday in the US, UK, Canada and Australia, anyone under under 18 who signs up for Instagram will be placed into restrictive teen accounts and those with existing accounts will be migrated over the next 60 days. Teens in the European Union will see their accounts adjusted later this year.

Parent company Meta acknowledges that teenagers may lie about their age and says it will require them to verify their ages in more instances, like if they try to create a new account with an adult birthday. The Menlo Park, California company also said it is building technology that proactively finds teen accounts that pretend to be grownups and automatically places them into the restricted teen accounts.

The teen accounts will be private by default. Private messages are restricted so teens can only receive them from people they follow or are already connected to. "Sensitive content," such as videos of people fighting or those promoting cosmetic procedures, will be limited, Meta said. Teens will also get notifications if they are on Instagram for more than 60 minutes and a "sleep mode" will be enabled that turns off notifications and sends auto-replies to direct messages from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m.

While these settings will be turned on



Students use their cellphones as they leave for the day the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts High School in downtown Los Angeles, Aug. 13, 2024. (AP)

for all teens, 16 and 17-year-olds will be able to turn them off. Kids under 16 will need their parents' permission to do so.

"The three concerns we're hearing from parents are that their teens are seeing content that they don't want to see or that they're getting contacted by people they don't want to be contacted by or that they're spending too much time on the app," said Naomi Gleit, head of product at Meta. "So teen accounts is really focused on addressing those three

The announcement comes as the company faces lawsuits from dozens of U.S. states that accuse it of harming young people and contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

While Meta didn't give specifics on how the changes might affect its business, the company said the changes may mean that teens will use Instagram less in the short term. Emarketer analyst Jasmine Enberg said the revenue impact of the changes "will likely be minimal.

"Even as Meta continues to priori-

tize teen safety, it's unlikely that it's going to make sweeping changes that would cause a major financial hit," she said, adding that the teen accounts are unlikely to significantly affect how engaged teens are with Instagram "not in the least because there are still plenty of ways to circumvent the rules, and could even make them more motivated to work around the age limits.

New York Attorney General Letitia James said Meta's announcement was "an important first step, but much more needs to be done to ensure our kids are protected from the harms of social media." James' office is working with other New York officials on how to implement a new state law intended to curb children's access to what critics call addictive social media feeds.

Others were more critical. Nicole Gil, the co-founder and executive director of the nonprofit Accountable Tech, called Instagram's announcement the "latest attempt to avoid actual independent oversight and regulation and instead continue to self-regulate, jeopardizing the health, safety, and privacy of young

people."
"Today's PR exercise falls short of the safety by design and accountability that young people and their parents deserve and only meaningful policy action can guarantee," she said. 'Meta's business model is built on addicting its users and mining their data for profit; no amount of parental and teen controls Meta is proposing will change that.'

3.4m kids in Sudan at risk

Doctors Without Borders closes Russia operations

GENEVA, Sept 18, (Agencies): Doctors Without Borders said Tuesday it has closed its operations in Russia after 32 years, citing a Justice Ministry letter that said the medical aid group had been removed from a register of foreign nongovernmental organizations.

The aid group, also known by its French name Médecins Sans Frontières and acronym MSF, said it will retain its branch office in Moscow. but operations - run by its Dutch affiliate - have stopped. It was MSF Netherlands whose registration was withdrawn, a group spokesperson said in an email.

MSF has been in Russia since 1992 and has operated programs that provided aid for homeless people and migrants, tuberculosis treatment, and general health care including for infectious diseases such as AIDS.

Russia has banned a wide array of international organizations, groups and movements on the grounds that they threaten the state.

Epidemic: An estimated 3.4 million children under five are at high risk of deadly epidemic diseases in Sudan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Tuesday in a state-

With heavy rains and flooding in the country, diseases such as cholera, malaria, dengue fever, measles and rubella "can spread more rapidly and severely worsen the outlook for the children in the affected states and beyond," UNICEF Representative to Sudan Sheldon Yett was quoted as saying in the statement.

The crises stem from significant declines in vaccination rates and the destruction of health, water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure due to the ongoing internal conflict, he said, adding that the deteriorating nutritional status of many children in Sudan puts them at even greater risk.

UNICEF delivered 404,000 doses of oral cholera vaccine to Sudan on Sept. 9, said the statement

According to UNICEF, the vaccination coverage in Sudan has plummeted to some 50 percent from 85 percent before the internal conflict.

More than 70 percent of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are nonoperational, and frontline healthcare workers have not been paid in months,

Food poisoning: Over 100 individuals in Chaungchar village in Tatkon township of Nay Pyi Taw, capital of Myanmar were hospitalized due to food poisoning, according to a release issued by the country's State Administration Council's Information Team on Wednesday.

The villagers in Chaungchar village a flood-affected region, experienced symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea after consuming biryani, chicken and potatoes, and tomato egg curry donated by the well-wishers on the morning of Sept. 17, the information team said.

As of Wednesday, all affected individuals are in stable condition, it added.

Dengue: Over 38,000 dengue cases have been reported in Sri Lanka from January to Sept. 17, the latest data from the National Dengue Control Unit shows

Seventeen deaths from dengue have occurred during the same period, the data shows. This is a case fatality rate of 0.04 percent.

The highest number of dengue cases have been reported in the Western Province, the most populous province in Sri Lanka. 16,021 cases have been reported in the province, accounting for 41.9 percent of the total cases.

