



270 LIVES LOST TO AIRSTRIKES IN LEBANON'S DARKEST DAY

Kuwait flags risks to int'l peace

Israeli aggression war of extermination: Lebanese PM

Opinion

Kill rumors with timely
& correct information

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

EVERY state ministry and institution has a public relations department that is responsible for engaging with the public and promoting the institution. All state offices, including the presidency and government, are required to have an official spokesperson.

However, it seems the current Council of Ministers aims to change this long-standing practice by designating "KUNA" or one of its staff members as the official government spokesperson.

This implies that the public relations departments within the ministries, along with the Ministry of Information and its massive number of employees, have nothing to do other than checking in and out of work, playing with their cell phones until the end of their shift, without any real accountability.

As a result, it seems we have reverted to the "you scratch my back, I scratch yours" mentality that has brought about many disasters for the nation.

In contrast to the "wasta" mentality, countries that prioritize their legal systems assign tasks to experts and specialists.

An official spokesperson should be well-versed in all aspects of their institution where they work, and surround themselves with a select group of highly qualified individuals who are capable of addressing challenging questions with grace.

Every foreign ministry worldwide has a spokesperson who can communicate with the media and conduct daily press conferences.

No ministry should evade questions from the public, even if those questions are based on hearsay. In our nation, inquiries are often not redirected to the courts, as there are always those willing to challenge the status quo.

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Kuwaiti youth prey

Mol wages war against drug traffickers, addicts

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: In a coordinated effort to safeguard Kuwait's youth from the clutches of drug addiction, experts say the Ministry of Interior has waged successful campaigns against the drug trafficking mafia.

Specialists in psychology and addiction treatment stress the Interior Ministry is determined to wipe out drug peddling operations and the rate of addiction, particularly among teenagers and students.

Dr. Ghanima Karam, an addiction treatment consultant, highlighted that the recent security operations have led to critical reductions in addiction rates.

She praised the Ministry's ability to track and intercept illegal substances, whether smuggled through land, sea, or air, and pointed to their crackdown on local drug cultivation and liquor factories.

However, experts stressed on the need for continuous cooperation among government agencies to fully eradicate the problem.

They called for stronger efforts by the Ministry of Education and the media in the area of spreading awareness about the dangers of drugs, particularly among school students.

Psychologist Dr. Ahmed Salama stated that drugs are one of the most dangerous forms of fourth-generation warfare, aimed at destroying youth and society by negatively impacting both mental and physical health, particularly the nervous system.

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Day by Day

THE fight against corruption is a long and challenging journey. There's no doubt that the corrupt will go to great lengths to protect themselves.

They even have the audacity to accuse those who challenge them, especially senior officials, of being incompetent.

Their clever tactics of self-defense are well-calculated. However, decision-makers should remain unfazed by these attempts, designed to provoke the public and spread propaganda.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince delivers the State of Kuwait's speech at the Future Summit at the United Nations Headquarters.

Bloc working to expand global ties: Al-Budaiwi

Gulf FMs meeting aims to synchronize efforts

NEW YORK, Sept 23, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya participated in the coordination meeting of the GCC countries' foreign ministers, which took place Monday on the sidelines of the high-level 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

During the meeting, frameworks for enhancing cooperation and joint coordination between the Council countries were discussed to prepare for the ministerial meetings, which will be held with a number of international foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings.

Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General, Jassem Al-Budaiwi, stated that the coordination meeting between Gulf Foreign Ministers aims to synchronize efforts on regional and international issues.

The General Secretariat, in a statement, mentioned that the meeting was held on sidelines of UNGA 79th session at the Qatari permanent delegation to UN headquarters in New York.

Al-Budaiwi added that meeting included exchanging perspectives on strategic relations and dialogue between member states and global coalitions and discussed regional and international developments.

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Sahel adds services for domestic driver licenses

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (Agencies): The Ministry of Interior announced on Monday the possibility of adding the driving license service for domestic workers (driver profession) through the unified government application for electronic services -- Sahel.

In a press statement, the Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the ministry revealed this will allow the user to complete driving license procedures by logging onto the Sahel application by clicking the services page, then the Ministry of Interior, followed by traffic services and driving

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'No taxes' on salaries or goods, ministry clarifies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): The Ministry of Finance firmly denied on Monday the accuracy of social media claims regarding the introduction of various taxes on salaries, goods, tickets, and non-essential services.

In a statement on its official X account, the ministry dismissed rumors about a 2.5% direct income tax on salaries and a 1% value-added tax (VAT) on essential goods, excluding food supplies, as "untrue." It also refuted claims of a 2% VAT on travel tickets, non-essential goods, and entertainment services, labeling them "completely false."

The ministry clarified that its initiatives to enhance tax awareness in schools are part of a cultural program under the Tax Media Department, which has been in place since 2005 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. This program aims to promote tax and financial literacy among middle and secondary school students.

Regarding the organizational structure of the Ministry's tax administration that circulated online, the ministry confirmed it aligns with Administrative Resolution No. 404 of 2003 and applies tax laws consistently to both foreign and Kuwaiti companies subject to those regulations.

RIYADH, Sept 23, (KUNA): Kuwait was proudly joining the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in celebrating the Kingdom's 94th National Day, underscoring the deep-rooted historical ties between the two countries.

In honor of the occasion, Mohammad Al-Harbi, Specialist in Strategic and Political Studies, spoke to KUNA and highlighted the significance of this milestone, and praise Saudi Arabia's diplomacy.

He described the Kingdom as a key player in global peace and stability efforts and noted Saudi Arabia's role as a hub for major international events, such as the 2034 FIFA World Cup, Riyadh Expo 2030, and the 2027



Sheikh Sabah Nasser

AFC Asian Cup.

On his part, the Political analyst Mubarak Al-Aati highlighted the role of Saudi Arabia's leadership under King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, stating that the Kingdom has solidified its economic and political influence, both regionally and globally.

He stressed that Saudi Arabia became a leading force in resolving regional and international conflicts, playing a pivotal role in organizing summits and negotiations aimed at maintaining global peace.

Al-Aati attributed the Kingdom's influence to its wise leadership, their clear vision, and commitment to international law, all of which have strengthened its standing in the global community.

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Creative, enthusiastic: UN rep

Youth role in tackling climate change hailed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): UN Secretary-General Representative and Resident Coordinator in Kuwait, Ghada Al-Taher, emphasized that youth are the leaders of both the present and future, with their passion, creativity, and enthusiasm driving the climate movement locally and globally.

Al-Taher made the remarks during a local youth forum organized by the Kuwait Climate Organization at the UN building on Sunday.

She highlighted that the conference, the first of its kind, marks an important milestone, reflecting the vision, determination, and strength of Kuwait's youth initiatives.

Additionally, Al-Taher noted that Kuwait's youth climate organization leads efforts in raising climate awareness, with UN support.

These forums are expected to gain YONGO recognition under the UNFCCC, she added.

Kuwait Climate Organization Director General Maryam Al-Saad, told KUNA that showcasing youth's role in climate action through dialogue, research, seminars, and international cooperation is crucial, as they are vital partners in society and development.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations Monday to Sri Lanka's newly elected president Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the president all success and further progress and prosperity for Sri Lanka and its people.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a congratulatory cable, extending his wishes for success and further development for the nation.

Additionally, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory message to President Dissanayake on the same day. (KUNA)

— See Also Page 7

RIYADH: The Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jassem Al-Budaiwi, extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and to the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud on the occasion of the 94th National Day of the Kingdom.

In a statement Monday, Al-Budaiwi expressed that this occasion holds a special, cherished and significant place in the hearts of the noble Saudi people and the member states of the GCC. (KUNA)

DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad approved the formation of a new government on Monday, reshuffling 14 ministers, the presidential office said in a statement. (Xinhua)



Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi in talks with Kuwait Airways chairman Abdulmohsen Al-Fagaan.

KAC eyes vital role to boost tourism

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): The national carrier Kuwait Airways has an important role in promoting tourism within the country, which is embarking on a plan to bolster tourism in the near future, Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said on Monday.

This affirmation came during the meeting between Al-Mutairi -- also Minister of State for Youth Affairs -- and Kuwait Airways chairman Abdulmohsen Al-Fagaan.

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NEW YORK/MAR-JAYOUN, Lebanon, Sept 23, (Agencies): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah delivered Kuwait's speech to the Summit of the Future at the UN HQ in New York on Sunday.

He conveyed to the conferees the regards of His Highness the Amir, and congratulated the President of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly and UN Secretary General on the outcomes of the high-level meeting.

The Summit of the Future Outcome Document, endorsed a few hours ago, will deepen cooperation to address the challenges and loopholes in the governance and renew commitment to launching a multilateral system that could keep abreast with the new developments, His Highness said.

His Highness the Crown Prince appreciated the UN Secretary General's call in 2021 for convening the Summit of the Future and laying the groundwork for a more effective international cooperation.

"We have seen the mounting challenges facing the developing and least-developed countries, including the trans-border challenges related to development and the accelerating climate change.

"These challenges highlight the need of effective application of the principle of fair geographical representation at the UN and doing away with discrimination and politicization," His Highness the Crown Prince stressed.

His Highness the Crown Prince shared the Secretary-General's view that it was impossible to build a future for our grandchildren through a system built for our ancestors.

"We are required to take care of the future of young generation and work for introducing substantive changes to the world economic governance system, including the financial safety networks and the international customs cooperation; overhauling the multinational development banks; and addressing the sovereign debt problem," he argued.

Regarding the second chapter of the Pact for the Future on "International Peace and Security", His Highness the Crown Prince called on all state parties to recommit themselves to the principles of international peace and security, and the provisions of the international laws and conventions, deal with each other on equal terms, and do away with double standards.

"The ongoing genocide in Palestine, which claimed more than 41,000 lives so far, mainly women and children, is a stark reminder of the inability of the UN Security Council to halt the aggression.

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:17	Asr	15:07
Sunrise ..	05:37	Maghrib ..	17:44
Zohr	11:41	Isha	19:01

Local

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

HH the Amir's representative meets with several leaders on sidelines of UN summit

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani, on sidelines of Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince and Al-Sudani discussed ways of cementing bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Al-Essa and Kuwait Permanent Representative to the UN Tareq Al-Bannai.

India

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian delegation residence in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince and Modi discussed ways of strengthening bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments.

Nepal

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli at the State of Kuwait's Mission to the UN in New York.

The two leaders discussed means of boosting bilateral relations for the best interest of the two countries and their people, as well as regional and international developments.

Greece

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the State of Kuwait's Mission to the UN in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince and Mitsotakis discussed ways of strengthening bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments.

Bahamas

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received President of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas Philip Davis at the State of Kuwait's Mission to the UN in New York.

The two leaders discussed means of boosting bilateral relations for the best interest of the two countries and their people, as well as regional and international developments.

Kenya

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met with President of Kenya William Ruto on sidelines of Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed best regards of His Highness the Amir to Ruto.

The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and ways of further promoting them for the best interest of the two countries and their people, as well as regional and international developments.

Ghana

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met with President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo, on sidelines of Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir to the President of Ghana, and the two sides discussed ways of boosting bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments.

Swiss Confederation

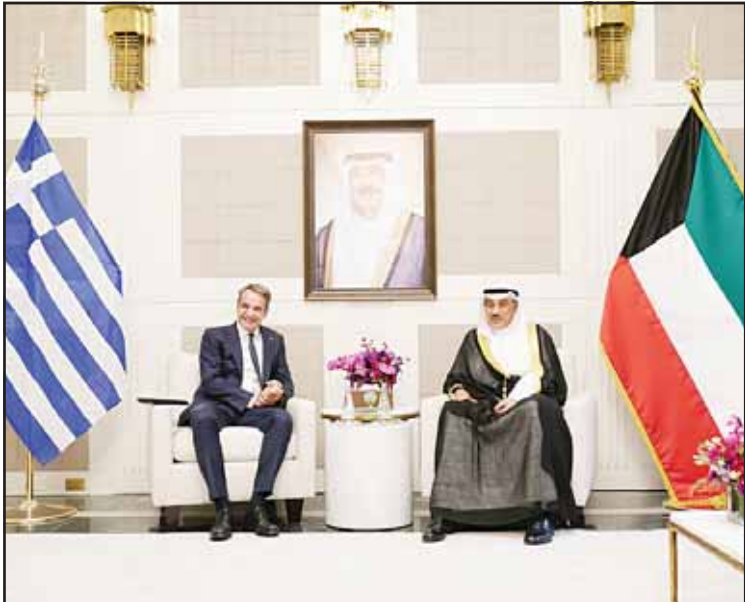
Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met with President of the Swiss Confederation Viola Amherd on sidelines of the Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.



Iraqi PM Muhammad Al-Sudani



Indian PM Narendra Modi



Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis



Crown Prince Diwan photos
Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo

quarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir to Amherd.

The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and ways of further promoting them, as well as regional and international developments.

IOC

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met with President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach, on sidelines of Summit of the Future at

UN Headquarters in New York.

The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation, supporting and developing the IOC in a way that would benefit athletes in the State of Kuwait.

All the above meetings were attended by Kuwait Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Al-Essa and Kuwait Permanent Representative to the UN Tareq Al-Bannai.

Social Affairs and local banks, which will not authorize the disbursement of any funds from the accounts of charities and societies without the ministry's approval. This measure is aimed to ensure tight control over these funds and monitor their movements closely, keeping them under the state's oversight.

In parallel with the launch of the daily monitoring system, the ministry will implement immediate automated approvals for transactions by entities seeking to disburse funds. This process is designed to ensure that transactions are completed without any delays or disruptions, provided they comply with all control measures and requirements.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Ministry of Social Affairs, through its relevant department, recently launched an automated system for monitoring the expenses of charitable associations and foundations on a daily basis, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to informed sources, this system tracks all data and information related to the financial activities of the registered charity organizations, including the amounts they intend to spend on internal or external projects, even if it is just KD 1. Approval is required before any disbursement is made.

There is extensive coordination between the Ministry of

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-30 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot and relatively humid over coastal areas

Weather		
with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h.		
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	43	28
Kuwait Airport	44	27
Abdaly	45	25

Bubyan	39	24
Jahra	45	29
Failaka Island	39	25
Salmiyah	35	32
Ahmadi	40	24
Jal Aliyah	44	28
Nuwaisib	41	28

Kuwait, Cairo reach deal on recruiting Egyptian workers

Kuwaiti-Egyptian council to discuss investments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout says, "An agreement has been reached with the Kuwaiti side to study the recruitment of workers. This will take place after Kuwait completes its assessment of the labor market and demographic structure, which is expected to be finalized soon. Following this, opportunities for workers will be expanded, leading to greater cooperation in new and modern fields", reports Al-Jarida daily.

During a press conference, the ambassador was asked questions regarding the recent meeting between the Kuwaiti delegation and the Egyptian Minister of Labor. He responded by saying, "We have agreed on implementing a work platform for recruiting Egyptian workers to Kuwait. This platform has an electronic interface with several Arab and Gulf countries. It contains comprehensive data about the Egyptian applicants. This platform is safe, and it provides all necessary information about Egyptian workers who are seeking employment abroad, including their qualifications and work experience. It allows potential employers (sponsors) to conduct personal interviews with candidates to assess them directly."

Ambassador revealed that a meeting will be held on Wednesday for the Kuwaiti-Egyptian Co-operation Council to discuss all developments related to investment in Egypt, adding that the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi assured the Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya of efforts to "resolve all obstacles facing Kuwaiti investments".

The Egyptian ambassador revealed that, "Egypt offers multiple visa options ranging from three to five years, and the investment law provides holders with long-term residency in Egypt."

Regarding the visa process for stateless (Bedoun) individuals entering Egypt, especially following the decision to withdraw passports, Ambassador Shaltout indicated that Egypt exempts students holding Article 17 passports and patients seeking treatment in Egypt from the visa requirement, in coordination with the Kuwaiti authorities and in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

He highlighted that major strategic investment projects in Egypt will receive golden licenses in less than a week after the submission of the application and the feasibility study.

Info's requests for changing job titles suspended by CSC

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has suspended the requests of the Ministry of Information to change the job titles of Assistant Director and Junior Media Program Producer as of August 27, reports Al-Seyassah daily..

According to informed sources, this decision aims to better organize the filling of these positions and manage the number of employees in those roles.

CSC recently noticed a surge in requests from the Ministry of Information to change the job titles of employees in these two positions, prompting inquiries about the reasons behind these changes.

CSC has requested a clear definition of the "quorum" standard in the media departments and the radio and television sector so that each department assesses its requirements separately for the titles "Assistant Director" and "Junior Media Program Producer".

It also asked for information on the number of programs broadcasted on each channel and the actual need of employees in these roles for each program. Justifications for the requests to change job titles must also be provided, especially considering the current number of employees in those positions.

In addition, the Administrative Affairs Sector of the ministry has reached out to the television sector for responses to these inquiries and the necessary justifications for the proposed title changes.



Kuwait Dental Association board members meeting the minister.

KDA board puts up demands to minister

Applied Colleges Faculty members present key issues to HH the Amir

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Members of the Association of Applied Colleges Faculty announced that it has delivered a letter to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad during a meeting with Minister Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting focused on several key issues, particularly the Applied University project, with a detailed presentation given to inform the minister about the project's history and its significance as a national priority.

The association emphasized the importance of approving the new overtime system, which was approved by the Board of Directors of the Applied University in September 2023, and requested the minister's support in pushing this initiative forward during meetings with the Civil Service Council.

The meeting also addressed topics related to preserving the rights and benefits of faculty members, as guaranteed by law under the leadership of His Highness the Amir.

The association expressed gratitude to Minister Al-Jalal for his dedication to improving the academic system and his focus on advancing the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, recognized as the largest educational institution in the country.

Meanwhile, the head of the Kuwait Dental Association (KDA), Dr. Mu-

hammad Dashti, announced that the association's board of directors met with the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, to discuss several key issues related to the dental profession, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Dashti mentioned the meeting focused on improving working conditions for dentists and covered important topics such as the evening work mechanism at certain centers to Afia card holders, and the financial allowance for overtime, which is set to increase.

The meeting also addressed the request to reduce or stop deductions from dentists' salaries if they work in the private sector, as long as they fulfill all required duties and working hours.

Additionally, they discussed proposals to allow general practitioners to work in the private sector once they achieve the title of Senior General Practitioner (B), and for Master's degree holders once they attain the title of Senior General Practitioner (A).

There were also discussions about reducing the licensing period for dentists to two years instead of six and adding the title of "assistant doctor" to support the private sector.

Further proposals included working with relevant authorities to allow experienced nationalities, such as lab technicians and nurses, to contribute to the sector, thereby raising its overall standards.

Other Voices

Reasons for Brotherhood's pain over the 'dissolution'

By Ahmed alsarraf

A senior figure from the Muslim Brotherhood described the government's decision to dissolve and halt all activities related to the National Union of Students -- an organization that was originally illegal -- as a more devastating blow than the dissolution of the National Assembly.

This admission not only reflects the depth of their pain but also underscores the magnitude of their loss, especially with regard to the "Future Brotherhood" incubator that had operated for over half a century.

Interestingly, the Brotherhood did not express regret over the dissolution of the National Assembly, but they were deeply affected by the dissolution of the Student Union. Many of their leaders condemned the decision because the union was a training ground for their future cadres. It's no surprise that they lamented its dissolution, ignoring the fact that the union's status had always been illegal, even after 60 years of existence.

Their refusal to legalize the union was a deliberate choice, knowing that obtaining a license would mean subjecting the union to oversight, requiring transparency over its records, sources of funding, and expenditures. The lack of a license allowed them to handle millions without scrutiny or accountability for decades.

One of the Brotherhood's sympathizers claimed that our campaign against the union was driven by hidden agendas. I challenge these accusers to produce the union's license, which they claim exists, and to identify any parties supposedly behind me or my agenda. I was the first to expose the union's violations decades ago.

Crying over the dissolution of the union in the name of defending union work, freedom of expression, and

democracy is pointless when the entity in question was illegitimate from the start. What is built on falsehood is inherently false.

The National Union of Students never represented genuine union work or served as a platform for free expression. Instead, the issue was far deeper, involving the control and exploitation of the union by a religious-political movement, using it to infiltrate the minds of young people.

For years, we've wondered why the union, especially in the last decade, never sought to obtain a legal license, despite the fact that it enjoyed support from lawmakers, ministers, and influential figures. The answer is obvious: doing so would not have served the Brotherhood's interests.

The National Union of Kuwaiti Students was never the democratic institution that some "Brotherhood writers" portray it as. Instead, it was a destructive force, particularly within its Kuwaiti branch, dedicated to nurturing Brotherhood supporters.

Anyone who claims the union was an official entity recognized by law is lying. The financial support it received from official bodies and its representation on the university council were results of political pressure, not a reflection of its legality.

This manipulation, driven by the Brotherhood, misled other official bodies into believing it was legitimate. But, much like Israel's spy Eli Cohen, whose high-ranking position and state benefits couldn't save him when exposed, the union's status remained illegal despite the benefits and support it received.

I mentioned to a senior official, as an example of the Muslim Brotherhood's deep infiltration into state institutions, that I believe the military apparatus is the least affected by their influence compared to other sectors of the state.

The primary reason for this is that the vast majority of military personnel did not attend university, which limited the Brotherhood's ability to reach them and exert influence.

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diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Cultivating integrity at work ...
A reflection on trust & betrayal’

“IN RESPONSE to inquiries about employees who neglect their duties or fail to advise others, Imam Ibn Baz, may God have mercy on him, stated: ‘You have heard that a key aspect of faith is fulfilling and safeguarding trusts, as God Almighty commands: ‘Indeed, God commands you to render trusts to those to whom they are due’.” columnist **Dr. Turki Al-Azmi** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“Trustworthiness is among the greatest traits of faith, while betrayal is a hallmark of hypocrisy. ‘And those who are attentive to their trusts and their covenants.’

“Therefore, it is the duty of every employee to uphold this trust with honesty, sincerity, and diligence, ensuring their conscience is clear, their earnings are legitimate, and they please their Lord. This is how they serve their country, the company they work for, or any entity they are part of’.

“Reflecting on this insight from Imam Ibn Baz encourages us to assess our decisions, commitments, and the integrity of employees, particularly our officials and advisors.

“As the years go by, some of us learn and share, while others may find guidance from God along the right path, even when it diverges from conventional wisdom. So, what is our responsibility regarding the trust placed upon us?

“It is essential to provide counsel to maintain a clear conscience. It is neither logical nor acceptable for someone with valuable experience and knowledge to witness errors and refrain from offering advice, even if the prevailing culture is dominated by self-serving individuals with no real impact, evidenced by unresolved issues persisting for decades.

“Every person, according to their expertise and knowledge, has a duty to fulfill the trust related to their role or state institutions.

“It is regrettable that we often learn about critical decisions, especially regarding end-of-service bonuses – which have led to numerous resignations among experts – living standards, and job security through social media.

“Let those who are wise and knowledgeable make their mark without being swayed by critics, hypocrites, or superficial thinkers.

“We are confronted with a new, foreign culture unfamiliar to the pioneers of the renaissance that our country experienced in the seventies. Where are the statesmen who stand for truth and fulfill their responsibilities?

“The real danger lies with those who act without insight. Insight, as explained in interpretations, is “a light that God casts into the heart, distinguishing between truth and falsehood, good and evil, virtue and vice.”

“We hope for a sincere approach in our lives as workers, officials, consultants, and writers, so that our advice is reflected in our words and actions. We must be cautious and not be swayed by any activist on social media, regardless of their notoriety. May Allah be our source of guidance.”

Also:

“Love, compassion, peace, tolerance, forbearance, selflessness, and other absolute concepts do not lend themselves to tangible evaluation. They are shaped by various circumstances and considerations but remain noble values that humanity has sought to understand and embody since the dawn of creation,” columnist **Suad Fahd Al-Moajel** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“In a widely shared clip, a young English woman, holding a megaphone, urged demonstrators to stand against the violence that erupted in Britain against Muslims last month. She praised their commitment to opposing all forms of violence, emphasizing that what they defend today is hope against hatred and the elevation of love over betrayal.

“The slogan ‘Love instead of hate’ has been a rallying cry for many protest and liberation movements. One of the most famous instances was during the Vietnam War, which inspired the phrase ‘Make love, not war’.

“This mantra significantly influenced the culture of an entire generation, affecting music, arts, literature, and even lifestyles and relationships. Following the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which lasted from 1992 to 1995, educational bodies from both sides came together, agreeing that school curricula should not include materials that would perpetuate the hatred spawned by the conflict.

“Austrian psychologist Sigmund Freud posited that hatred is rooted directly in aggressive instincts, coining the term “syndrome of the sexual and aggressive instincts.” This idea reso-



Dr Al-Azmi

nated with Einstein, who concluded that the human psyche has an innate urge towards hatred, destruction, and aggression.

“Thus, based on the views of these scholars and our own observations of human experiences with hatred, it can be argued that while completely eradicating hatred may be challenging, it is not impossible. Historical instances support this notion.

“Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi resisted oppression through peaceful civil disobedience, striving to mend the religious and national divides in India, ultimately expelling the British without firing a shot. Similarly, figures like Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., and the Dalai Lama exemplified this resistance.

“Greek mythology suggests that the universe did not emerge from order but began in chaos, with scattered particles colliding and separating, akin to hatred that divides rather than unites. Over time, these particles began to draw closer to one another in love and embrace, giving birth to the cosmos.

“In recent decades, as the frequency of wars has escalated, humanity has attempted to combat hate speech -- intensified by the rise of the internet and virtual connections between nations --through speeches, laws, and initiatives.

“Efforts to contain hatred, recognized as a primary source of conflict, have been undertaken by the United Nations and various national legislation, along with online appeals. Yet, hatred persists, perhaps because the scales of justice remain tipped and unstable.

“The challenge lies in the absence of a unified definition of hatred, leaving hate speech undefined and open to interpretation. Each country formulates its own understanding, enacting laws that regulate it.

“Some nations view freedom of expression as incitement to hatred, while others see public protests against their conditions in the same light. More extreme states, such as the Israeli entity, consider resistance to reclaim lost rights as incitement and hate speech.”

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“First and foremost, we want to clarify that the content of this article is just a conclusion and an important note for those closely following the events. It is not confirmed news or an official statement from a responsible source, or publication of misinformation, as it can carry serious consequences”, columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“As per the note, the country is undergoing a thorough cleansing process to eliminate corruption, forgery, and tampering of files. Therefore, do not expect anything until the fingerprint deadline concludes, as the issue of clearing nationalities is being handled by all state agencies in accordance with higher directives.

“What is happening now is a thorough internal reorganization aimed at preserving our national identity. Currently, we are witnessing a complete reassessment of national identity and the overall population structure, which has become essential for maintaining the balance needed for the public good.

“In addition, there is an increased focus on tracking down those who steal public funds, with referrals to the relevant authorities at their peak. Each morning brings reports of new discoveries related to encroachments on public funds. Efforts to deal with these issues are ongoing.

“The important thing is that the reform train has left the station, moving forward with strength and confidence. It will not stop until it reaches its final destination - a clean Kuwait, the jewel in the crown of the Gulf.

“Upon closer examination, we see that the cases currently under study, scrutiny, and investigation are rife with corruption. Every name uncovered often leads to many other names, some of which may be shocking. It makes the task far more complex than many might think.

“Moreover, it is not a quick process; it requires the combined efforts of all state agencies, and cooperation from citizens with evidence or information that can aid in the purification process. This endeavor will take at least a full year, if not longer, for the vision to become clear. The issues at hand are much larger than they appear, so we must be patient and wait for the results.

“Every citizen has the right to demand their rights, express their needs, and seek improvements in their living conditions. This right is guaranteed by the constitution. However, those calling for increases, allowances, and favorable loans should wait until the truth becomes clear and the good is separated from the bad. Only then will the state take the initiative to improve the living conditions of its citizens.”

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh

Cassation Court’s role in legal unification highlighted

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: President of the Court of Cassation, Justice Adel Boursli, has affirmed that the primary mission of the Cassation Court is to ensure the correct application of the law, and to establish and unify the legal principles that courts at various levels follow.

Addressing the judges during the General Assembly of the court on Sunday, Boursli stated: “Through your valuable efforts, you have participated in establishing these principles.”

Appeals acquits high school student of joining terror group

Rescue Police Dept handles 1,599 reports and records 5,671 violations in eight days: statistics

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Juvenile Court of Appeals has overturned the five-year prison sentence issued against a Kuwaiti high school student for joining ISIS and attempting to blow up the Quds Mosque in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. Instead, he was ordered to be placed in a care home for six months.

According to the case file, the student had joined ISIS, promoted takfiri doctrine, and called

on others to join via social media. He also learned to make explosives and attempted to carry out an attack on the Quds Mosque as well as expressed disdain for Shiites in Kuwait.

The indictment report revealed that the Public Prosecution had charged him with publicly challenging the rights and authority of His Highness the Amir.

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5,671 traffic violations cited: The Rescue Police Department recorded 5,671 traffic violations and dealt with 1,599 reports over an eight-day period, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to the department’s statistics for the period from September 14 to 21, 35 individuals in possession of suspected narcotics were referred to the Drug Control General Department, 219 wanted individuals were arrested on various charges, 41 suspected persons were detained for being in a disoriented state and in possession of alcohol, and 77 individuals were apprehended for lacking identification documents.

The department also seized 120 wanted vehicles, settled nine disputes, provided humanitarian assistance to 397 cases, and impounded eight vehicles.

Detention of ex-MP’s son, 2 others extended in ‘terror’ financing case

Court jails traffic officer to 3 months for insulting judge

By Jaber Al-Hamoud
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Criminal Court has decided to continue the detention of the son of a former MP and two citizens who are accused of financing ISIS, planning terrorist acts, and promoting “takfiri” doctrine. It ordered the session to be adjourned until the beginning of next month to summon the incident officer.



Mol photo

Captain Al-Faqan during his meeting with undersecretary of MoD.

In a related context, the same court denied the release of a female university graduate charged in a State Security case.

During the court session, she denied the charges of inciting the overthrow of the regime and insulting His Highness the Amir via the X platform, asserting that an expatriate outside the country wrote the articles for her and published them under threat.

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Traffic officer gets 3 months jail: The Misdemeanor Court, presided over by Judge Abdulrahman Al-Hareji, has sentenced a traffic officer to three-month imprisonment, which is suspended for three years, and a financial guarantee for good conduct. This ruling stems from charges of insulting and disrespecting a judge during a verbal altercation at a checkpoint in Jahra Governorate.

The court’s decision was based on Article 134, which stipulates that anyone who insults or assaults members of the judiciary may face imprisonment for up to three months and/or a fine not exceeding KD 300.

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Oct 7 vote buying case: The Court of Appeals has refused to suspend the two-year prison sentence issued against Saadoun Hammad and others for buying votes during the 2024 National Assembly elections. A session has been scheduled for October 7 to further consider the case.

Earlier, the Criminal Court had sentenced former MP Saadoun Hammad and others to two-years imprisonment with hard labor for their involvement in vote buying in the Third Constituency of the National Assembly elections.

During the court session, the defendants denied the charges, reiterating their previous statements to the Public Prosecution that they did not engage in any efforts to buy votes in the Third Constituency.

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MoH probes death of patient: The Ministry of Health announced that an investigation is underway regarding the death of a citizen in a hospital, following reports circulating on social media, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the ministry, the patient, who was suffering from a chronic disease, was initially being treated in one hospital. It was recommended

Al-Faqan discusses with Defense Ministry goals vital for both sides

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdul Mohsen Salem Al-Faqan, held discussions with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, during a visit to the ministry’s headquarters, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The meeting focused on strengthening relations between Kuwait Airways and the Ministry of Defense, particularly within the aviation sector, in alignment with the strategic goals of both parties.

The discussions centered on enhancing joint cooperation and building stronger ties to benefit both Kuwait Airways and the Ministry of Defense. The collaboration is seen as a key step toward promoting the nation’s interests and ensuring its prosperity.

Captain Al-Faqan expressed his gratitude to Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah for his dedicated efforts in fulfilling his national duty and wished for continued success in maintaining the security and safety of Kuwait, its citizens, and all residents.

that he be transferred to a specialized hospital equipped with better resources to manage his case; however, the family reportedly rejected the recommendation.

Despite this, the medical team and nursing staff continued to provide the necessary care in accordance with the patient’s condition.

After the patient was reported missing from his hospital room by his companion, the authorities were immediately alerted.

A joint search and investigation team was formed, and the patient was eventually found dead. The Ministry of Health confirmed that an official investigation is ongoing to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

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Marijuana found on man: A security inspection

campaign carried out by the Capital security forces in Sulabiikhat led to the arrest of an expatriate for the possession of marijuana, reports Al-Anba daily.

During the campaign, the securitymen got suspicious after noticing the bewildered demeanor of the expatriate when they asked him to present his civil identification card.