The Northern Province reported

4,744 cases or 12.4 percent of total.



forms presenting dosage forms before and after expansion due to water absorption. (Business Wire)

Novel dosage form cuts side effects, enhances efficacy of cancer therapy

ZURICH & CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Sept 18, (AP): At present, the prevalent oral solid dosage forms, the capsules and tablets, are loose or lightly compacted mixtures of drug and excipient particles. Upon ingestion, they rapidly disintegrate into their constituents in the stomach. The small drug particles then are swept out of the stomach and pass through the intestine.

Many kinds of cancer drug, however, are absorbed only in the acidic upper part of the gastrointestinal tract. Because the gastric residence time of the drug particles (~2-3 hours) is much shorter than the convenient dosing interval (~12-24 hours), upon repeated dosing of such drugs the drug concentration in blood fluctuates greatly.

This is therapeutically not optimal: The maximum drug concentration is high, promoting such acute side effects as heart problems, high blood pressure, liver damage, headache, and so on, and the minimum is low, compromising

the efficacy of the therapy.

To mitigate these limitations, En-

zian Pharmaceutics has invented, and developed, a new dosage form comprising a cross-ply structure of cellulose fibers. Upon ingestion, the fibrous dosage form expands due to water absorption, and forms an expanded viscoelastic gel that resides in the stomach for prolonged time, thereby releasing drug at a constant rate.

It was shown that the Enzian dosage form resides in the stomach of dogs for about a day, and dissolves for safe excretion thereafter. In a follow-up fourpart study, also published by IJP, it was shown that the dosage form delivers cancer drugs into the blood of dogs at a constant rate, ensuring a steady drug concentration in blood over time.

Thus, the Enzian dosage forms enable maintaining the optimal drug concentration in blood, thereby enhancing efficacy and mitigating unacceptable side effects of cancer therapies. According to Dr. Aron Blaesi, Enzian's founder, CEO, and Lead Scientist, work is currently underway to validate the dosage forms in humans.



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Lynx edges Sun to earn No. 2 seed

Stewart has 15 points as Liberty beat Mystics to clinch WNBA's best record

Man United routs Barnsley 7-0 in English League Cup



Manchester United's Joshua Zirkzee, right, and Barnsley's Conor McCarthy battle for the ball during the English League Cup soccer match between Manchester United and Barnsley at Old Trafford, Manchester, England. (AP)

Stoke overcome Fleetwood on penalties

Corinthians top Fortaleza, eye Copa Sudamericana last four

English League Cup. It was United's biggest margin Igor Coronado and Yuri Alberto struck of victory under the Dutchman, either side of halftime as Corinthians who has been in charge for more eased to a 2-0 away victory over Forthan two years. taleza in their all-Brazilian Copa Su-

Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and Christian Eriksen all scored two goals each in the third round match at Old Trafford, with Antony also on target.

MANCHESTER, England,

Sept 18, (AP): Manchester

United manager Erik ten Hag savored the "perfect night" after routing third-

division Barnsley 7-0 in the

"Not for me, but for the team, this is the perfect night. I think we could do everything that we planned to do. We won, (we are in) next round, scored some great goals, entertained the fans and we worked on our game model, so

we are happy," Ten Hag said. The size of the victory surpassed United's previous best under Ten Hag: 4-1 wins against Real Betis and Chel-

SOCCER

sea in his first season at the club. It was the biggest since a 9-0 win over Southampton under former manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in 2021.

Encouragingly for Ten Hag, Rashford's scoring touch appears to have returned after a troubled season last year when he managed just nine goals.

Rashford's double came after he ended a 12-game barren run with a goal against Southampton over the

"Football is football. Sometimes you have ups and sometimes downs, but we have to use these games to get momentum and consistency," Rashford said.

Garnacho also scored in that 3-0 win in the Premier League and emulated Rashford by making it three goals in his last two games.

Eriksen struck twice late on. Rashford blasted United in front after cutting inside Marc Roberts in the 16th minute. Antony doubled the lead when winning and then converting a penalty in the 35th.

it was easier to turn things around. We attacked at every opportunity and created a lot of genuine scoring chances,'

the former Palermo player added. The return leg will be played at Are-

na Corinthians next Tuesday. Carlos Palacios scored a second-half

SOCCER

equalizer as Colo-Colo earned a 1-1 home draw with River Plate in the first leg of their Copa Libertadores quarterfinal on Tuesday.

German Pezzella gave the visitors the lead just before halftime by volleybefore turning and slotting a low finish into the far corner.

ing home after Marcos Acuna's deliv-

when he controlled Arturo Vidal's

through ball with a superb first touch

Palacios put his side on level terms

ery from a set piece.

"In the first half we were nervous and didn't execute the strategy that we had planned," Palacios said.

was one of the players at didn't find the spaces well or I received

the ball in bad positions. But we had a perfect second half and I feel like we midfielder added.

Garnacho poked home from close range in the second minute of first-half stoppage time.

damericana quarterfinal first leg clash.

39th minute when he received Talles

Magno's pass before curling a first-

time effort from 25 yards into the top-

Alberto doubled the advantage as

he smashed a volley beyond the reach

of goalkeeper Joao Ricardo after the

latter parried away Matheuzinho's at-

"This is a different competition and

tempt from an acute angle.

right corner.

Coronado opened the scoring in the

United overpowered Barnsley after the break with Garnacho scoring his second when racing through on goal in the 49th. Rashford scored again in the 58th. It was the first time Rashford has

scored more than one goal in a game since February 2023.

Eriksen's double came in the 81st

Bottom of the Premier League and without a point, Everton's troubled campaign went from bad to worse after it was eliminated by second-to-last



Everton's Michael Keane heads the ball during the English League Cup third round soccer match between Everton and Southampton at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England. (AP)

could have won the game. But it isn't a bad result," the Chile international

Southampton - losing 6-5 on penalties.

lead through Abdoulaye Doucoure in

the 20th at Goodison Park, but Taylor

Harwood-Bellis evened the game in

The Merseyside team had taken the

Southampton goalkeeper Alex Mc-Carthy saved Ashley Young's penalty in sudden death to seal Everton's

Eberechi Eze struck the winner as Crystal Palace beat second-division Queens Park Rangers 2-1 and Brentford survived an early scare against third-tier Leyton Orient to win 3-1.

Brandon Cooper fired Orient ahead in the 11th, but Fabio Carvalho, Mikkel Damsgaard and Christian Norgaard eased Brentford to victory.

Second-division Preston secured the biggest shock of the night by beating Fulham 16-15 in an epic penalty The game ended 1-1 at full time with

Ryan Ledson putting Preston ahead in the 35th and Reiss Nelson equalizing for Fulham in the 61st. What followed was the longest

shootout in League Cup history with Preston eventually triumphing after 34 WASHINGTON, Sept 18, (AP): Breanna Stewart had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and the New York Liberty coasted to an 87-71 victory over the Washington Mystics on Tuesday night to clinch the best record in the

The Liberty will be the No. 1 seed in the playoffs and open at home on Sunday against the eighth seed. That could be the Mystics, who are tied with Chicago, one game behind Atlanta heading into Thursday's finales.

Leonie Fiebich scored 13 points and fellow reserve Nyara Sabally had 12 for the Liberty (32-7). Starters Jonquel Jones and Betnijah Lane-Hamilton both added 11.

Ariel Atkins had 22 points for the Mystics (13-26). They play Indiana on Thursday, while Chicago is at Con-

necticut and Atlanta is at the Liberty. Lynx 78, Sun 76

In Uncasville, Napheesa Collier scored 25 points before passing to Bridget Carleton for the go-ahead

BASKETBALL

3-pointer with 3.4 seconds left, and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Connecticut Sun to secure the No. 2 seed in the WNBA playoffs.

Minnesota (30-9) will host No. 7-seeded Phoenix on Sunday when the best-of-three playoffs open. Connecticut (27-12) is currently third with one game remaining in the regular season and would be home against Indiana on Sunday. The Sun are home against Chicago on Thursday.

Connecticut and Minnesota traded misses with just under a minute left before Alyssa Thomas hit from near the foul line to give the Sun a 74-73 lead with 22 seconds to go. Collier answered 10 seconds later with a turnaround fadeaway on the left side of the

Dream 86, Sky 70

In College Park, Jordin Canada scored 18 points, Tina Charles finished with 16 points and 14 rebounds to tie the WNBA record with the 193rd double-double of her career and the Atlanta Dream beat the Chicago Sky 86-70 on Tuesday night to move into the eighth playoff spot with one game

Atlanta (14-25) broke a three-way tie with Chicago (13-26) and Washington. The Mystics (13-26) lost to New

Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) shoots over Dallas Wings guard Jacy Sheldon (4) in the sec-ond half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

Aces 85, Storm 72

In Seattle, A'ja Wilson scored 21 points and set the WNBA record for most rebounds in a season as the Las Vegas Aces defeated the Seattle Storm.

Her seven rebounds moved her past Chicago rookie Angel Reese for the most in a season with 451. Reese's season is complete after a wrist injury earlier this month. Wilson also extended her league record for points in a season, and now has 1,021. Kelsey Plum also had 21 points for Las Vegas.

Mercury 85, Sparks 81

In Los Angeles, Brittney Griner scored 14 points before being ejected after a scuffle, Natasha Cloud had 13 points and 12 assists, and the Phoenix Mercury beat the Los Angeles Sparks.

Griner and Sparks standout rookie Rickea Jackson were thrown out after exchanging shoves while in rebounding position following a Mercury free throw in the closing seconds of the first half. The Mercury, who found out before the game they would play secondseeded Minnesota when the playoffs open on Sunday, trailed by eight at halftime but took control in the third

Sophia Cunningham also scored 14 points for the Mercury (19-20). Diana Taurasi added 13 and Mikiah Herbert-Harrigan had 10.

Dearica Hamba had 21 points for the last-place Sparks (7-32), who lost their eighth straight in an injury-plagued season. Li Yueru scored a career-high 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. and Kia Nurse had 10 points.

ADAK's budget cut

Kenya risks being labled 'non-compliant by WADA

NAIROBI, Sept 18, (Xinhua): Kenya risks being declared non-compliant by the World Anti-Doping Agency ernment massively slashed the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya (ADAK)'s budget for the 202425 financial year.

ADAK chairman Daniel Makdwallo warned the agency cannot run its operations, having been allocated 20 million shillings (155,000 U.S. dollars) down from the 2.23 million dollars it received in the previous fis-

"We are at risk of not being able to host or send any of our sportsmen for international competitions because the Agency cannot carry out its regular testing activities both in competition and out of competition," the chairman told journalists in Nairobi.