This prompted them to search him thoroughly until they found a bag of marijuana in his possession. He was referred to the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry for interrogation and other legal measures.

A security source said the expatriate will most likely be deported and banned from entering the country once proven that he is selling drugs.

Two citizens and 2 expats hurt in separate accidents

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: A two-vehicle collision in Block Two, Ahmadi – behind the Ahmadi Fire Station – resulted in injuries and damages to the vehicles and a lamppost, reports Al-Anba daily.

Initial investigations revealed the two vehicles were driven by citizens, one of whom is suffering from an unusual condition and was confined at Adan Hospital to determine the actual cause of his condition.

A case of damaging State property was registered at Ahmadi Police Station, classified as misdemeanor numbered 81/2024.

Also, two vehicles collided and one of them overturned on Salmi Road, causing minor injuries to two expatriates who were driving the vehicles, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source disclosed that passersby reported the accident to the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry. Security patrols and medical emergency workers were dispatched to the location.



Municipality photo

The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality has announced the results of recent inspection campaigns conducted by the General Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department of the Ahmadi Governorate branch, reports Al-Seyassah daily. The campaigns led to the issuance of 120 construction violations and the removal of 74 abandoned and scrap vehicles, which were subsequently transferred to the municipality’s garage where impounded vehicles are towed. The municipality also placed 325 warning stickers on the vehicles and got 25 formal pledges signed by the concerned parties.

WEDDINGS, UPTO 140

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Environmental issues to be reviewed

Council to address warehouse scarcity, food truck challenges

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its third meeting of its third term on Wednesday, chaired by Fahad Al-Abduljader.

The agenda of the meeting includes several important items, such as:

■ Two requests submitted by members Saud Al-Kandari, Fahad Al-Abduljader, Dr. Hassan Kamal, and Vice Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi, as well as member Ismail Behbehani.

The first request addresses the need for sufficient storage land to meet the rising demand for warehouses and the increased warehouse prices due to its scarcity for all activities.

The second request pertains to licensing basements designated for storage in investment buildings, with the necessary conditions.

■ A request submitted by members Saud Al-Kandari, Fahad Al-Abduljader, Hassan Kamal, Ismail Behbehani, and Farah Al-Roumi regarding the challenges faced by mobile food trucks and their lack of organization, as well as their impact on residential areas.

■ The letter submitted by the children of the late Sheikh Salem Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah requesting that a main street in Kuwait be named in his honor.

■ A proposal from a Kuwaiti citizen regarding the numbering of investment buildings

■ A complaint submitted by Al-Salaam International Regulatory Company.

■ A letter from the Kuwait Teachers Society concerning parking spaces allocated for teachers at schools.

■ A proposal to increase registration fees in the bidders' registry and to reassess the fees for selling auction documents and company qualification brochures.

In a related context, the Environmental Affairs Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its meeting on Thursday, chaired by Alia Al-Farsi, to discuss eight items on its agenda. They include:

■ A letter from the Green Wall of Kuwait Association regarding potential cooperation with the Municipal Council.

■ The executive body's response to member Sherifa Al-Shalfan's proposal for preserving the cleanliness of the marine environment.

■ A proposal from a Kuwaiti woman about helping residents, reducing burdens, and promoting recycling.

■ A proposal submitted by members Fahad Al-Abdul Jader, Farah Al-Roumi, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Ismail Bahbahni, and Nasser Al-Jadaan regarding the underground placement of garbage containers.

■ The minutes of the committee's first workshop of the second term held in September 2023

■ A proposal from the committee's chair Alia Al-Farsi concerning the removal of bulky residential waste.

■ A proposal submitted by members Alia Al-Farsi, Munira Al-Amir, Sherifa Al-Shalfan, and Farah Al-Roumi regarding the allocation of specific areas for windbreaks in Kuwait based on an integrated plan.

Al-Huwailah pushes for new law to safeguard cooperative sector

MoSA focuses on Kuwaitization and accountability



Farwaniya Governor poses for a photo with Municipality officials.

Farwaniya Gov engages municipal officials to enhance public service

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Athbi held a meeting with key municipal leaders, including Eng. Nawaf Al-Kandari, Deputy Director General of the Municipality Sector for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates; Eng. Mohammed Al-Jabaa, Director of the General Cleaning and Road Occupations Department; and Eng. Mohammed Al-Jalawi, Member of Central Operations at the governorate's office, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Governor welcomed the officials and commended the Kuwait Municipality's efforts to improve the area's infrastructure, particularly within Farwaniya Municipality. He emphasized the necessity of ongoing collaboration to enhance municipal services for the community. During the discussions, Sheikh Athbi highlighted the significance of addressing local issues and challenges faced by the governorate, as well as exploring effective solutions to improve service delivery.

PAAET adjusting seats for student specializations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Dean of Admission and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Fawzi Al-Dokhi said the administration of the authority assigned his office to review the number of seats in each course to accommodate the students who want to change their fields of specialization; while maintaining the specified quota for each specialization, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Dokhi disclosed that after the review, a decision was issued to increase the seats in certain specializations based on the manpower needs of the labor market and the capacity of the departments with the approval of the administrations of the concerned colleges.

He advised the students, who applied for a change in specialization, to log into their personal accounts on the website of PAAET to know the specializations in which they were accepted.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that the ministry is currently reviewing a new law for cooperative sector, which aims to eliminate many loopholes to safeguard public funds and protect shareholders' rights, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Huwailah said the study will cover several important aspects, including the Kuwaitization of cooperative societies, attracting citizens to cooperative work, and evaluating elections within cooperatives.

She stressed the keenness to adopt mechanisms that promote and develop cooperative work with government support, enhance services for shareholders, and create modern development plans, and upgrade the cooperative systems to align with global developments.

Dr. Al-Huwailah indicated that data will be collected for digital transformation and the electronic inventory of cooperative societies in order

to achieve transparency, facilitate the tracking of goods, and prevent tampering.

Meanwhile, Dr. Al-Huwailah announced the activation of the law requiring public benefit societies and charitable foundations to disclose their financial data. This law will mandate these organizations to publish audited financial information, which will be accessible for viewing on the ministry's website.

She affirmed that the cooperative movement is a priority for the political leadership and that the Ministry of Social Affairs is committed to sponsoring and developing it.

Al-Huwailah highlighted that this commitment aims to foster effective participation of cooperative societies in the national economy by enhancing the legislative and regulatory environment, as well as improving financial, administrative systems, and marketing policies.

She noted that the Kuwaiti cooperative movement is pioneering, having emerged from the community as a natural reflection of the cooperative spirit of past generations, adding, "These cooperative ideas have evolved into what we see today."

- Five ongoing plans:**
1. Developing the cooperative sector
 2. Promoting the Kuwaitization of cooperative societies
 3. Preserving public funds
 4. Protecting shareholders' rights
 5. Updating cooperative societies' systems

September

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Part of the aid distribution.

KUNA photo

KRCS distributes aid in northern Sudan

Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) team distributed humanitarian aid to people affected by the flood in Alabediah, northern Sudan.

Head of KRCS team Abdulrahman Al-Saleh said to KUNA that the team reached the town of Alabediah, 600 kilometers from Port Sudan, which witnessed floods that destroyed almost 700 house and damaged the infrastructure.

He added that they directly distributed relief and food aid to families in

need, noting the team is studying the situation to distribute what is necessary in the next step of Kuwait's air bridge.

Al-Saleh praised the efforts of Sudanese people and official bodies that helped KRCS in reaching the affected areas, and thanked Sudan's Red Crescent Society as well as Kuwait's ambassador to Sudan Dr Fahad Al-Dhaferi.

He also affirmed that KRCS continues to provide support and aid to the Sudanese people to overcome this flood crisis. (KUNA)

Abdullah Al-Salem University accepts first batch of 40 students for Master's programs

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Abdullah Al-Salem University has announced the first batch of 40 students has been accepted into its Master's programs for the academic year 2024/2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The students were accepted into four key programs -- Energy Systems Engineering, Finance, Risk Management and Financial Technology, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity.

Dr. Moudi Al-Hamoud, Chairperson of the University's Founding Board of Directors, explained that the selection process was based on the students' overall average, followed by personal interviews to assess their readiness for the programs and their potential to contribute to research or teaching activities at the university.

Al-Hamoud emphasized the university's commitment to supporting postgraduate studies and scientific research, prioritizing Kuwaiti students and providing resources to help them complete their research projects.

The university will also offer grants to students involved in teaching or research activities.

Accepted students will be contacted via email to complete their admission procedures, with the final registration deadline set for 2:00 pm next Tuesday.

Al-Hamoud also mentioned that the university will soon announce the start of applications for the next academic year's graduate studies programs (2025/2026).



Name of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students removed from the facade of the building designated for the union at the university's Khaldiya campus.

KU removes 'Student Union' name from designated bldg

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Kuwait University has officially removed the name of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students from the facade of the building designated for the union at the university's Khaldiya campus, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This decision follows the Council of Public Universities recent approval to suspend and halt all electoral activities across higher education institutions, including universities and colleges both inside and outside Kuwait.

The move reflects a significant shift in student representation and electoral processes within the country's educational system.

The decision has sparked a debate as it affects not only local institutions but also Kuwaiti students studying abroad.

PAFN closely monitors school cafeterias

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Director General of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij affirmed the authority ensures that the school cafeterias serve healthy products to the students, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Fulaij emphasized that the authority is closely monitoring products sold in school cafeterias and allows the sale of such products only if the supplier meets all conditions. She stated: "The role of the authority in school cafeterias is pivotal. We formed a committee tasked to monitor school cafeterias and the products they offer; espe-

cially the food items, in coordination with the ministries of Health and Education.

Companies usually submit an application to supply products for school cafeterias to the Ministry of Education. Based on the agreements between PAFN and the ministry, the latter sends a request to the authority, then its Community Nutrition Sector will analyze the food and other products, which will be sold in school cafeterias.

The product evaluators include nutritionists whose role is to promote preventive nutrition for children, mothers and society as a whole.

LOCAL

Kill rumors

Continued from Page 1

Over the past two months, social media has become a major source of hearsay regarding various issues and decisions, leading to public anxiety. This was quite evident when rumors began to spread about the end-of-service benefits for employees nearing retirement.

Due to the concerned authority's delayed response in providing clarification, a significant number of individuals opted for early retirement, resulting in negative consequences for many.

Weeks later, a hesitantly released clarification failed to satisfy the staff, instead only deepening their confusion and allowing the rumor to persist.

Furthermore, the malfunction in the Ministry of Health's "system" went unreported, with no official from this sensitive ministry stepping forward to explain what had occurred, making it seem as if the incident took place in another country. The full extent of the harm suffered by citizens remained unknown.

The same confusion surrounded the Kuwait-Iraq match during the World Cup qualifiers. Speculation began to rise regarding the Kuwait Football Association, creating an impression that accountability was being addressed, yet the matter remained unresolved.

On the contrary, the ministers seem preoccupied with investigating dubious accounts, most of which originate from outside Kuwait and are nearly impossible to shut down.

To counter rumors, a counterattack through the timely dissemination of accurate information is necessary. If a rumor turns out to be true, it is important to address and correct the situation swiftly.

Unfortunately, the current Council of Ministers appears to be adopting the same strategy as its predecessor, resulting in zero effort in this area.

This reflects a form of corruption that we were hopeful that we had started eliminating through a precise reform process, which is by activating the role of public relations departments in all state institutions, appointing official spokespersons, and refraining from outsourcing the communication aspect to third parties whose goals may not align with those of the ministers and the Council of Ministers.

Mol wages

Continued from Page 1

He pointed out the severe psychological disorders that drugs can cause, including anxiety, stress, depression, hallucinations, suicidal thoughts, and a loss of motivation to achieve anything positive. Drug addiction warps the addict's view of life into one of pessimism and can lead to conditions like schizophrenia, delusions, and paranoia.

Experts also emphasized the crucial role of parents in this battle, urging them to guide their children, instill Islamic values, and stay alert to any changes in their behavior.

Lawyer Adhbi Al-Tahnoon emphasized that the Ministry of Interior is making significant efforts in tracking down the sources of drugs. Investigations with drug dealers and users are focused on identifying the major kingpins who lead the trade in narcotics.

Al-Tahnoon noted that the Kuwaiti judiciary takes a very strict stance in drug-related cases. Only the innocent escape punishment, while those convicted face severe penalties, ranging from imprisonment to execution or life sentences, which serve as a deterrent to all.

With ongoing efforts and increased vigilance, these specialists believe that Kuwait can safeguard its youth from falling prey to addiction.

The Ministry of Education is calling for increased attention to the role of psychological and social specialists in schools to combat the rising issue of addiction among students.

The officials emphasized the need for more intensive training programs for specialists to equip them with the skills to manage and address the behaviors of young addicts.

These specialists are also tasked with guiding families on how to deal with their children at home, as recent years have seen a troubling increase in addiction rates among younger students, including those in middle school.

The Ministry highlighted the importance of early intervention, noting that children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to dangerous behaviors during these critical developmental stages. They also stressed the significant responsibility of parents in instilling values and morals in their children to help prevent addiction and other harmful behaviors.

In addition to schools and families, the Ministry pointed out the vital role of mosques, places of worship, the media, and civil society institutions in spreading awareness and promoting preventive measures against the scourge of drugs. By working together, they believe Kuwait can shield its youth from falling prey to addiction.

He added that the Ministry of Interior, under the leadership of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, has placed great emphasis on combating all forms of drugs through large, successive campaigns.

These operations have resulted in the seizure of large quantities of narcotics and the arrest of numerous drug dealers and traffickers of psychotropic substances that have become more prevalent in recent times.

In its review, the Al-Seyassah newspaper monitored the drug seizures and anti-narcotics operations carried out by the Ministry of Inte-

rior over the past three months.

For instance, on the first day of June, Hawally Security Directorate arrested a person in possession of suspected drugs, psychotropic substances, a firearm, and drug paraphernalia, with pending arrest warrants. On the same day, another individual with similar charges was arrested with suspected narcotics.

On June 4, six individuals, including five citizens and one woman, were apprehended. Two of them were employees of the General Administration of Customs, and they were found in possession of nearly one million capsules of the drug Lyrica.

The recent anti-drug operations in Kuwait highlight the growing efforts of the Ministry of Interior to combat drug trafficking and smuggling. Below is a summary of key seizures and arrests in recent months:

June 24, 2024 — Security forces seized mobile phones, sharp weapons, and suspected narcotics from several inmates.

July 6, 2024 — Authorities arrested 25 defendants in 14 separate cases, confiscating approximately 7,250 kilograms of various narcotics.

July 18, 2024 — An attempt to smuggle 160 kilograms of hashish by sea was thwarted, leading to the arrest of four suspects involved in the trafficking operation.

August 1, 2024 — Three individuals were arrested for running a psychotropic substance factory in a desert area. The raid yielded 90.5 kilograms of various narcotics, 600,000 psychotropic pills, 12 manufacturing devices, and a sensitive scale.

August 9, 2024 — Security forces seized 80 kilograms of the drug Shabu.

August 18, 2024 — Authorities foiled a smuggling attempt involving 164 kilograms of narcotics.

August 21, 2024 — 15 kilograms of drugs were confiscated.

August 22, 2024 — Several people were arrested in possession of narcotics, psychotropic substances, and alcohol.

August 25, 2024 — A criminal network specializing in drug smuggling from a European country was dismantled, leading to the arrest of five defendants.

September 3, 2024 — Security services seized approximately 24 kilograms of various drugs, 28,500 psychotropic pills, marijuana seedlings, six unlicensed firearms, ammunition, and a large sum of money.

September 6, 2024 — Anti-narcotics officers thwarted a smuggling attempt involving 1.5 kilograms of pure heroin.

September 14, 2024 — A secret Lyrica manufacturing factory, operated by a stateless person, was seized.

September 15, 2024 — A liquor factory run by two Asian nationals was discovered and dismantled in a desert area in the north of the country.

September 17, 2024 — Two individuals were arrested in possession of approximately 150,000 psychotropic tablets and four firearms, along with ammunition, in a northern desert area.

September 18, 2024 — A stateless person was arrested with 12 kilograms of narcotics and 30,000 psychotropic capsules.

These operations demonstrate the increasing vigilance and success of Kuwaiti authorities in combating drug-related crimes across the country.

Gulf FMs

Continued from Page 1

Gulf bloc countries play a vital role in UN, as the latter became largely reliant on gulf efforts and initiatives, stated Al-Budaiwi adding that this makes gulf countries a main partner for cooperation and strategic partnerships.