The outgoing ADAK chief appealed to the government to reinstate the budget to ensure the smooth running of activities, such as testing, where a test costs around 670 to 780 dollars per athlete. During the last three years, the Agency has sanctioned 78 athletes for Anti-Doping Rule violations in an effort commended by both WADA and the World Athletics anti-doping watchdog, the Athletic Integrity Unit (AIU).

The budget cuts are blamed on the rejection of the 2024 Finance Bill that outlined government spending for the 20242025 fiscal year in Kenya following youth-led protests against the government that rocked Kenya in June and July. In a meeting with World Athletics

president Sebastian Coe in January last year, President William Ruto had

pledged to end doping in Kenya and pledged his administration would spare 5 million dollars each year for The increased spending led the

AIU to announce in July 2023 an unprecedented drug-testing program in Kenyan athletics with seven times the level of testing, compared to 2022 at the National Championships and the Trials for the Budapest 2023 World Athletics Championships.

Sources told Xinhua on condition of anonymity that the move to make the budget cut public came after efforts to engage the state hit a brick

Kenya was listed as a category A nation of the WADA in 2017, meaning the country remains a high risk for doping. ADAK was formed in 2016 to tackle doping after the country was threatened with being banned from the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Despite the nation still seeing many athletes sanctioned for doping in recent years, no Kenyan athlete that participated at the Tokyo Olympics, 2023 World Championships, and the recent Paris 2024 Olympics has fallen foul of anti-doping viola-

This has been credited to the rigorous testing by ADAK and AIU and stringent conditions placed on Kenyan athletes representing the country at major championships that, among other things, require each runner to undergo a mandatory three tests before being eligible to compete for the

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Italy striker who was top scorer at World Cup in 1990, dies at 59 announced that a minute

ROME, Sept 18, (AP): Salvatore "Totò" Schillaci, the Italy striker who was top scorer at its home World Cup in 1990, has died. He was 59.

Schillaci had been hospitalized in Palermo following treatment for colon cancer.

The Palermo Civico hospital said in a statement that Schillacci died on Wednesday morning after being admitted 11 days ago.

Schillaci scored six goals for Italy during the 1990 World Cup. He came on as a substitute during Italy's opener against Austria, scored in a 1-0 victory, and went on to earn the Golden Boot awarded to the tournament's top scorer. He only scored one other goal for Italy in his career. Italian soccer federation

president Gabriele Gravina

memory of Schillaci before all games in the country for the rest of the week. "The uncontrollable celebrations, in which his face

of silence would be held in

was the symbol of shared joy, will remain forever part of Italian soccer (history)," Gravina said. "Totò was a great player, a symbol of tenacious desire and redemption ... His soccer was full of passion. And that fearless spirit made everyone appreciate him and will make him immortal." Schillaci also won the Golden Ball award at the 1990 World Cup as the tournament's top player ahead of Lothar Matthaus and Diego Maradona.

Schillaci played Messina, Juventus, Inter Milan and Japanese team Jubilo Iwata during his club

"Ciao Totò," Juventus said on Instagram. "You made an entire na-

tion dream during the Magical Nights of Italia '90," Inter said on its social media channels.

West Germany won the 1990 World Cup, beating Argentina in the final, while Italy beat England for third place with a winning penalty kick from Schillaci. Roberto Baggio, who

scored Italy's opening goal in the third-place match, wrote on Instagram, "Ciao my dear friend." Having been born and raised in Palermo, the Palermo soccer team announced that it would hold a public viewing of Schillaci at its Renzo Barbera stadium ahead of the funeral, the Gazzetta dello Sport reported.

winless in four league matches ROME, Sept 18, (AP): Roma fired coach Daniele De Rossi on Wednesday in a move that was surprising

despite the Giallorossi going winless in their opening four Italian league matches. De Rossi, a former Roma

captain, was hired in January to replace the fired Jose Mourinho and impressed so much during the second half of last season that he was given a contract extension in June through 2026-

"The club's decision is made in the best interests of the team, to get back on the desired path as soon as

possible at a time when the season is still in its early stages," Roma said. "Å heartfelt thank you to Daniele, who will always be at home at the Giallorossi club, for the work done in recent months with passion

Roma fires De Rossi after going

Roma added that "communication regarding the team's technical guidance will follow.'

and dedication.

Roma hosts Serie A leader Udinese on Sunday.

One possible replacement for De Rossi could be former Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, who was fired for his ugly out-

the Italian Cup final at the Stadio Olimpico in May.

burst toward the referees in

FOR RENT Floor in Shaab (House Sector).

Block 6. Includes 4 rooms, 2 bathrooms, a laundry room, and a kitchen. It's an old Arabic-style house but fully renovated inside with new flooring, bathrooms, and kitchen. Equipped with 4 new window AC units. Located in a very good area. The rent is 490 KD, including water and electricity, but

excludes maintenance 94944500

Hosts reach 302-7 at stumps

Mendis gives Sri Lanka the edge in 1st test against New Zealand

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Sept 18, (AP): Raised up the order to score even more runs, prolific middle-order batter Kamindu Mendis struck a fine hundred on Wednesday to rescue Sri Lanka from a precarious position as the hosts reached 302-7 at stumps on Day 1 of the first test against New Zealand.

Kiwi quick William O'Rourke claimed three wickets in Galle but Mendis (114) was untroubled, posting his fourth century in test match cricket in only his seventh test.

The left-handed batsman has scored more than 800 runs in just 11 innings and he is on course to become the fastest Sri Lankan to 1,000 test runs, with Roy Dias (23 innings) currently holding that record. Apart from four hundreds,

Mendis also has scored four half-centuries.

Mendis had been batting at No. 7 until this test match, when he was promoted to No. 5. Often he had batted with the tail while occupying the lower position and had run out of partners.

New Zealand had the advantage after reducing Sri Lanka to 178-5

CRICKET

and with the last recognized pair out in the middle. Mendis, with Kusal Mendis (50), was involved in a 103-run partnership for the sixth wicket to help Sri Lanka fight back.

Kamindu Mendis reached his century by putting away a full toss



Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis plays a shot on the first day of the first cricket test match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka. (AP)

from part-time spinner Rachin Ravindra to the boundary.

Kusal Mendis, made to keep wicket and pushed to No. 7 in this game, was fighting for his place but should be fine for the rest of the series.

The partnership was broken when Kusal Mendis was dismissed in unusual fashion. The batter pulled Glenn Phillips' delivery and the ball stuck short leg fielder Tom Latham and popped up to Tim Southee at short mid-wicket for an easy catch.

New Zealand took the second new ball soon after it was available and it was spinner Ajaz Patel who made the breakthrough by dismissing Kamindu Mendis with just five

minutes to go for stumps.

Sri Lanka lost both its openers

Pathum Nissanka (27) and Dimuth Karunaratne (2) early in the day after electing to bat first as O'Rourke removed both batters

removed both batters.

O'Rourke also struck Angelo
Mathews on his right index finger
forcing the batter to retire. He did
come out to bat after lunch and

made 36.
Phillips was the pick of the spinners, bowling captain Dhananjaya de Silva through the gate.

New Zealand had a warm-up test match last week against Afghanistan in India washed out after five days without a ball being bowled. Sri Lanka is coming off a three-match test series in England which the hosts won 2-1.

The teams will play a second test beginning Sept. 26, also at Galle.

Al-Fuheis prevails over Kuwait's Al-Fatat

FUHEIS, Jordan, Sept 18: The Kuwaiti team, Al-Fatat, suffered a narrow 76-85 defeat against Jordan's Al-Fuheis Youth Club in the third round of the Arab Clubs Championship for Women's Basketball.at the Fuheis Club Hall

BASKETBALL

Al-Fatat started the game with strong performance, leading by one point (45-44) at halftime, thanks to key contributions from Jay Burch and Al-Habil. However, Al-Fuheis made a comeback in the later periods, driven by

outstanding performances from American players Brookie Williams and Angela Tompkins. Williams scored 36 points, and Tompkins delivered a "double-double" with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

Despite persistent efforts from Al-Fatat to hold its lead in the final periods, Fuheis Club pulled ahead in the fourth quarter, securing the top spot in the championship standings with 6 points. Al-Fatat currently sits in second place with 5 points.

Al-Fatat will play a crucial match today against the Iraqi Gas Al-Shamal team at 3:00 pm, aiming to rebound from its loss and strengthen its position in the competition



Debutant Gwangju dominates F.Marinos

DOHA, Qatar, Sept 18, (AP): Joao Cancelo scored his first goal for Al-Hilal as the Saudi Arabian club beat Qatari club Al-Rayyan 3-1 in the Asian Champions League Elite tournament.

The Portuguese international, signed from Manchester City, scored just before halftime. Earlier, Serbia international Sergej Milinkovic-Savic opened the scoring for the four-time Asian cham-

SOCCER

pion. Cancelo then assisted Marcos Leonardo for the third before the break.

Early in the second half Roger Guedes scored for Al-Rayyan but it was the Saudi Arabians who came closest to scoring again as Aleksandar Mitrovic missed a penalty.

Al-Hilal's Riyadh rival Al-Nassr drew 1-1 with Al-Shorta of Iraq on Monday when Cristiano Ronaldo stayed in Saudi Arabia after being

diagnosed with a viral infection.
In this revamped tournament, the



Al-Hilal's Bono heads the ball as Al Rayyan player looks on during the Asian Champions League match.

24 teams have been divided into two groups of 12, divided into east and west geographic zones, and each plays eight games. The top eight from each group progresses to the round of 16.

There were goals galore in the east. South Korean debutant Gwangju FC won 7-3 against Yokohama F.Marinos, the Japanese team that lost in May's final.

Chinese teams enjoyed a good start. Shandong Taishan defeated Central Coast Mariners of Australia 3-1 while Shanghai Port won 4-1 against Pohang Steelers, three-time winners, of South Korea.

Elsewhere, Japan's Vissel Kobe and Buriram United of Thailand drew 0-0.

'Concussion is a public health issue of concern at all levels of soccer'

FIFA teams up with WHO for campaign to 'educate' world soccer about concussion

GENEVA, Sept 18, (AP): FIFA teamed up with the World Health Organization on Wednesday for a campaign to educate the soccer industry about the risks of concussion injuries.

"Concussion is a public health issue of concern at all levels of soccer, and many other sports, requiring greater levels of awareness and action," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement.

Ten years after the alarming case in the 2014 World Cup final of Germany player Christoph Kramer, world soccer governing body FIFA is sending a toolkit to each of its 211 national federations to help teach at all levels of soccer that symptoms of a head injury can take up to 72 hours to appear.

Kramer continued to play in the final against Argentina for 14 minutes after being injured despite being in clear distress. Match referee Nicola Rizzoli later said he alerted Germany players after Kramer asked if he was playing in the final.