Member states are working continuously to expand international relations, achieve common interests and guarantee international peace and security, he affirmed.

Chairing the meeting was Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya took part in 19th ministerial dinner on peace in the Middle East, hosted jointly by Qatari Premier and Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Thani, Chief of International Peace Institute (IPI) Zeid Al-Hussien and Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell.

The dinner, convened at IPI's headquarters on the sidelines of United Nations 79th General Assembly in New York, handled a slew of issues and challenges facing the Middle East, at the forefront of which is the Palestinian issue and current developments in Gaza Strip.

The Foreign Ministers exchanged visions and ideas on mechanisms of addressing such challenges, discussed related international movements, and ways of instilling peace and security in the region.

Kuwait flags

Continued from Page 1

"This is a regrettable stark example of using double standards in the implementation of the international law, which should have no room in our future, otherwise the world order could degenerate into jungle law," he cautioned.

On the fifth chapter of the pact, "Transforming Global Governance," His Highness the Crown Prince urged the international community to step up the efforts to reform the international order in a ways that could reflect the current reality and challenges, and lead to a more effective,

more inclusive, and more transparent UN Security Council.

"Since its independence in 1961, the State of Kuwait has been keen on promoting development in the developing and least developed countries through Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development," he said, noting that KFAED offered up to 1.073 grants and soft loans to 105 countries.

His Highness the Crown Prince added that Kuwait has made tangible successes in the implementation of the national development plan and Kuwait Vision 2035, and the realization of the goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those related to eradication of poverty and hunger, and provision of quality education for all.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah called, Sunday, on the international community to recommit themselves to the principles of international peace and security, and the provisions of the international laws and conventions, and to deal with each other on equal terms, and do away with double standards.

His Highness the Crown Prince made his remarks during a speech on the Summit of the Future at the UN HQ in New York.

"The ongoing genocide in Palestine, which claimed more than 41,000 lives so far, mainly women and children, is a stark reminder of the inability of the UN Security Council to halt the aggression.

"This is a regrettable stark example of using double standards in the implementation of the international law, which should have no room in our future, otherwise the world order could degenerate into jungle law," he cautioned.

The Israeli occupation forces did destroy hospitals, schools, residential areas, and refugee camps since the start of the aggression.

The death toll from the ongoing Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza Strip since October 7th has risen to 41,431 Palestinians killed and 95,818 wounded.

Elsewhere, Lebanese Prime Minister, Najib Mikati stated on Monday that Lebanon was currently facing a war of extermination that aims to exterminate and destroy Lebanese villages and towns by the Israeli occupation, said Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA).

Mikati added that the government was working to halt the ongoing Israeli aggression and was doing everything possible to avoid further escalation in the region.

The Prime Minister also called on the UN, the UNSC, and the world powers to stand with justice and deter the Israeli occupation's aggression, and reaffirmed Lebanon's full commitment to UN Resolution 1701.

Mikati also pointed to the UN Secretary General's warning regarding the risk of southern Lebanon becoming "another Gaza," stressing that this concern should serve as a wake-up call, and urged the international community to pressure Israeli occupation forces into ceasing their attacks and complying with UN Security Council Resolution 2735.

He reaffirmed Lebanon's support for resolving the Palestinian issue through the two-state solution, advocating for a just and comprehensive peace.

Israeli strikes killed more than 270 Lebanese Monday in the deadliest and most intense barrage in nearly a year as the Israeli military warned residents in southern and eastern Lebanon to evacuate their homes ahead of a widening air campaign against Hezbollah.

Thousands of Lebanese fled the south, and the main highway out of the southern port city of Sidon was jammed with cars heading toward Beirut in the biggest exodus since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war. More than 400 other people were injured in the strikes.

The Israeli military announced that it hit some 300 targets Monday, saying it was going after Hezbollah weapons sites. Some strikes hit in residential areas of towns in the south and the eastern Bekaa Valley. One strike hit a wooded area as far away as Byblos in central Lebanon, more than 80 miles from the border north of Beirut.

The military said it was expanding the airstrikes to include areas of the Bekaa Valley, along Lebanon's eastern border. Hezbollah has long had an established presence in the Bekaa Valley, which runs along the Lebanese-Syrian border, and it is where the group was founded in 1982 with the help of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said residents of the valley must immediately evacuate areas where Hezbollah is storing weapons.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah said in a statement that it fired dozens of rockets at an Israeli military post in Galilee. It also targeted for a second day the facilities of the Rafael defense firm, headquartered in Haifa.

As Israel carried out the attacks, Israeli authorities reported a series of air-raid sirens in northern Israel warning of incoming rocket fire from Lebanon.

Earlier Monday, Israel issued a broad warning urging residents of southern Lebanon to evacuate from homes and other buildings where it claimed Hezbollah has stored weapons.

It was the first warning of its kind in nearly a year of steadily escalating conflict and came after a particularly heavy exchange of fire on Sunday. Hezbollah launched around 150 rockets, missiles and drones into northern Israel in retaliation for strikes that killed a top commander and dozens of fighters.

There was no sign of an immediate exodus from the villages of southern Lebanon, and the warning left open the possibility that some residents

MEW okays clean water for South Abdullah Al-Mubarak

Ministry to upgrade power grid with fiber optics

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The South Abdullah Al-Mubarak Residents Committee announced that the Ministry of Electricity and Water has approved the washing and sterilization of the freshwater network in the area, marking the beginning of water delivery to residents.

The committee approached the Minister of Electricity and Water Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri to express the residents' concerns and urged officials to expedite the provision of fresh water.

According to sources in the ministry, water will first be delivered to 3,260 plots, along with the sub-

stations of the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak project.

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare has reported that the actual occupancy rate of the South Abdullah Housing Project has reached



Dr Boushahri

52.32 percent. However, it has received numerous complaints from citizens regarding the ongoing lack of fresh water delivery to the plots. Meanwhile, the ministry has completed a plan to develop and modernize the electricity transmission network. This plan includes a project to supply, install, and extend underground fiber optic cables comprising 48 fibers, spanning a total length of 1,500 kilometers within

the electricity transmission network. The new cables will be installed between existing main transformer stations. They will replace the traditional ground wire across 800 kilometers of high-voltage lines with an optical ground wire that contains 48 fibers. In addition, the plan includes supplying and installing end cabins for the optical fiber cables.

They noted that the project will be executed through multiple contracts, which will be offered via the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to specialized companies interested in competing.

The sources said the ministry has included the project in its current development plan to ensure effective implementation. The main goals of the project are to secure the demand for electrical energy, promote efficient consumption, optimize the use of electrical resources, facilitate digital transformation, and benefit from technological and scientific developments.

Council to address urban reorganization

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Technical Committee of the Municipal Council will hold its meeting on Tuesday, chaired by Municipal Council member Munira Al-Amir, to discuss six items on its agenda, with the main topics being:

■ A request to reorganize Block 14, which contains several plots, the Salihiya police station, and public facilities in Qibla, in accordance with the regulations for regulatory blocks.

■ The executive body's response to a proposal from member Abdullaif Al-Da'i regarding the study of rain floods before allocating new cities, particularly housing developments.

■ A proposal from the Chairman of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri to add new activities to the Ardiya Industrial Area.

Also, the committee will discuss a proposal from member Sharifa Al-Shalfan about separating bathroom cleaning contracts from new public cleaning contracts.

They will also review the executive body's response to a proposal regarding the Kuwait Bicycle Park, submitted by members Ismail Bebbhani, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Alia Al-Farsi, and Farah Al-Roumi.

could live in or near targeted structures without knowing that they are risk.

The increasing strikes and counterstrikes have raised fears of an all-out war, even as Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza and trying to return scores of hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. Hezbollah has vowed to continue its strikes in solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas, a fellow Iran-backed militant group. Israel says it is committed to returning calm to its northern border.

Associated Press journalists in southern Lebanon reported heavy airstrikes targeting many areas Monday morning, including some far from the border.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said the strikes hit a forested area in the central province of Byblos, about 130 kilometers (81 miles) north of the Israeli-Lebanese border, for the first time since the exchanges began in October. No injuries were reported there. Israel also bombed targets in the northeastern Baalbek and Hermel regions, where a shepherd was killed and two family members were wounded, according to the news agency. It said a total of 30 people were wounded in strikes.

The Lebanese Health Ministry put the death toll at 270. It asked hospitals in southern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa valley to postpone surgeries that could be done later. The ministry said in a statement that its request aimed to keep hospitals ready to deal with people wounded by "Israel's expanding aggression on Lebanon."

An Israeli military official said Israel is focused on aerial operations and has no immediate plans for a ground operation. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with regulations, said the strikes are aimed at curbing Hezbollah's ability to launch more strikes into Israel.

Lebanese media reported that residents received text messages urging them to move away from any building where Hezbollah stores arms until further notice.

Youth role

Continued from Page 1

For her part, Public Authority for Youth spokesperson Asrar Al-Ansari stated that the Authority's participation reflects its belief in the crucial role of youth in addressing climate challenges and sustainable development.

Al-Ansari emphasized the pivotal role of youth in tackling climate change and their creative contributions at all levels.

KUNA chief, Chinese official discuss media cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr. Fatima Al-Salem met on Monday with the Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Li Mingxiang.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance media cooperation between Kuwait and China, as well as other media-related issues of mutual interest.

During her meeting with the Chinese delegation at KUNA headquarters, attended by Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Zhang Jianwei, Dr. Al-Salem emphasized the importance of collaboration with Chinese media institutions.

She highlighted the significant role media can play in strengthening bilateral relations and providing an accurate portrayal of events and developments on both regional and international levels.

Dr. Al-Salem reaffirmed KUNA's



Zhang

Kuwait lauds

Continued from Page 1

Economist Fahad Bin Juma pointed to Saudi Arabia's economic achievements, stating that under the King and the Crown Prince, the Kingdom has reached significant milestones by its 94th National Day.

He noted that Saudi Arabia boasts the largest economy in the Middle East and holds the second-largest oil reserves globally, making it the world's leading oil exporter, and highlighted the impact of Vision 2030, launched in 2016, which has transformed Saudi Arabia's economy by reducing its dependency on oil.

He added that the Kingdom has achieved 87 percent of Vision 2030's targets, as announced by the Minister of Investment, and that Saudi Arabia's credit rating has been upgraded to 'A' with a stable outlook.

Saudi Arabia's 2030 Vision's success was evident in several areas, including the tourism sector, which reached 100 million visitors ahead of schedule, with a new goal set at 150 million.

Non-oil revenues have also grown significantly, now accounting for 52 percent of the Kingdom's GDP, also, Saudi Arabia has attracted billions in foreign investments, further strengthening its economy.

Economist Ahmed Al-Salem emphasized Saudi Arabia's global economic significance, noting that the Kingdom is a key member of the G20, a group of the world's largest economies.

He remarked that, while the Kingdom holds vast oil reserves, it is now recognized for its diversified economy and its status as a top destination for global investment.

Al-Salem praised the Kingdom's resilience in navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating strong economic flexibility at a time when many countries continue to grapple with its impacts.

As Saudi Arabia celebrates its National Day, the strong ties between Kuwait and the Kingdom continue to flourish, driven by mutual respect, shared goals, and a commitment to regional stability and prosperity.

Kuwait's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah congratulated on Monday Saudi Arabia on their National Day, wishing them further progress and prosperity.

In a statement to KUNA, he congratulated the Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad Bin Salman and the Saudi people on this special occasion.

He added that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait hold a strong historical

commitment to exchanging media expertise and developing content that serves the mutual interests of both nations, praising the long-standing historical ties between KUNA and China's Xinhua News Agency.

On his part, Li appreciated KUNA's vital role in developing the relations between the two countries and governments, as well as in highlighting strategic cooperation through joint projects.

He said that his visit to Kuwait aims to further advance bilateral relations and strategic communication, and promote intellectual exchange between the two countries, emphasizing the importance of strengthening cooperation between KUNA and Xinhua.

The meeting also addressed several issues of shared interests, particularly the enhancement of collaboration in digital news and content exchange.

Both sides stressed the importance of developing more effective and sustainable mechanisms for future cooperation.

As part of the visit, the Chinese delegation toured KUNA's editorial department, where they observed the workflow across its various divisions and news services, with a special focus on KUNA Smart Oasis and the use of artificial intelligence in content production.

brotherly relation in every field, praising the continuous support and role of the Kingdom with everything that concerns Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah wished the two countries peace and stability, under the leaderships of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and King Salman Bin Abdulaziz.

Sahel adds

Continued from Page 1

license services, where he specifies his name and the type of service required.

The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) has announced that the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has agreed to mandate that each GCC country extend insurance protection to its citizens employed in other GCC nations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This commitment was signed during the Council's twenty-fifth session.

The organization shared key insurance terms related to this initiative through its account on the X platform, highlighting aspects such as civil retirement agencies, the governing system, the host country and the employer.

Meanwhile, the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has stated that service providers must cease a customer's subscription to a free service once the designated period ends, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The authority emphasized that converting a free subscription into a paid contract is prohibited without the subscriber's explicit consent.

KAC eyes

Continued from Page 1

In a statement by the Airways, Al-Fagaan commended the cooperation and support from the Ministry of Information, which provided assistance to Kuwait Airways within the country and abroad.

He indicated that the meeting with Minister Al-Mutairi touched on cooperation between the Ministry and Kuwait Airways in upcoming events namely the 26th Gulf Cup in Kuwait next December and also Kuwait's participation in the upcoming Expo 2025 Osaka from April 13 until October 13.

He also indicated that discussions focused on promoting the (51 Kuwait) application and featuring it in flight on Kuwait Airways.

Al-Fagaan added that the two sides agreed on forming a team to establish a mechanism for future projects.

World News Roundup

Europe

Zelenskyy visits US plant

Scholz's SPD wins Brandenburg poll

POTSDAM, Germany, Sept 23, (AP): The Social Democrats of Chancellor **Olaf Scholz** won an election in the eastern German state of Brandenburg on Sunday, gaining a narrow edge over a growing far-right party, according to the vote count. The vote took place three weeks after the far right made gains in two other states in eastern Germany.

According to final results published Sunday evening by the state electoral administration, the Social Democrats (SPD) won 30.9% of the votes in the election to the parliament of Brandenburg, the state that surrounds Berlin. The far-right Alternative for Germany was a close second with 29.2%.

A new leftist movement, the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance, or BSW, came in third with 13.5% while the center-right Christian Democrats took 12.1%.

The first-place showing for the Social Democrats brought a reprieve to the beleaguered Scholz, whose three-party governing coalition has fared poorly in elections so far this year.

The Social Democrats have governed Brandenburg continuously since German reunification in 1990, and a loss there would have been a major setback for Scholz, who has his constituency in the state capital, Potsdam.

Scholz has said he would like to be the party's candidate for chancellor in next fall's federal election, and Sunday's vote was also being watched for what it might signal about his political future.

"It's great that we won," Scholz said from New York, where he was attending a meeting at the United Nations, according to the German dpa news agency.

But the success of the Social Democrats in Brandenburg - after defeats elsewhere - was largely credited not to Scholz, but to the efforts of the popular state governor, Dietmar Woidke.

He distanced himself from Scholz during the campaign and took the gamble of promising to resign in case of a win by the far right.

Survival

He was able to celebrate his political survival on Sunday night.

"It is an important victory for me, it's an important victory for my party, and it's an important victory for the state of Brandenburg," Woidke said after polls closed.

But he also said he felt the strong showing of the far-right party means there is work to do.

"They (the AfD) have achieved about 30 percent, a lot of voters have voted for the AfD, and that's too much. So we have to think about these results and we have to make our policies better," Woidtke told The Associated Press.

The far-right party has gained support amid a growing backlash against large-scale migration to Germany over the past decade and recent extremist attacks. Germany's economy, once a powerhouse, has been weakening, adding to a general feeling of malaise.

Sunday's vote followed a heated election campaign centered on the issues of migration, internal security and peace. Both the far right and the new leftist movement want to end weapons deliveries to Kyiv as Ukraine tries to defend itself against Russia's full-scale invasion. The Alternative for Germany won the most votes in the state of Thuringia and also did well in Saxony in elections held on Sept 1.

Also:

SCRANTON, Pa: Under tight security, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** on Sunday visited a **Pennsylvania** ammunition factory to thank the workers who are producing one of the most critically needed munitions for his country's fight to fend off Russian ground forces.

Rep. **Matt Cartwright**, a Democrat who was among those who met with Zelenskyy at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, said the president had a simple message: "Thank you. And we need more."

The Scranton plant is one of the few facilities in the country to manufacture 155 mm artillery shells and has increased production over the past year. Ukraine has already received more than 3 million of them from the US. Zelenskyy said he expressed his gratitude to all the employees at the plant.

"It is in places like this where you can truly feel that the democratic world can prevail," he wrote on X. "Thanks to people like these - in **Ukraine**, in **America**, and in all partner countries - who work tirelessly to ensure that life is protected."

Zelenskyy's visit kicked off a busy week in the United States. He will speak at the UN General Assembly annual gathering in **New York** on Tuesday and Wednesday and then travel to Washington for talks on Thursday with President **Joe Biden** and Vice President **Kamala Harris**, as he seeks to shore up support for Ukraine. The area around the ammunition plant had been sealed off since Sunday morning, with municipal garbage trucks positioned across several roadblocks and a very heavy presence of city, regional and state police, including troopers on horseback.



THE HAGUE, Netherlands: Ukraine on Monday accused Russia of seeking to illegally seize control of the strategically important Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait, as hearings opened in a high-stakes arbitration case between Kyiv and Moscow.

The hearings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration are the latest in a string of international legal cases involving Russia and Ukraine linked to Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea and its 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine, even as fighting continues to rage on battlefields in Ukraine.

"Russia wants to take the Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait for itself, and so it has built a great gate at the entrance to keep international shipping out while allowing small Russian river vessels in," Ukrainian representative **Anton Korynevych** told a panel of arbitrators.

The gate he referred to is a bridge built by Russia across the Kerch Strait after the annexation of Crimea. The \$3.5-billion, 19-kilometer (12-mile) bridge linking the Black and Azov seas carries road and rail traffic on separate sections and is vital to sustaining Russia's military operations in southern Ukraine.

Ukraine filed the case in 2016, two years after Russia annexed Crimea. It accuses Moscow of subsequently breaching a United Nations maritime treaty by building the bridge, barring Ukrainian fishermen from waters they traditionally fished, damaging the environment and plundering underwater archeological sites. Kyiv is seeking unspecified compensation.



The scene of a fatal Saturday night shooting outside Hush in the Five Points neighborhood of Birmingham, Ala., on Sept 22. Inset: This image provided by WBMA shows police tape near the scene of a shooting. (AP)

Search underway for suspects in Alabama mass shooting

Authorities have reported no arrests after a weekend mass shooting killed four people and left 17 others injured in what police described as a targeted "hit" by multiple shooters who opened fire outside a popular Alabama nightspot.

The shooting late Saturday in the popular Five

Points South entertainment district of Birmingham rocked an area of restaurants and bars that is often bustling on weekend nights. The mass shooting, one of several this year in the city, unnerved residents and left officials at home and beyond pleading for help to both solve the crime and address the broader problem

of gun violence.

"The priority is to find these shooters and get them off our streets," Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin said a day after the shooting.

The mayor planned a morning news conference Monday to provide updates on the case. (AP)

Politics

Harris raises \$27 million in NY fundraiser

Trump says, if he loses, '24 run will be last

WASHINGTON, Sept 23, (AP): Former US president Donald Trump said on Sunday that he doesn't "think" he'd run again for president in 2028 if he falls short in his bid to return to the White House in 2024.

"No, I don't. I think that will be, that will be it," Trump said when journalist Sharyl Attkisson asked him if he'd run again.

The comment was notable both because Trump seemed to rule out a fourth bid for the White House and because he rarely admits the possibility he could legitimately lose an election. Trump normally insists that could only happen if there were widespread cheating, a false allegation he made in 2020 and he's preemptively made again during his 2024 presidential campaign.

Trump would be 82 in 2028, a year older than President Joe Biden is now. Biden bowed out of the race in July following his disastrous debate performance and months of being hammered by Trump and other conservatives as being too old and erratic for the job.

Attkisson interviewed Trump for her show "Full Measure." Also during the 22-minute interview, Trump defended his record on the coronavirus pandemic. He took credit for the development of the COVID-19 vaccines developed during his presidency while also saying "they're doing studies on the vaccines and we're going to find out" if they are safe.

Trump said Republicans have become skeptical about the vaccines even as Democrats trust them.

Also:

NEW YORK: US Vice President **Kamala Harris** raised \$27 million at a packed **New York City** fundraiser on Sunday, her largest fundraising haul since she took over at the top of the ticket from President **Joe Biden**, according to a Harris campaign aide. Though Harris has far more money

than former President **Donald Trump**, the money will be needed to compete with pricey advertising by deep-pocketed outside groups that support Trump, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private fundraising details.

The blockbuster fundraiser was held at **Cipriani Wall Street** in a massive Greek Revival ballroom with over a dozen columns. Much of the crowd stood shoulder to shoulder as Harris needed Trump for refusing to debate her again.

"My opponent seems to be looking for an excuse," Harris told the crowd.

with others from the campaign have left of our own accord."

On Sunday, Robinson still expressed optimism that he could win in November over Democratic nominee Josh Stein, the sitting attorney general. Polls have shown Robinson trailing Stein. But Robinson said polls have "underestimated Repu-

when people register to vote.

But Johnson abandoned that approach to reach an agreement, even as Trump insisted there should not be a stop-gap measure without the voting requirement.

Bi-partisan negotiations began in earnest shortly after that, with leadership agreeing to extend funding into mid-December. That gives the current Congress the ability to fashion a full-year spending bill after the Nov. 5 election, rather than push that responsibility to the next Congress and president.

In a letter to Republican colleagues, Johnson said the budget measure would be "very narrow, bare-bones" and include "only the extensions that are absolutely necessary."

"While this is not the solution any of us prefer, it is the most prudent path forward under the present circumstances," Johnson wrote. "As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice."

"I feel very strongly that we owe it to the American people, to the voters, to meet once more before Election Day."

She reiterated that later, telling reporters after landing outside Washington, "We have more to discuss."

Trump has rejected more debates, saying Saturday that "it's just too late."

"Voting is already started," he said at a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina. Voters cast the first in-person ballots last week in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia, the states with the first early in-person voting opportunities. About a dozen more states will follow by mid-October.



'Dept won't provide security': A local Ohio elections board says the county sheriff's department will not be used for election security following a social media post by the sheriff saying people with **Kamala Harris** yard signs should have their addresses recorded so that immigrants can be sent to live with them if the Democratic vice president wins the November election.

In a statement on the Portage County Democrats' Facebook page, county board of elections chair Randi Clites said members voted 3-1 Friday to remove the sheriff's department from providing security during in-person absentee voting.

Clites cited public comments indicating "perceived intimidation by our sheriff against certain voters" and the need to "make sure every voter in Portage County feels safe casting their ballot for any candidate they choose."

A Ravenna Record-Courier story on the Akron Beacon Journal site reported that a day earlier, about 150 people crowded into a room at the Kent United Church of Christ for a meeting sponsored by the NAACP of Portage County, many expressing fear about the Sept. 13 comments. (AP)



Governor of Brandenburg and Germany's Social Democratic Party, SPD, top candidate for the state election, Dietmar Woidke, center, arrives at the party's election event after first exit polls announced in Potsdam, Germany on Sept 22. The Social Democrats of Chancellor Olaf Scholz won an election in the eastern German state of Brandenburg on Sunday, gaining a narrow edge over a growing far-right party, according to the vote count. (AP)



Robinson



Harris

America

Minneapolis shooting kills 2: Two people died and two teenage girls were among three others injured early Saturday during a shooting in downtown Minneapolis.

Police received a call about shots being fired just before 2 a.m. Saturday. Arriving officers found five people injured - two men ages 20 and 21, two girls ages 16 and 17 and a 21-year-old woman.

The two men died at a hospital. Police said the injuries to the others are not believed to be life-threatening.

Police say a fight between groups of people led to the shooting. One person was arrested on suspicion of inciting a riot.

Police will increase patrols downtown in partnership with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Metro Transit Police and a community group, Assistant Police Chief Katie Blackwell said, according to WCCO-TV. (AP)



Robinson's top staffers quit: Several top staffers in North Carolina Republican Lt Gov **Mark Robinson's** campaign for governor have quit their posts, marking more fallout from a CNN report outlining evidence that he made disturbing posts on website's message board more than a decade ago.

The campaign said in a news release Sunday that senior adviser Conrad Pogorzelski III, campaign manager Chris Rodriguez, the campaign's finance director and the deputy campaign manager "have stepped down from their roles with the campaign." Information on new campaign staffers would be forthcoming soon, the release said.

"I appreciate the efforts of these team members who have made the difficult choice to step away from the campaign, and I wish them well in their future endeavors," Robinson said in the release. Pogorzelski,



People taste Chinese tea during the Garden Tea Festival at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on Sept 22. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

‘US not responsible’

Bolivia on edge as street battles erupt

EL ALTO, Bolivia, Sept 23, (AP): Bolivia’s pro-government supporters and security forces confronted protesters loyal to former president **Evo Morales** in a street melee Sunday, the second such violent escalation this week as fears grew of further unrest in the Andean nation.

The protesters and counterprotesters hurled firecrackers, homemade explosives and stones at each other across a dusty sprawl in the city of El Alto, while riot police unleashed tear gas into the crowds. At least eight people were injured, Bolivia’s health ministry reported.

The standoff - erupting while thousands of Bolivians supporting Morales continued a weeklong 190-kilometer (118-mile) march to the capital of La Paz - spoke to the depth of the schism in Bolivian politics ahead of next year’s presidential election.

Morales and his former economy minister-turned-bitter-rival, current President Luis Arce, are vying to lead Bolivia’s long-dominant socialist party, known by its Spanish acronym MAS, into the 2025 vote. In recent months their power struggle has paralyzed the government, exacerbated the depletion of Bolivia’s foreign-exchange reserves and fueled street protests.

The rolling political crisis began in 2019, when Morales - who came to power in 2006 - was forced to resign after being reelected to a third term in a vote marred by accusations of fraud and mass protests. He left the country but made a dramatic political comeback a year later, returning to find he had retained widespread support among poor and Indigenous Bolivians.

Mobilized by Morales, bound together by misery over Bolivia’s economic meltdown and outraged by President Arce’s efforts to block the candidacy of their polarizing former leader, the marchers stopped Sunday on their sixth day of walking to sleep at an encampment 11 kilometers (7 miles) from El Alto, a sprawling city on a plateau above Bolivia’s capital.

Reflection

Seeking to portray the march as a reflection of Bolivia’s Indigenous highland culture as much as a political exercise, Morales - surrounded by supporters waving the multicolored flag dear to Indigenous Andeans that the leftist leader turned into a patriotic symbol when he served as the country’s first Indigenous president - praised his supporters’ “peace and enthusiasm.”

Other Morales supporters broke off from the march and pressed into the scrappy outskirts of El Alto, where security forces and supporters of Arce had massed in anticipation of their arrival. The protesters and counterprotesters clashed in the neighborhood of Ventilla as acrid smoke from burning tires and thick clouds of tear gas coursed through the streets.

Each side blamed the other for the violence. Morales accused Arce’s government of deploying “paramilitary groups to incite violence,” busing officers into El Alto to stir up trouble - a claim echoed by Bolivia’s ombudsman.

“It’s very sad that this government doesn’t pay attention to its conscience,” said Benita Cruz, a Morales supporter at the scene of Sunday’s clashes. “They are repressing the poor and most humble people.”

Also:

MEXICO CITY: US Ambassador **Ken Salazar** rejected accusations by Mexico’s president that the US was partly responsible for a surge in cartel warfare in northern Sinaloa over the weekend.

Sinaloa has been eclipsed by violence as two warring factions of the Sinaloa cartel have clashed in the state capital of Culiacan in what appears to be a fight for power since two of its leaders were arrested in the US in late July.

“It is incomprehensible how the United States can be responsible for the massacres we see in different places,” Salazar said in a news conference in Chihuahua on Saturday. “What is being seen in Sinaloa is not the fault of the United States.”

The arrests startled many because it appeared that the son of notorious drug kingpin **Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán** abducted an elder cartel figure, **Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada**, and flew them both to the U.S. to be detained. Such a violent outburst was expected in the wake of the arrests.

As the warring cartel factions and authorities have clashed in firefight, helicopters regularly circle overhead and military rove the streets of the capital. Families have said they are scared to send their children to school.

Meanwhile, bodies have appeared across the city, often left slung out on the streets or in cars with either sombreros on their heads or pizza slices or boxes pegged onto them with knives. The pizzas and sombreros have become informal symbols for the warring cartel factions, underscoring the brutality of their warfare.

MEXICO CITY: All countries have crimes that resonate. In Mexico, one of the modern day ones is the disappearance of 43 students from a rural teacher’s college in 2014.

Ten years later, it’s still not clear where the students from the Rural Normal School at Ayotzinapa are. Authorities believe they were killed, but have only turned up small bone fragments from three of them.

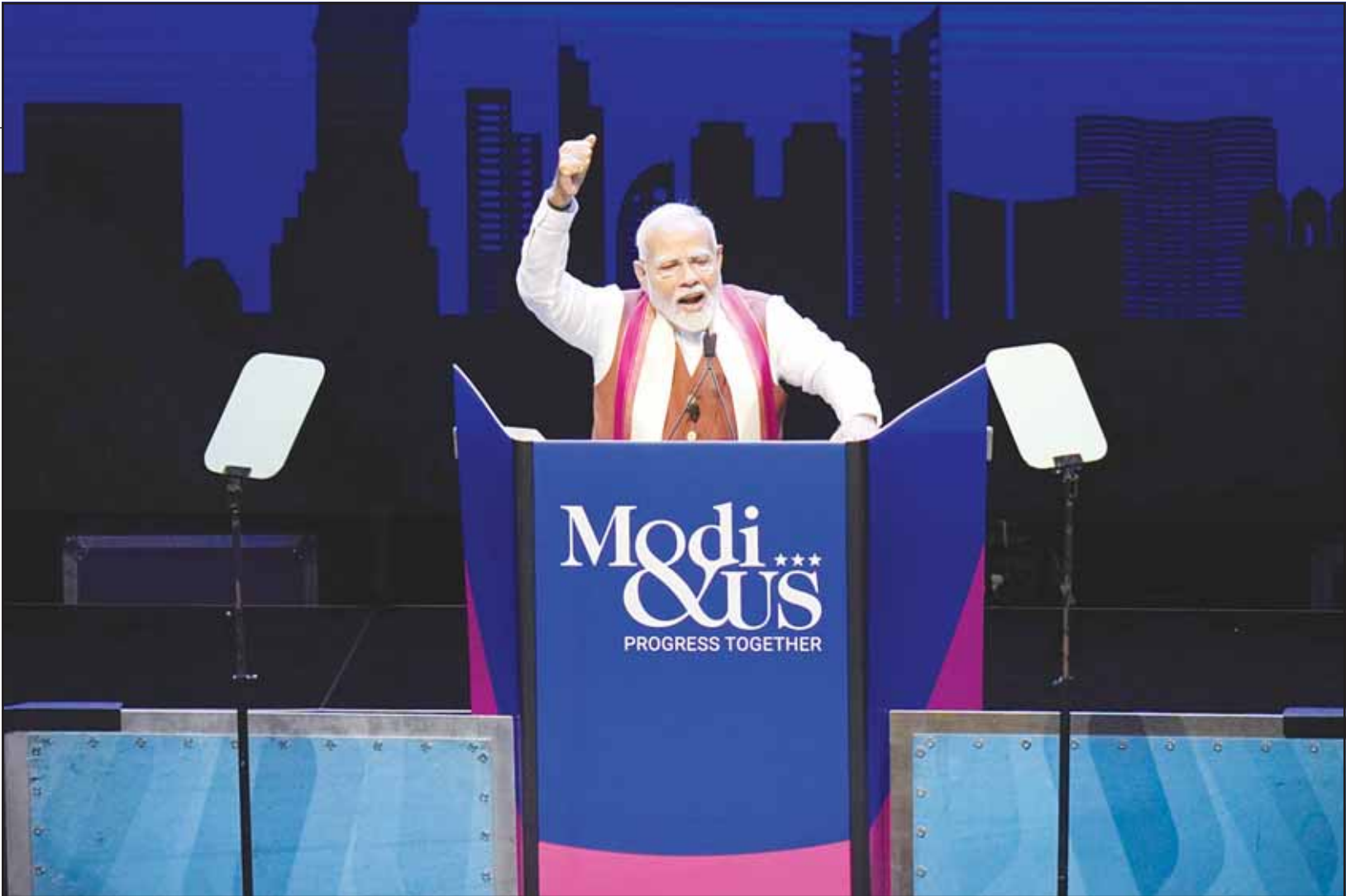
The families, with the support of the school known for its radical activism, continue to demand justice. They maintain a lack of political will is responsible for not finding the truth. If it was a “state crime” as the current administration says, the government must know what happened and who is hiding information.