At the 2022 World Cup, Iran goal-keeper Ali Beiranvand was treated for several minutes on the field after clashing heads with a teammate, then continued to play on against England before finally being replaced.

SOCCER

FIFA favors letting teams make an extra substitution to remove immediately a player with a suspected head injury. That lets team medical staff evaluate injuries at length without the pressure of trying to send players back into the game.

At soccer's rules-making panel, known as IFAB, FIFA has consistently blocked proposals to allow temporary substitutions that would let injured players with a suspected concussion be assessed just for several minutes before potentially returning to the game. FIFA medical advice is that symptoms can take up to 72 hours to develop.

"The symptoms of a concussion can change or evolve within the minutes, hours, days and even weeks after the traumatic event," FIFA said of the new "Suspect and Protect" campaign. "No match is worth the risk."

Best of the Rest

Munroe wins air racing title:
Australian wingsuiter Tahi Munroe
won the air racing title in 24.703
seconds at the tenth World Wingsuit
League (WWL) Wingsuit World
Championship at Tianmen Mountain
in Zhangjiajie, central China's
Hunan Province on Wednesday.
The final eight competitors

Al-Fatah player goes for a basket as opponents look on.

The final eight competitors jumped in turns from the nearly 1,400-meter-high mountain. The vertical distance between the takeoff and landing points is 990 meters, and the straight-line distance through the air is about 1.3 kilometers. Munroe, who entered the final with the best result in the preliminaries, took first place with an outstanding performance after two rounds of fierce competition.

mpetition. As a first-time participant, Munroe demonstrated his professional athletic ability with flawless flight. He expressed his happiness at achieving excellent results at Tianmen Mountain, which has been

his dream for many years.

South African athlete Jean
Jacques Wallis and Norwegian athlete Joakim Lerhaugen won second
and third place, respectively.
(Xinhua)

□ □ □ edder stavs free: Fre

Yedder stays free: French soccer star Wissam Ben Yedder will stay free ahead of his trial on charges of assault while intoxicated, one of his lawyers told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Marie Roumiantseva said Ben Yedder will remain under strict judicial supervision after a woman filed a lawsuit for assault earlier this month.

lawsuit for assault earlier this month.

The 34-year-old Ben Yedder, a prolific striker who has also played for the national team, was briefly detained then released after the alleged incident in his car on the French Riviera. Ben Yedder had been stopped by police after he first refused to do so. He was then put in a jail cell.

After he was summoned to appear in court on Oct. 15 and placed under judicial supervision, the Nice prosecutor's office appealed the decision not to remand the player in custody. The investigative chamber of the Court of Appeal of Aix-en-Provence did not grant this request and kept Ben Yedder under judicial supervision (AP)



Dinamo's goalkeeper Ivan Nevistic, left, attempts to punch the ball clear as teammate Dinamo's Bruno Petkovic leaps to head the ball under pressure from Bayern's Michael Olise during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Bayern Munich and GNK Dinamo at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. (AP)

KBA launches support initiative for Al-Jahra

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: In a supportive move to assist the Al-Jahra Club basketball teams, which have been struggling with an administrative crisis and a three-way management conflict for nearly nine months, the Kuwait Basketball Association Board of Directors has decided to reinstate the Al-Jahra basket-

BASKETBALL

ball teams across all age groups. This includes the Under-15, Under-17, Under-19, and the senior team for the 2024-2025 sports season. This decision was made during the Board's meeting No. 16/2024, held the day before yesterday.

Additionally, the Basketball Association has introduced an initiative to support all basketball teams at Al-Jahra Club. This initiative encompasses the provision of necessary player and technical equipment, including sportswear for training and matches, basketballs, and other essential items for daily training. The goal is to ensure effective participation in the approved age groups and to support any future clubs that might face similar challenges.

A specialized committee from the Association will begin working with Al-Jahra Club to ensure



Dhari Burjas

that all requirements are met before the start of the 2024-2025 season

The decision to re-establish the Al-Jahra Club teams was based on Article (69) of the Kuwait Basketball Association's bylaws, which addresses "Unexpected Events and Force Majeure."

Dhari Burjas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Basketball Federation, emphasized that this decision and initiative were made out of a sense of duty and sporting responsibility. He stated, "Our aim is to enable players to continue enjoying their sport and to support Al-Jahra Club's return to full participation. We hope for a swift resolution to their issues and a successful season for all teams in the Federation's competitions."

Kihira to miss Grand Prix season

TOKYO, Sept 18, (AP): Four-time Grand Prix series medalist Rika Kihira will miss the upcoming figure skating season because of a stress fracture in her right ankle that has not fully healed, the Japanese star announced Wednesday.

Kihira said recent MRI results showed the ankle is healing but it had not reached the point where she could skate "at full strength and confidence." So with just over a year left before the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics, Kihira decided in consultation with longtime coach Brian Orser to focus on recovery and training

rather than trying to compete.
"I will continue practicing, training, and receiving treatment without putting too much strain on my injury. I will continue to work hard every day

to improve my skills and make a full recovery," Kihira said. The figure skating season began in

The figure skating season began in earnest last weekend with the Lombar-

dia Trophy in Italy.

World champion Ilia Malinin of the U.S. continued his push toward the

U.S. continued his push toward the Olympics by winning the men's event ahead of Japanese rivals Yuma Kagiyama and Shun Sato. Amber Glenn and Sarah Everhardt went a somewhat surprising 1-2 for the U.S. in the women's event, while American ice dancers Annabelle Morozov and Jeffrey Chen finished second.