In a country with more than 115,000 registered disappearances, this case continues to hold the public’s attention because it combined cartel violence and corrupt authorities and remains stubbornly unresolved.

It’s considered an emblematic case and another example of abuses that occurred decades ago in Mexico’s dirty war and were never corrected.

The students were attacked by security forces linked to a local drug gang, **Guerreros Unidos**, in Iguala, when the students were stealing buses to transport themselves to a protest.

During the administration of **Enrique Peña Nieto** (2012-2018), authorities said the students had gone to Iguala, Guerrero to protest at an event - the mayor, now jailed, was linked to local gang **Guerreros Unidos**.



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, speaks at an event in Uniondale, New York on Sept 22. (AP)

Subcontinent

TTP denies attacking convoy of foreign envoys

Dissanayake sworn in as Sri Lanka’s prez

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Sept 23, (Agencies): Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake was sworn in as Sri Lanka’s president on Monday after an election that saw voters reject an old guard accused of leading the country into economic crisis.

Dissanayake, 55, who ran as head of the Marxist-leaning National People’s Power coalition, defeated opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and 36 other candidates in Saturday’s election.

Dissanayake received 5,740,179 votes, followed by Premadasa with 4,530,902.

Challenges

In a brief speech, the new president pledged to work with others to take on the country’s challenges.

“We have deeply understood that we are going to get a challenging country,” Dissanayake said. “We don’t believe that a government, a single party or an individual would be able to resolve this deep crisis.”

Just before the swearing in, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned, clearing the way for the new president to appoint a prime minister and a cabinet.

The election came as the country seeks to recover from its worst economic crisis and resulting political upheaval.

He’s the ninth person to hold Sri Lanka’s powerful executive presidency, created in 1978 when a new constitution expanded the office’s powers.

Dissanayake’s coalition is led by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, or People’s Liberation Front, a Marxist party that waged two unsuccessful armed insurrections in the 1970s and 1980s to capture power through socialist revolution. After its defeat, the JVP entered democratic politics in 1994 and has been mostly in opposition since then. However, they have supported several previous presidents and been part of governments briefly.

The NPP also includes groups representing academics, civil society movements, artists, lawyers and students.

Dissanayake was first elected to Parliament in 2000 and briefly held the portfolio of agriculture and irrigation minister under then-President Chandrika Kumaratunga. He ran for president for the first time in 2019 and lost to Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Dissanayake’s first major challenge will be to act on his campaign promise to ease the crushing austerity measures imposed by his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe under a relief agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Wickremesinghe has warned that

any move to alter the basics of the agreement could delay the release of a fourth tranche of nearly \$3 billion. That economic crisis resulted from excessive borrowing to fund projects that did not generate revenue, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the government’s insistence on using scarce foreign reserves to prop up its currency, the rupee.

It led to shortages of essentials such as foods, medicines, cooking gas and fuel in 2022, triggering massive protests that forced then-president Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign. Wickremesinghe, then prime minister, was elected by Parliament to fill the remainder of Rajapaksa’s term.

Modi was reelected in June fol-

lowing a marathon election in which more than 640 million votes were cast over a span of six weeks in the world’s largest democratic exercise.

“This year, 2024, is a very important one for the entire world,” he said. “On the one hand, there are conflicts raging between several countries in the world, there is tension. And on the other, democracy is being celebrated in several countries of the world. India and America are also together in this celebration of democracy.”

Modi’s appearance in New York came a day after he attended a summit hosted by President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware, for leaders of the so-called Quad that also included Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan.

ince on Sunday.

The Afghan caretaker government has vowed to fight against illegal drugs, drug production, and trafficking across the country.

TTP denies involvement: The Pakistani Taliban on Monday denied involvement in a bombing attack on a police convoy that was escorting foreign ambassadors in the country’s restive northwest, as authorities said they were still trying to determine who was behind the attack, which killed a police officer.

The ambassadors and senior envoys were traveling on Sunday to the Swat Valley, a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban, when the attack occurred in Malam Jabba, one of Pakistan’s two ski resorts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Mohammad Khurasani, a spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), denied detonating the improvised explosive device that hit a police vehicle accompanying the convoy.

One police officer was killed and four others were wounded in the attack, which drew strong condemnation from Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other officials.

gratitude to the donors, saying that the donors’ contributions would greatly assist in rehabilitation efforts. (Xinhua)

Jeepney drivers start strike: Jeepney drivers in the Philippines started a two-day nationwide transport strike on Monday to protest against the government’s plan to remove decades-old jeepneys off the streets.

Piston, one of the two transport groups that have organized the strike, posted photos on social media early Monday, showing “stranded” passengers in the Philippine capital.

Transportation Undersecretary **Jesus Ferdinand Ortega** refuted the group’s claim, saying no stranded passengers existed. “We are maintaining and continuing our program of zero stranded passengers today,” he told a press conference.

The protesters launched similar transport strikes in the past months.

“The call of Piston and Manibela to scrap the program is non-negotiable,” Transportation Secretary **Jaime Bautista** said in a news conference. “These two groups cannot derail the program.”

Jeepneys remain the main mode of transport for millions of Filipinos across the archipelago. Government data showed that around 160,000 transitional jeepneys are running across the country. (Xinhua)



A supporter of Bolivia’s former president Evo Morales clashes with supporters of current President Luis Arce in El Alto, Bolivia on Sept 22. At least eight people were injured, Bolivia’s health ministry reported. (AP)



Ortega



Bautista

Asia

Accident in Indonesia kills 6: Six people were killed and four others injured in a vehicle collision on a highway in the Indonesian province of Central Java early Monday morning.

The accident took place in the province’s Pati region at around 2 am local time, involving a passenger bus and two semi-trailer trucks, according to a preliminary report by Pati Traffic Police.

Chief of Pati Traffic Police Asfauri told local media that the bus was carrying 28 people when the accident occurred. Four passengers and the driver were killed. The other deceased was a truck driver.

The deceased and injured were taken to nearby hospitals, and the cause of the accident was being investigated, he said. (Xinhua)

China, Nepal launch training: A joint army training, co-organized by Chinese and Nepali militaries, kicked off Sunday in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality.

This is the fourth iteration of joint training between the two militaries, with the previous session held in 2019.

Under the theme of “joint counter-terrorism operations in urban blocks,” the joint training will include small arms shooting in special operations, counter-terrorism squad tactics, drone operations, emergency rescue, and comprehensive counter-terrorism exercises.

The training will last until Oct 1. In addition to joint exercise sessions, the two militaries will engage in research and exchange on disaster reduction and relief in earthquakes, avalanches and landslides. (Xinhua)

Boat capsizes off Fujisawa: A boat carrying about 10 people on Saturday capsized off the coast of Enoshima in Fujisawa city, Kanagawa prefecture in Japan, local media reported.

According to local authorities, the incident occurred at approximately 4:50 p.m. local time, around 200 meters offshore, national broadcaster NHK reported.

With rescue operations underway, the current condition of the passengers remains unclear, the report added. (Xinhua)

Myanmar receives donations: Myanmar authorities have allocated 30 billion kyats (about 14.2 million U.S. dollars) and received donations for flood relief and rehabilitation, the state-run daily The Mirror reported on Sunday.

At a ceremony on Saturday, Myanmar’s State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing an-

nounced the allocation, saying that the government would utilize the allocated fund, alongside contributions from donors, for flood relief and rehabilitation.

A donation of over 32 billion kyats (about 15.2 million dollars) was received during the ceremony, the report said. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed



Volunteers clean a street on the World Cleanup Day in Adjamé, an urban commune of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on Sept 21. World Cleanup Day is an annual global event that is marked every third Saturday in September with the aim of combating the global solid waste problem. (Xinhua)

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
▲ SAUDI	- TASI	+49.15	12,129.62	▼ DUBAI	- DFMGI	-2.31	4,434.06
▲ JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+568.58	37,723.91	▼ EGYPT	- EGX 30	-15.87	31,022.54
▲ PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+164.27	7,417.25	▼ PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-90.64	81,936.63

Business

IFRS S1 and S2 standards highlighted in workshop on sustainability disclosure

Boursa Kuwait & United Nations’ Sustainable Stock Exchange initiative organize virtual workshop on latest sustainability disclosure standards

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Boursa Kuwait and the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (UN SSE) initiative will organize a workshop on the latest sustainability disclosure standards for market participants and interested parties today, Tuesday, September 24, 2024, in collaboration with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation and the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The workshop, which is conducted virtually by SSE Academy Head Ms. Tiffany Grabski and SSE Senior Specialist Ms. Lois Guthrie as well as Mr. Jarlath Molloy and Mr. Tim Kasim from the IFRS Foundation, allows applicants to participate in a CPD-Certified training workshop on the latest sustainability disclosure standards by the International Financial Reporting Standards, allowing them to ask questions and interact with the top experts on the topic.

The International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation launched IFRS S1, “General Requirements for Sustainability-related Financial Information” and IFRS S2 “Climate-related Disclosures” in June 2023, ushering in a new era of corporate sustainability-related disclosure to capital markets worldwide. These standards, developed by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), provide a global baseline for sustainability disclosures, providing companies with clear guidelines for globally consistent disclosure of sustainability-related financial information.

Boursa Kuwait’s Head of Markets Noura Al-Abdulkareem hailed the workshop, saying “Boursa Kuwait is committed to enhancing the awareness of participants in the Kuwaiti capital market, ensuring they stay informed about the latest trends, standards, and practices in the global investment community, particularly in ESG reporting and sustainability. As investors increasingly call for more comprehensive climate-related disclosures, companies are integrating climate risks into their regular sustainability reporting, fueled by a heightened awareness of the significant impact of climate risks and opportunities on financial markets. I



Noura Al-Abdulkareem



Tiffany Grabski

would like to extend my gratitude to the IFRS Foundation, the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative, and the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation for their valuable insights and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.”

SSE Academy Head Ms. Tiffany Grabski added that sustainability is no longer an option, but a necessity, saying: “At SSE Academy, we firmly believe that integrating sustainability into business practices is no longer optional—it’s an imperative for long-term success. Our goal is to empower companies to take a proactive role in this transformation by equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and strategies necessary to lead by example. By embedding sustainable development into the core of their strategies and operations, businesses can drive positive change, mitigate risks, and seize opportunities that contribute not only to their own growth but also to the

well-being of future generations.”

She added, “Boursa Kuwait has shown exemplary leadership in advancing sustainability within the financial sector. Their commitment to integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into their operations sets a powerful precedent for other exchanges in the region. By prioritizing sustainability, Boursa Kuwait is not only enhancing market resilience but fostering a more inclusive and responsible investment environment as well.”

The initiative forms part of Boursa Kuwait’s efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the community where it operates as part of its Corporate Sustainability strategy and ongoing efforts to equip all market participants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors’ needs. It is also in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals - of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Boursa Kuwait’s Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company’s corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

Volume of orders amounts to \$2 bln

Warba co-leads EQUATE’s USD750 mln sukuk offering

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Warba Bank announced the EQUATE Petrochemical Company K.S.C.C.’s USD 750 million sukuk offering, which found both regional and global success. Warba Bank acted as Joint Lead Manager, Joint Bookrunner and Kuwait Marketing Agent. The transaction was led by Citigroup, First Abu Dhabi Bank, J.P. Morgan, Mizuho and MUFG as Global Coordinators. KFH Capital and SMBC Nikko Capital Markets limited as Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners, in addition to Co-Managers including Bank ABC, DBS Bank Ltd., IMI-Intesa Sanpaolo, and Standard Chartered Bank. Books opened on Tuesday, August 29th 2024, and closed on the same day, received great interest from regional and international market participants, as the order book reached USD 2 billion, 2.6x the issuance size.

Warba Bank said in a press statement that this issuance is under the EQUATE Sukuk Programme denominated in US dollars, valued at USD 2 billion. The 7 year USD 750 million Sukuk was successfully issued with a fixed profit rate of 5.00%. The issuance was priced at a discount, with a reoffer price of 98.995% to yield 5.173%. The Sukuk were listed on the Global Exchange Market of Euronext Dublin.

The strong demand for the Sukuk was evident through its diverse allocation, which saw significant participation from a wide range of institutional investors across the globe:

- Banks and Private Banks received the largest share of the issuance, representing 56% of the total allocation, a clear indication of the banking sector’s confidence in EQUATE’s credit profile.

- Fund Managers accounted for 37% of the total allocation, highlighting the interest in high-quality, Sharia-compliant assets.

- Corporates, Central Banks/Official Institutions, Insurance, and Pension Funds collectively represented the remaining 7%, showing strategic interest in the Sukuk for balance sheet management and diversification purposes.

Geographically, the MENA region was the largest contributor, receiving 68% of the total allocation, followed by investors from the UK, Europe, Asia, and Offshore US.

In this context, Thuwaini Khaled Al-Thuwaini, Chief Investment Bank-



Thuwaini Khaled Al-Thuwaini

Al-Thuwaini:

- The high turnout reflects investors’ confidence in debt capital market capabilities.

- Warba’s expertise in Sukuk has drawn global attention and is swiftly becoming the go-to institution for Islamic debt instruments for investor and issuers, alike.

ing Officer at Warba Bank, said, “With the confidence of the market in hand, we succeeded in closing the sukuk issuance amid excellent market participation and reaction, which is a testament to Warba Bank’s strategic foresight and collaboration. It is a victory that reflects not only the strength of the offering but also the pulse of the market’s confidence and enthusiasm.”

Al-Thuwaini pointed out the importance of Islamic financing tools and their role in strengthening global financial markets, which is evidenced by the level of demand and interest of global investors in recent sukuk issued by regional corporates and banking institutions. He underscored Warba Bank’s path to remain a significant player in the debt capital markets for years to come by continuing to focus on growth and expansion as Warba Bank aims to extend its reach and services to both institutional and individual investors through its commitment to ethical banking and innovative strategies.

US army praises KASCO’s quality standards

KASCO successfully passes recent audits, renewing Halal certification

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Managing Director of Kuwait Aviation Services Company (KASCO) Abdulrahman Al-Kandari affirmed the keenness of the executive management to implement the policies and plans set by the company’s Board of Directors in order to develop performance and raise the level of services and products provided by the company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He highlighted the importance of adhering to the highest international quality standards, which greatly contributed to the company’s success in the recent audits conducted by various accredited bodies as well as the inspection tour conducted by the US Army Audit.

Meanwhile, the auditing body for the “Halal” certificate carried out an inspection tour to evaluate a number of work and production sites in the company to assess compliance to the

necessary standards.

Following the inspection tour, the Halal Certificate team expressed satisfaction with KASCO’s commitment to maintaining high-quality standards. As a result, the audit test was passed, and the “Halal” certificate was renewed. This proves the confidence that auditing bodies have in the company’s work procedures and product quality.

Meanwhile, Head of the Quality Control and Laboratory Office Hind Al-Enezi expressed confidence that the company would successfully pass audits of the contracting parties, especially concerning the “Halal” certificate.

She attributed this to the diligent efforts of the company’s employees in maintaining performance and adhering to the highest quality standards in line with food safety protocols and Islamic law, particularly in meat products.

Financial institutions in Kuwait borrow KD 708 mln in H1 2024

21.7% y-o-y growth in total financing balance

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: In the first seven months of 2024, financial institutions in Kuwait (excluding banks) borrowed approximately 708 million dinars from local banks, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

However, the last July data revealed a decline in financing, as banks provided only 82.5 million dinars to these institutions, a drop of 22.9 million dinars or 21.7 percent compared to June’s 105.4 million dinars.

On an annual basis, financing also decreased by 13.3 million dinars, or 13.8 percent, from 95.8 million dinars in July 2023.

The financing trends over the first half of the year showed varying amounts -- January saw 165.6 million dinars, February 165 million dinars, March 69.8 million dinars, April 58 million dinars, May 61.5 million dinars and June rebounded to 105.4 million dinars.

Despite the monthly decline in July, the total accumulated balance of financing provided to financial institutions increased by 0.7 percent, rising by 18 million dinars from 2.365 billion dinars in June to 2.383 billion dinars in

CBK Bonds, related Tawarruq

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced the most recent issues of CBK Bonds and re-

lated Tawarruq at a total value of KWD (240) million for (3) months with Rate of Return (4.125%).

July.

The year-on-year, this balance saw a significant rise of 21.7 percent, equating to an increase of 425 million dinars from 1.958 billion dinars in July 2023.

The consumer loans granted in Kuwait also experienced growth during the same period, increasing by 59 million dinars or 3 percent, reaching a total of 2.03 billion dinars by the end of July, up from 1.97 billion dinars at the close of December 2023.

KREC obtains KD 70.2 mln in loans

Real estate firms secure KD 818.05 mln in credit facilities

Ahmadi leads with 25 private & 7 investment contracts

Kuwait sees 124 real estate contracts worth 864 million dinars in one week

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: According to the statistics release by the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department of the Ministry of Justice has released statistics 124 real estate contracts were traded across the country during the week, worth 864 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to data published on the Ministry’s website, from Sept 8 to 12, private real estate contracts dominated, with 93 properties traded for a

total value of 41.4 million dinars. Investment real estate contracts followed, with 29 properties valued at 2.5 million dinars, while commercial transactions included two contracts worth 19 million dinars.

Geographically, the Capital Governorate recorded 10 private and three investment contracts. In Hawalli Governorate, 12 private and 13 investment contracts were traded, along with two commercial contracts.

tors, like warehousing and crafts, remain particularly attractive.

The average annual return on investment properties ranges between 6.8 percent and 7.8 percent across various governorates, offering competitive rates compared to other investment opportunities.

For example, returns in the Capital Governorate average 7.24 percent, while Ahmadi boasts an average of 7.5 percent. Commercial property yields are even higher,

with Farwaniya offering up to 8.81 percent. These figures make the real estate sector a vital pillar of Kuwait’s economy.

With the Central Bank of Kuwait recently reducing interest rates in line with the U.S. Federal Reserve, many real estate experts predict a surge in credit restructuring and new financing in the coming months.

This move is expected to activate further urban development, while also helping companies manage

Farwaniya saw 11 private and three investment contracts, while Mubarak Al-Kabeer recorded 22 private and three investment contracts.

The Ahmadi Governorate led in trading activity, with 25 private and seven investment contracts, while Jahra Governorate had 13 private contracts.

However, no transactions were reported for craft, warehouse, industrial, or coastal real estate during this period.

their debt.

Real estate experts also believe that if visa procedures and investment conditions improve for both local and foreign investors, Kuwait’s real estate sector could see even stronger occupancy rates and returns.

As the market adjusts to government decisions and economic conditions, the real estate sector remains a key player in Kuwait’s investment landscape, poised for continued growth.

Lower interest rates expected to boost loan growth and fee income

CI Capital predicts profitability decline for Gulf banks amid interest rate cuts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: CI Capital has indicated that while overall profitability for Gulf banks, particularly in Saudi Arabia, may decline, the recent decrease in interest rates is likely to foster growth in loans and fee income, while alleviating financing pressures, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The firm suggests that the initial drop in bank

rates presents favorable entry points for medium-term investors.

During this cycle of interest rate cuts, CI Capital advises adopting an unconventional investment strategy, focusing on banks that primarily lend to businesses.

The increased demand for loans from companies, driven by significant government spending on

projects, is expected to enhance lending activities.

However, the CI Capital notes that banks concentrating on individual lending will require more substantial interest rate reductions to stimulate a significant uptick in borrowing demand.

The firm projects a decline in net profit margins of approximately 20 basis points for the period of 2025-2026.

Chinese technology boots uptake of e-mobility in Africa: experts

Chinese green vehicle technology is boosting the adoption of e-mobility in Africa, experts said Friday.

Warren Ondanje, managing director of the Africa E-mobility Alliance, said in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that Chinese e-vehicle manufacturers have positioned themselves as key partners for the growing number of e-mobility start-ups on the continent.

“Chinese firms have played a key role in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in Africa,” Ondanje said during the Africa E-Mobility Week 2024 conference.

The five-day event brought together more than 200 delegates, including representatives from United Nations agencies, senior government officials and innovators from across Africa, to foster collaboration and advance the sustainable mobility movement on the continent.

Michael Muchiri, deputy superintendent engineer at Kenya’s Ministry of Roads and Transport, said that Chinese e-vehicle brands are attracting significant interest from environmentally conscious Kenyan consumers due to their high-quality, clean transportation solutions offered at affordable prices.

Muchiri said that taxi and public transport operators have embraced Chinese e-vehicles because their low operational costs make them more competitive than conventional fossil-fueled cars.

According to the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Kenya currently has an estimated 5,000 e-vehicles, comprising two-wheel, three-wheel, passenger and commercial vehicles.


Hilina Legesse, president of the Addis Ababa E-mobility Association, said that Chinese e-vehicles had facilitated Ethiopia’s enforcement of its ban on importing fossil-fueled cars, which took effect in January, by providing affordable green vehicles.

Legesse said that several Chinese e-vehicle manufacturers have set up local assembly plants to meet the growing demand for clean modes of transport.


Claire Liu, sales manager at Chogori Technology, a Chinese manufacturer of e-vehicle accessories, said her firm has partnered with e-mobility companies in Africa to expand access to and affordability of electric-powered cars on the continent. (Xinhua)

Partnership aims at elevating digital wealth and investment management


Gulf Capital Investment Company partners with Avaloq



InvestGB logo



Hani AlAwadhi



Avaloq logo

wealth and investment management capabilities, providing clients with a more streamlined and sophisticated service. InvestGB will adopt Avaloq’s advanced cloud platform, which is anticipated to revolutionize its core wealth management systems.

The Avaloq platform will unify all of InvestGB’s systems and data into a single infrastructure, enhancing service for both InvestGB’s and Gulf Bank’s clients. It provides benefits such as intuitive portfolio visualization, increased transparency with advanced self-service features, and the latest security measures, making investments more efficient and secure.

Additionally, the platform will enable Invest GB to streamline its

Workplace, will integrate client data into a unified view, automate tasks such as portfolio rebalancing and investment proposals, and allow relationship managers to concentrate on personalized client interactions.

Furthermore, InvestGB’s regulatory and compliance checks, including robust Know Your Client (KYC) processes, will be fully integrated into the platform, reinforcing the company’s risk management framework.

Mr. Hani AlAwadi, Chief Executive Officer at InvestGB, commented: “Our strategic partnership with Avaloq aligns perfectly with our commitment to innovation and our mission to deliver long-term value to our clients. By leveraging Avaloq’s advanced technology, we are enhancing our digital transfor-

Hani AlAwadhi:

■ “Our strategic partnership with Avaloq aligns perfectly with our commitment to innovation and our mission to deliver long-term value to our clients.”

Akash Anand:

■ “We are excited to partner with InvestGB as our first client in Kuwait.”

ules for investment consulting, fund management, and portfolio management, thereby increasing efficiency. Avaloq’s solutions, especially RM

Key US rate decisions helped

Asian stocks mostly up

HONG KONG, Sept 23, (AP): Asian stocks were mostly higher on Monday, supported by key rate decisions last week from the U.S. Federal Reserve, Japan, China and Britain.

U.S. futures and oil prices were higher.

Chinese stocks got a lift after the central bank lowered its 14-day reverse repurchase rate to 1.85% from 1.95% on Monday after opting to keep key lending rates unchanged last week. Markets had been anticipating a cut.

The Hang Seng in Hong Kong edged 0.1% higher to 18,281.74 and the Shanghai Composite index added 0.5% to 2,748.99.

Markets in Japan were closed on Monday for a public holiday.

Japan’s monetary policy remained in the spotlight after the Bank of Japan announced on Friday that it would keep its benchmark rate unchanged at 0.25%.

That weakened the Japanese yen, which tumbled back from last week’s peak of around 140 to the U.S. dollar. The dollar was trading at 143.98 yen on Monday.

Elsewhere, Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.7% to 8,152.90. The Reserve Bank of Australia begins a two-day policy meeting on Monday.

South Korea’s Kospi climbed 0.3% to close at 2,602.02.

On Friday, the S&P 500 slipped 0.2% from its record, closing at 5,702.55. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.4% 17,948.32. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, meanwhile, added 0.1% to close at another record high,

at 42,063.36.

Last week the Fed cut its main interest rate for the first time in more than four years, with more likely to come, ending a long run where it kept that rate at a two-decade high in hopes of slowing the U.S. economy enough to stamp out high inflation. Inflation has subsided from its peak two summers ago and Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed can focus more on keeping the job market solid and the economy out of a recession.

The Fed is still under pressure because hiring has begun to slow under the weight of higher interest rates. Some critics say the central bank waited too long to cut rates and may have damaged the economy.

Critics also say the U.S. stock market may be running too hot on the belief the Federal Reserve will pull off what seemed nearly impossible earlier: getting inflation down to 2% without creating a recession.

Last week, also, the Bank of England kept its main interest rate on hold at 5% in the wake of the Fed’s move.

This week will bring preliminary reports on U.S. business activity, the final revision for how quickly the economy grew during the spring and an update on spending by U.S. consumers.

In other dealings early Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil rose 44 cents to \$71.44 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, added 42 cents to \$74.91 per barrel.

The euro edged lower to \$1.1158 from \$1.1162.

LOS ANGELES, Sept 23, (Xinhua): With the gap between income levels and housing costs continually widening, the U.S. housing market has become increasingly unaffordable for homebuyers across all income levels, a trend experts say has accelerated since the pandemic.

Housing affordability in the United States hit a record low last year, the worst since 1989 when data collection began. Soaring mortgage rates, which averaged seven percent in 2023, have worsened the situation, according to the latest data from the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

The NAR’s Housing Affordability Index (HAI) for July 2024 dropped below 100 at the national level, indicating that the typical American family now earns less than what is needed to afford a median-priced home, Nadia Evangelou, NAR’s senior economist and director of real estate research, said in a recent mid-September analysis. The index has been staying underwater for four consecutive months.

Regionally, the U.S. West was the least affordable with an index of 69.1, followed by the Northeast at 87.9, while the Midwest remained the most affordable at 122.3, NAR’s July data showed.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in early 2020, has exacerbated this affordability crisis. In 2019, 59.2 percent of households could afford a median-priced home, but by 2024, that figure had plummeted to 32.6 percent.

Renters are faring even worse, with affordability rates dropping from 41.7 percent in 2019 to just 17.2 percent in 2024, Evangelou’s analysis revealed.

In April, Montana and Idaho surpassed California as the most unaffordable states for local homebuyers, with Hawaii and Oregon rounding out the top five, according to the NAR’s Affordability Distribution Score. This score, which assesses affordability across various income levels -- not just median incomes -- analyzes data from all U.S. states and the 100 largest metropolitan areas. A score of one indicates homes on the market are affordable to households in proportion to their income levels, while zero means no household can afford any homes on the market.

Since April 2022, all U.S. states have scored below one, with Montana at the bottom with a score of 0.38 and Iowa topping the list with 0.89.

At the metro level, Los Angeles-Long Beach leads as the least affordable metro area with a score of just 0.28, followed by other Southern California regions: Oxnard-

Europe drives ‘electrification’ goals for commercial vehicles

HANNOVER, Germany, Sept 23, (Xinhua): The electrification of Europe’s commercial vehicle fleet has emerged as a key focus at the ongoing Hannover motor show, underscoring the automotive industry’s accelerating push toward zero-emission transportation.

The International Motor Show (IAA) Transportation 2024, one of the world’s leading commercial vehicle events, drew nearly 1,700 exhibitors from more than 40 countries and regions.

The event brings together leading figures in the commercial vehicle sector to explore sustainable transport and logistics solutions, with a strong emphasis on achieving carbon neutrality.

Major European manufacturers highlighted the commercial vehicle’s growing shift towards electrification by showcasing new electric truck models at the event.

Daimler Truck presented the “eActros 600”, an electric truck with a range of up to 500 kilometers on a single charge, while MAN Truck & Bus introduced a light-duty electric truck capable of covering over 230 kilometers, with fast charging achievable in just 30 minutes.

Despite these innovations, diesel trucks still dominate European commercial vehicle market, accounting for 95.7 percent of new truck registrations in 2023. Electric trucks, though making up just 1.5 percent, have seen a notable rise from 0.8 percent the previous year, underscoring the sector’s gradual transition toward electrification, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA).

“Electric trucks are starting to show a clear advantage in total cost of ownership,” said one expert. “Lower toll fees, cheaper electricity, and reduced maintenance costs make them a more attractive option, especially for certain transport applications.”

Markus Heyn, member of the Bosch board of management and chairman of the Mobility business sector, said Bosch sees significant opportunities in the shift to electric powertrains and plans to restructure its commercial vehicle operations to capitalize on this trend.

The push for electric trucks comes amid increasing regulatory pressure. The European Parliament has mandated a 45 percent reduction in CO2 emissions from new heavy-duty trucks and buses by 2030, compared to 2019 levels. However, automakers caution that the transition will require significant improvements in charging infrastructure.

Christian Levin, CEO of Traton Group, a Volkswagen subsidiary, emphasized that the lack of adequate charging infrastructure remains a significant hurdle. He also pointed out the challenges of securing necessary permits, ensuring a stable supply of green electricity, and addressing pricing issues. According to Levin, all these factors must come together to ensure the long-term sustainability of electrification.

German Transport Minister Volker Wissing, speaking at the motor show’s opening, underscored the critical need for a robust charging network to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles.

Wissing outlined plans to establish 350 charging parks and 4,200 fast-charging points across Germany in the coming years, with the goal of electrifying one-third of the country’s road freight by 2030.

Daimler Truck, Traton, and Volvo have formed the joint venture Milence to address infrastructure concerns, announcing a plan to establish 70 charging hubs and over 570 high-power charging points across 10 European countries.

Menzies Aviation new cargo facility MPM.

New cargo facility established in Maputo

Menzies expands presence in Africa



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world’s airports and airlines, has announced the official opening of its new cargo facility at Maputo International Airport (MPM) in Mozambique.

The state-of-the-art facility means that Menzies can now handle cargo at MPM, increasing Mozambique’s freight capacity. This represents a significant expansion in Menzies’ footprint across East Africa, with the company’s regional customer portfolio set to increase over the coming months and years.

Boasting high-end facilities and cutting-edge technology, the new cargo warehouse enables Menzies to offer high quality, efficient and safe services to airlines, including launch customers Airlink and Qatar Airways.

The warehouse was officially opened at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday 5 September, where Menzies’ Senior Vice President Cargo (MEAA), AIA-nood AISuwaidi, was joined by representatives from Aeroportos de Moçambique, E.P., the Civil Aviation Institute, Customs of Mozambique and airline partners.

Menzies Aviation has been operational at Maputo International Airport since 2018, operating as National Aviation Services until 2022. It launched two exclusive, contemporary lounges at the air-

port’s international and domestic terminals and later expanded its portfolio to deliver comprehensive Meet and Assist and ground handling services at the busiest airport in Mozambique in 2019.

AInood AISuwaidi, Senior Vice President Cargo (MEAA), Menzies Aviation, said: “We’re thrilled to cut the ribbon on our new cargo warehouse in Mozambique. This cutting-edge facility will allow us to provide best in class services to our airline customers while supporting East Africa’s air cargo sector. This represents the next exciting step in Menzies’ cargo expansion strategy, which has seen us expand our footprint right across the globe.”

Several factors contribute to this worsening affordability situation. Beginning in 2022, as the Federal Reserve increased interest rates, mortgage rates became the primary driver of rising costs.

Additionally, a significant housing shortage, a result of years of under-construction since 2008, has further driven up prices.

“High mortgage interest rates and continually increasing home prices have pushed homeownership further out of reach for millions of potential buyers in 2024,” Harvard researchers noted.

Thousand Oaks-Ventura (0.31) and San Diego-Carlsbad (0.32).

Despite its reputation for a high cost of living, the New York-Newark metropolitan area fared somewhat better, with a score of 0.4.

Housing costs in California have long been higher than the national average. In recent years, these costs have grown substantially, in some areas, growing at historically rapid rates.

A report from the California Legislative Analyst’s Office last month highlighted that homes in the



Photos during the event.

As part of its commitment to supporting human capital

Kuwait Finance House honors outstanding employees at semi-annual Qadha ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting its human capital, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) celebrated its distinguished employees for the first half of 2024 under the Qadha program. The ceremony, held at the Four Seasons Hotel, was attended by KFH's executive management, represented by Acting Group CEO Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood and KFH-Kuwait CEO Khaled Yousef AlShamlan.

Since the program launch, Qadha has continuously awarded outstanding employees. As the umbrella of all other recognition initiatives, Qadha has recently received Brandon Hall's Gold Medal in the "Best Advance in Employee Recognition Program" in the world.