The Nebelhorn Trophy is this weekend in Germany, but the first major international competition is Skate America beginning Oct. 18 in Allen, Texas.



Kuwait continues its training in preparation for the quali-

Sports

Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com

Kuwait youth team finalizes preparations for Asian Cup qualifiers

By Hassan Musa

Al-Sevassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: The Kuwait youth team has intensified its preparations for the 2025 Asian Cup qualifiers in China, set to begin this Saturday in Group Three. The group also features teams from the UAE, Lebanon, South Korea, and the Northern Mariana Islands

Kuwait's first match will be against the Northern Mariana Islands on Saturday, followed by a clash with South Korea next Monday in the second round. It will face Lebanon in the third round next Wednesday and conclude its group stage against the UAE on Septem-

The top team from each of the ten groups, along with the best five second-placed teams, will advance

In preparation for the tournament, the team has conducted an

internal training camp. Led by Croatian coach Dario Pasic and assistant coach Mohammed Al-Fulaijawi, the technical staff is focused on getting the players in optimal form to achieve their goal of qualification.

The technical staff has selected a 24-player squad, including Muqdad Safar, Talal Al-Matroud, Jassim Shamouh, Hussein Kankouni, Hussein Al-Aryan, Abdullah Fares, Abdullah Al-Ayoub, Khaled Al-Kharqawi, Abdullah Al-Sarraf,

Khaled Al-Othman, Mohammed Arhama, Mohammed Al-Suraie, Ahmed Boudi, Jassim Al-Matar, Fadel Al-Sarraf, Turki Al-Yousef, Mohammed Al-Omran, Abdullah Al-Basri, Ahmed Al-Rashidi, Montaser Suleiman, Omar Al-Azmi, Eid Talal, Jassim Al-Enezi, and

Meanwhile, the delegations of the participating teams have begun ar-

Bandar Nawaf.

riving, with all five teams expected to land by the end of today.

The organizing committee, headed by the acting Secretary-General of the Football Association, Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub, is in full swing with its preparations to host the qualifiers. The committee holds daily meetings to ensure the group stage runs smoothly, aiming to deliver an ideal and successful tournament.

Familiar faces dominate as CL debuts new format

Bayern rout Zagreb highlights opening night, Mbappe scores for Real again

ROME, Sept 18, (AP): Same old winners.

The revamped Champions League debuted with some familiar clubs claiming victories on opening night.

After joining Real from Paris Saint-Germain, Kylian Mbappé scored for 15-time champion, which needed late goals from Antonio Rudiger and Endrick to beat Stuttgart

Six-time champion Liverpool returned from a goal down for a 3-1 win at seven-time champion AC Milan in a rematch of the 2005 and

Harry Kane scored four in Bayern Munich's 9-2 rout of Dinamo Zagreb as the German club opened its bid for a seventh title - which could be achieved in its home stadium in

Two-time champion Juventus dispatched PSV Eindhoven 3-1.

SOCCER

During the new league phase, all 36 teams are ranked from top to bottom in a single standings that finishes in January.

Also, Aston Villa returned to the competition for the first time in 41 years and won 3-0 at Young Boys; and Sporting Lisbon beat 10-mar Lille 2-0.

The first round of league matches continues with six more matches on both Wednesday and Thursday.

After a scoreless first half. Mbappé put Madrid ahead seconds after the break when he redirected a cross from Rodrygo.

After Deniz Undav equalized for Stuttgart midway through the second half with a header, Rudiger restored Madrid's advantage with a header and Endrick sealed it with a solo counterattack in stoppage time.

"This was a typical Madrid match in the Champions League," Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said. "We always have difficult games. We sometimes complicate things ourselves, but credit to to Stuttgart. They pressed high, they were really offensive and they created chances. At 18 years and 58 days, Endrick became Madrid's youngest scorer in the Champions League. Raul Gonzalez was 18 years and 113 days old when he scored a hat trick in a 6-1 win against Ferencvarosi in 1995 for

the previous record. Christian Pulisic scored early for Milan before Liverpool struck back with headers from both of its centerbacks: Ibrahima Konate and Virgil van Dijk. Dominik Szoboszlai added another for Liverpool.

"I'm very proud to be standing here after 50 appearances, a goal, and a win at the San Siro after a difficult start. The way we played after that start was outstanding," Liverpool captain Van Dijk said.

Kane converted three penalties and broke Wayne Rooney's record for the most Champions League goals by an English player by boosting his tally to 33 - three ahead of Rooney.

Bayern's best goal might have been its second from Raphael Guerreiro, who crushed in a powerful drive after a chest pass from Jamal

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany was not the first choice when he was hired in May but so far his team has won all five of its matches. His team now tops the Champions League standings on goal difference.

Kenan Yildiz's goal for Juventus after 21 minutes was the first of the



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, right, fights for the ball with Stuttgart's Enzo Millot during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Real Madrid and VfB Stuttgart at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, in Madrid. (AP)

Tomooh Club heads to Cairo for Heliopolis Champ'ship

revamped competition. And what a goal it was.

The Turkey winger dribbled into the left side of the box and curled in a long shot off the far, top corner of the goal frame.

At 19 years and 136 days, Yildiz broke the Juventus record for the youngest scorer in the competition that Alessandro Del Piero established when he scored at 20 years and 308 days against Borussia Dortmund in September 1995.

With a goal reminiscent of the way Del Piero used to score, it seemed fitting that Yildiz was wearing the same No. 10 that Del Piero wore for Juventus.

"He was my idol as a child," Yildiz said. "An incredible evening, goosebumps." Under experienced coach Unai Emery, Villa has won three of its four Premier League matches and was in control virtually throughout at Young Boys in its return to the competition after 41 years.

Youri Tielemans put Villa ahead with a bouncing shot midway through the first half and Jacob Ramsey doubled the lead 11 minutes later by taking advantage of a loose ball. Amadou Onana sealed it four minutes from time.

Emery has won the Europa League four times with two clubs three with Sevilla and once with Villarreal. He also coached Villarreal to the Champions League semifinals in 2022 and led Villa to the Conference League semifinals last season.

Villa was mourning the death a day earlier of 1982 European Cup winner Gary Shaw.

Viktor Gyokeres, who had been an Arsenal transfer target, opened the scoring for Sporting with a neat turn and shot into the bottom left corner.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 18: Tomooh Club delegation for Intellectual Disabilities departed for Cairo to participate in the 5th Heliopolis International Championship, taking place from September 19 to 21. The event features swimming, equestrian, table tennis, and athletics for all age

groups, with participation from Gulf and Arab nations. Fahad Al-Sahli, the club's assistant secretary and head of the delegation, announced that the club will compete in athletics and table tennis with three athletes over the age of 21: Mohsen Al-Mashmoum and Hassan Al-Mutawa will participate in both table tennis and athletics (100m and 200m races), while Mohammed Al-Otaibi will compete in athletics (100m and 200m races).

Al-Sahli emphasized the club's commitment to partici-

pating in international events to provide athletes with opportunities to engage in competition, sharpen their skills, and enhance their social roles in the community.

He also highlighted that this delegation includes players making their international debuts, aiming to boost their confidence and prepare them for future competitions, with a goal of building a strong foundation of champions in sports for individuals with intellectual dis-

Club coach Bilal Al-Hamami confirmed the team's readiness following the completion of an intensive training program that began in mid-August. He noted the players' excitement and dedication, expressing optimism about achieving success in the tournament.



Al-Tomooh Club delegation.

It was Gyokeres' ninth goal in six matches this season.

Lille midfielder Angel Gomes was sent off before the break and Zeno Debast added a long-range strike

midway through the second half. Bayern fans didn't appear enthu-

siastic about the new format, holding aloft a gigantic banner that ran the length of one end of the stands

reading "Too much of a good thing - back to the roots - undo new CLformat." The protest banner was displayed during the playing of the Champions League anthem.

Atletico and Barcelona ready to start European campaigns

Flick likely to rotate squad

MADRID, Sept 18, (Xinhua): FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid make their Champions League debuts on Thursday night with Barcelona traveling to Monaco, while Atletico Madrid are at home to RB Leipzig.

Barca travel to the south of France after starting the season with five wins from five games in La Liga and with 17-year-old Lamine Yamal in outstanding form, along with central defender Inigo Martinez, while midfielder, Pedri also looks to be getting close to his best after a long run of physical problems.

Hansi Flick's job will be to ensure that the trio remain free of injuries under the intense fixture schedule, with Martinez and Pedri both struggling with muscle problems for the past couple of seasons.

Flick is certainly working hard at his task, with stories that he arrives at Barcelona's training ground at 6 a.m. to prepare his training sessions.

New signing Dani Olmo is out with a hamstring issue. Fermin and Lopez suffered a relapse of his muscle problem training on Tuesday, but the good news for Flick is that Frenkie de



Jong and Gavi are training with the squad again as they look to get back

Flick may look to rotate his squad after Sunday's win in Girona and a tough visit to Villarreal this week-

SOCCER

end, with Ferran Torres and Eric Garcia both in with a good chance of

Atletico welcome Leipzig after an impressive 3-0 win at home to Valencia on Sunday in a game that saw new signings, Conor Gallagher and Julian Alvarez score their debut goals for the club.

Gallagher has quickly won over the Atletico fans after his move from Chelsea, thanks to his high workrate and ability to score important goals, while Alvarez adds guile to an attack containing Alexander Sorloth (another summer arrival), Antoine Griezmann and Angel Correa.

Last season Atletico were able to turn their Metropolitano Stadium into a veritable fortress, winning all five of their European matches in front of their supporters and it will be a 60,000 full house as they start this season's campaign.

Usyk released after detention in Poland

KRAKOW, Poland, Sept 18, (AP): Heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk has been released after being briefly detained at Krakow airport in Poland, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday.

"I was disappointed by this attitude towards our citizen and champion," said Zelenskyy after he had a phone conversation with Usyk. "Our champion has been released, and he is no longer being detained."

He posted a photo of Usyk with Ukraine's Consul General in Krakow after the athlete was released.

It was not immediately clear why the 37-year-old Usyk was detained. He is one of Ukraine's most prominent athletes known abroad, and he has organized and participated in different projects aiding his country's efforts to resist Russia's invasion.

"A misunderstanding took place. It was quickly resolved," said Usyk, expressing gratitude for the "efficient support" of Ukrainian diplomats. "And respect to Polish Police for conducting their obligations with no regards to height, weight, reach and regalia," he said on Instagram.

Recently appointed Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Andrii Sybiha, said on X that he was briefed on the details of Usyk's detention. "Such actions toward our champion are disproportionate and unacceptable," he said.

ARAB® TIMES

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