Qadha program is the first of its kind in the banking sector in Kuwait. Its selection process is based on precise criteria and global studies of performance evaluation, in addition to world-class professional aspects. The program covers all departments and is designed to reward employees for their distinctive hard work on monthly, quarterly, or annual bases.

In his speech, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, congratulated the honorees for their well-deserved recognition, acknowledging their efforts in the first half

AI Rushood:
■ KFH is dedicated to fostering a talented workforce to maintain its global leadership in Islamic banking
■ We congratulate the KFH family on the successful integration of KFH-AUB operations

of the year, which significantly contributed to KFH's strong performance and outstanding results.

He said: "We would like to seize this opportunity to extend our congratulations once again to you and the entire KFH family for the successful operations integration with the formerly AUBK. I express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in this achievement as we embark on a new chapter filled with continued success and milestones. This merger will undoubtedly enhance the KFH's leadership in the global Islamic banking sector and will bring us closer to our goal of being among the world's top 100 banks."

Al Rushood added: "At KFH, we are deeply committed to nurturing our human capital and recognizing exceptional

talent through the Qadha program. Our ongoing pursuit of excellence and leadership in Islamic banking places a significant responsibility on all of us to maintain our success across all levels. We remain focused on enhancing our services and banking solutions to offer our customers an innovative, seamless experience."

He went on to say: "Today, KFH is leading an advanced phase marked by several key elements, most notably the creative talents like yourselves, the exceptional financial indicators, the increased market share, and enhanced competitive capabilities. The recent merger adds a significant positive dimension to this phase, presenting us all with a historic opportunity to evolve and grow together, positioning us to lead Islamic finance in Kuwait, the region, and the world."

Al Rushood concluded: "Following KFH's successful acquisition of AUBK and the commencement of a new phase focused on maintaining growth, advancing business development, and improving operational efficiency, we look forward to your continued dedication and loyalty. We trust that you will uphold the same spirit of commitment to this esteemed financial institution, of which we are proud to be a part."



Recognizing the winner of the Zain Award for Creativity.

Company supports fourth 'Kuwait Codes' program

Zain celebrates next generation of Kuwait's tech leaders

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: For the third year running, Zain joined the graduation ceremony held to celebrate the students who successfully participated in the Kuwait Codes program in strategic collaboration with CODED Academy. This initiative, considered the best of its kind nationwide, continues to write new success stories as it empowers thousands of aspiring young coders, preparing them to be the next generation of Kuwait's tech leaders.

The closing ceremony featured a special exhibition where students showcased the projects they worked on throughout the season. Afterwards, the company presented the 'Zain Award for Creativity' in recognition of student excellence. The ceremony also witnessed the recognition of all the students who successfully enrolled in the fourth season.

Many of Zain's corporate sustainability initiatives center around youth and education development. As digital capacities are gaining accelerating significance in the future of education and the economy, the company has put the development of programming and

other digital competencies at the forefront of its priorities. Zain's continued support to Kuwait Codes falls under the umbrella of this strategy.

Through a wide range of programs and initiatives, Zain commits to upskilling local talents with the skills required by today's markets, like coding, cybersecurity, AI, digital transformation applications, and more. 'Kuwait Codes' has at its core the development of many of these skillsets.

During the fourth season, Zain hosted at its headquarters in Shuwaikh a special event for the program's participants, where students formed two teams to answer exciting questions and join engaging activities. The gathering aimed at developing the students' creative and critical thinking skills while also fostering a teamwork spirit. These interpersonal skillsets are as important as the technical and digital skills that are the main focus of Kuwait Codes.

Kuwait Codes is the top initiative of its kind in Kuwait, and it continues its mission to create a technically advanced generation by offering the opportunity for high school students from private and public schools to learn and develop programming skills in several main streams.

These streams include website design, Python programming, video game development, and smartphone app development using Flutter. This year, AI and cybersecurity were also added as main streams due to their significant roles in emerging technologies.

Zain is proud to be one of the main strategic partners of CODED throughout the years, a partnership that has contributed to empowering thousands of young programmers and developers in the local market. The company continues to renew this support to contribute to fostering the digital leaders of Kuwait's tomorrow.

As a leading digital service provider, Zain always seeks to reach new levels of excellence with its customers through offering the best innovative services, meeting their needs and aspirations, as well as supporting programs and initiatives that embrace tech innovation and aim at developing it.



Photos during the event.

Dr. Jaylan praises NBK-Egypt's support for medical care

NBK-Egypt inks 4th cooperation protocol with Baheya Foundation for breast cancer support

CAIRO, Sept 23: NBK-Egypt signed a cooperation protocol for the fourth time with Baheya Foundation for Early Detection and Treatment of Breast Cancer, to provide equipment for the new Baheya Hospital's Branch in Sheikh Zayed City, in continuation of the bank's ongoing support extended to the Foundation since 2018.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Walid El-Seyoufi, Deputy Managing Director at NBK - Egypt, and Dr. Jaylan Ahmed, CEO of Baheya Foundation, in the presence of Mr. Karim Kamal, Head of Support Functions, Sustainability and Sustainable Finance at NBK-E, and Mrs. Noran Abdul-Rahman, Head of CSR Unit, along with members of the executive management from both sides.

On this occasion, Mr. Walid El-Seyoufi said: "We always seek to strengthen our leading role in social responsibility as one of our pillars to achieve sustainable development, by maximizing our contributions to support and develop the health system all over Egypt. This

aligns with Egypt Vision 2030 which incorporates in its goals improving the quality of healthcare services provided to citizens."

"NBK-Egypt aims to support the State's endeavors to achieve the goals of Egypt's Strategic Vision 2030, which includes improving healthcare services by supporting the infrastructure of healthcare sector institutions and providing quality medical services to all sectors of society," El-Seyoufi mentioned.

"NBK-Egypt has a long record of humanitarian and social initiatives, as it always seeks to foster a culture of community service and enhance social responsibility awareness, an approach that the bank has always followed and promoted," he added.

He noted that the bank has long-standing solid relationships with many institutions operating in Egypt across all sectors, whether in the government or private sector, with which it cooperates to improve the efficiency of these sectors, including the healthcare sector,

which helps build a strong, healthy and productive society.

For her part, Dr. Jaylan Ahmed, CEO of Baheya Hospital, expressed her appreciation for the great support provided by NBK-Egypt to provide equipment for the new Baheya Hospital, which benefits all sectors of society, hoping to continue cooperation with a leading and prestigious brand like NBK to provide high-quality medical care services to citizens."

Similarly, NBK-Egypt is always keen to organize various events to support the healthcare sector, including blood donation drives, awareness workshops for disease prevention, distribution of medical products, in addition to partnerships and protocols with many institutions and healthcare centers to provide them with advanced equipment.

NBK-Egypt currently has a network of 53 branches with strategic locations across the different governorates and cities.

Profit-free Musawama financing with 5-year repayment plan

KIB launches exclusive financing for new Cadillac models

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced an exclusive financing offer on the latest Cadillac models. The offer includes profit-free Musawama financing with a five-year repayment period, a five-year or 100,000 km warranty, and free maintenance for five years or 100,000 km, subject to the terms and conditions of the offer. This initiative reflects the Bank's commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of its customers and complements KIB's efforts to provide top-level financing offers that ensure customer comfort and well-being. It also underscores KIB's continuous effort to enhance its partnership with the local Cadillac dealer, Alghanim Motors Company.



Al-Shammari

On the occasion of launching this special offer, Head of the Central Sales Unit - Retail at KIB, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, said: "We take pride in continuing to offer our customers the most competitive car financing deals while strengthening our positive partnerships with local dealers, particularly Alghanim Motors. We are confident that this offer, tailored for car enthusiasts who appreciate unique specifications, will appeal to a broad range of both KIB customers and non-customers alike."

He also highlighted the significant role the Bank plays in this sector and the notable success achieved through such offers, characterized by competitive rates and coverage of a wide variety of modern vehicles. It is worth noting that KIB offers its customers a more efficient and flexible shopping experience by enabling them to request and track financing easily and comfortably. The Bank provides flexible financing ranging from KD 300 to KD 25,000, payable over three to 60 months,



Financing offer on Cadillac Alghanim Automotive.

without the need for salary transfer. This makes KIB the ideal choice for a wide range of customers and non-customers, both citizens and residents alike.

Under its main slogan, "Bank for Life," KIB continues its diligent efforts to develop its diverse banking and financing services and products. These efforts ensure the availability of the best solutions, facilities, and offers that meet the various requirements and needs of its customers, especially when it comes to fulfilling their desire to acquire the latest car models, particularly Cadillac vehicles.

US classic ‘Johnny Dollar’ returns to Iranian airwaves

TEHRAN, Iran, Sept 23, (AP): While tensions remain high between the US and Iran, there’s at least one American that state radio in Tehran invites on the air each week for its millions of listeners. It’s just that he’s a fictional insurance fraud detective who’s been on the case since 1949.

“Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar,” a radio program created by CBS that later found a devoted listenership in Iran for a Farsi-language version under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in the 1960s, has returned to Iranian radio.

It’s not clear why exactly the network controlled by hard-liners have decided to bring back “the man with the action-packed expense account,” but his reappearance harkens back to an era when Iran and the US enjoyed incredibly close relations.

And the newly produced episodes introduce younger generations to a character that many older Iranians still have a decades-old fondness for, their ears perking up with show’s signature start with three gunshots and Johnny Dollar answering a ringing phone with its title.

“It is amazing, it reminds me of the ‘60s and ‘70s, when I listened to the episodes with my parents through a vacuum tube radio,” said Masoud Kouchaki, 73. “We did not have any worries except for guessing how Johnny Dollar would find the murderer.”

The original CBS radio show ran from 1949 until 1962 and focused on the cases of Johnny Dollar, an investigator from Hartford, Connecticut. The serial relied on the investigator’s expenses account entries - like “\$10 deposit on the car I rented” or “one dollar, one drink for me” - to propel the story forward as Dollar interviewed witnesses and suspects in the transatlantic accent common to detective stories of the era.

“CBS steadfastly resisted moving it to television when television

was peeling off lots of radio programing, lots of radio content, lots of radio actors,” said John F. Barber, a professor in the digital technology and culture program at Washington State University Vancouver and expert on “Johnny Dollar” and other radio dramas of the era.

“They took a gamble that radio drama would continue to attract audiences. ... It does come at the end of the golden age of radio, before television became the primary entertainment source in America.”

Modernize

For Iranians, state radio first went on the air in 1940, part of the efforts by then-ruler Reza Shah to rapidly modernize the country. His son, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, took over in 1941, and for several decades radio remained the key media consumed in his growing country, with the number of stations few and all state-controlled.

Iran’s version of “Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar” dropped the expense account format but kept the noir-light vibe, dramatic music and US location. Instead, the shows would end with Iranian state radio inviting the public to write in to explain what clue gave away the guilty party, with those getting it right having a chance to win a prize.

Mostafa Nasiri, a 76-year-old retired engineer, remembered winning a watch as a teenager in 1966 for answering correctly.

“It was a precious gift,” he wistfully recounted. “I got it from the office of the radio broadcaster, and I was publicly honored in the school for that. Some years later I sold it for some \$70.”

After Iran’s 1979 Islamic Revolution, the country’s state radio and television broadcaster soon found itself controlled by hard-line adherents to the country’s Shiite theocracy. Any program celebrating

America found itself removed after the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis saw relations collapse. Tehran will celebrate the 45th anniversary of the takeover this November.

In recent years, pirated Hollywood blockbusters have found their way on air in Iran’s state-controlled channels. However, hard-liners remain suspicious of Western shows, dismissing them as a “cultural invasion” targeting Iran’s people. But many homes have illegal satellite dishes allowing them to watch channels abroad, while the internet and virtual private networks help Iranians circumvent censorship.

That interest in the outside world likely would extend to a hard-boiled American investigator as well.

“You’ve got some guy he’s out there, you know, buying drinks, taking cabs, doing all this wonderful stuff,” said John C. Abbott, who wrote a three-volume history of the U.S. “Johnny Dollar” series. “Maybe it was an escape.”

Despite that, Johnny Dollar seems to have passed the test, though the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcast hasn’t explained its reasoning for allowing it on air on its Radio Namayesh channel. Ayoub Aghakhani, the director of the newly produced episodes, told state TV that he decided to make the episodes based on available Farsi translations to “attract more audiences” to radio broadcasts.

People have “heard about (Johnny Dollar) from either their father or grandfather,” Aghakhani reportedly said. “I learned that 20-, 30-year-old students are familiar with the opening phrase.”

So far, state radio has broadcast nine episodes and plans to air 17 more. State radio officials did not respond to The Associated Press’ questions about the show, nor did CBS in New York.

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Natasha Lyonne, from left, Elizabeth Olsen, and Carrie Coon in a scene from 'His Three Daughters.' (AP)

Film

Sisters bond over their father's last days

‘His Three Daughters’ riveting drama

By Lindsey Bahr

Death isn’t like it is in the movies, a character explains in “His Three Daughters.” Elizabeth Olsen’s Christina is telling her sisters, Katie (Carrie Coon) and Rachel (Natasha Lyonne), a story about their father, who became particularly agitated one evening while watching a movie on television in the aftermath of his wife’s passing.

It’s not exactly a fun memory, or present, for any of them. This is, after all, also a movie about death.

The three women have gathered in their father’s small New York apartment for his final days. He’s barely conscious, confined to a room that they take shifts monitoring as they wait out this agonizingly unspecific clock. But even absent the stresses of hospice, tensions would be high for Christina, Katie and Rachel, estranged and almost strangers who are about to lose the one thread still binding them. Taken together, it’s a pressure cooker and a wonderful showcase for three talented actors.

Writer-director Azazel Jacobs has scripted and filmed “His Three Daughters,” streaming on Netflix, like a play. The dialogue often sounds more scripted than conversational (except for Lyonne, who makes everything sound her own); the locations are confined essentially to a handful of rooms in the apartment, with the communal courtyard providing the tiniest bit of breathing room.

Jacobs drops the audience into the middle of things, dolling out background and information slowly and purposefully. Coon’s Katie gets the first word, a monologue really, about the state of things as she sees it and how this is going to work. She’s the eldest, a type-A ball of anxiety, the mother of a difficult teenage daughter and the type of person who can barely conceal either disappointment or deep re-

sentment. Katie also lives in Brooklyn, not far from her father, but rarely ever visited. Caretaking duties were left to Lyonne’s Rachel, an unemployed stoner who never left home, likes to bet on football games and is poised to inherit the apartment - to the not-so-subtle resentment of her sisters. The youngest is Christina, a head-in-the-clouds, conflict averse yogi and Grateful Dead follower who lives across the country and has had to leave her 3-year-old for the first time.

Jacobs is unafraid of allowing both drama and humor to coexist, to seep into moments unexpectedly. There is an undeniable absurdity to the act of writing an obituary for a loved one in a fraught time like hospice that actually captures a life and a person and doesn’t sound like a laundry list of biographical facts and positive attributes. Add to that the fact that Katie is also frantically trying to get a medical professional to the apartment to witness a DNR order. The women are torn in premature grief, wanting him to stay alive but also go quickly.

Mysterious

They’re all richly drawn and perfectly mysterious too, even to themselves; Jacobs too smart and attuned to how humans are to give anyone a simple, straightforward explanation. Everyone is making assumptions about others - many of them are wrong, or, at the very least misguided. Coon, with her booming, theatrical voice, is particularly suited playing this slightly terrifying, massively judgmental perfectionist. Lyonne, so good at cool deflection, gets to use that otherworldliness to hit a different kind of note: quiet heartbreak. And Olsen, playing a character, really shines in her non-verbal choices: A reaction, a moment alone that she doesn’t know is being observed. It won’t be surprising if any or

all get some recognition this awards season (unfortunately in a system that is uniquely ill-equipped to fete small ensembles with three leads).

There are some movies that die quiet deaths on streaming-first (this did receive a bit of a theatrical run), but “His Three Daughters” is one that seems right on Netflix just for its ability to reach a larger audience than it would stand a chance to at the multiplex. It’s never not riveting watching it all unfold, even with the temptation of the phone nearby. Whether you make it a solo viewing experience or a group one might have everything to do with your own relationship with family members.

And to that initial indictment about movies not getting death right? It’s still probably true. But movies like “His Three Daughters” might help us all make a little bit more sense of the inevitable.

“His Three Daughters,” a Netflix release currently streaming is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for “language and drug use.” Running time: 101 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

Also:

Some Pixar fans have quibbled in the past when the digital animation studio has leaned too hard into sequels. But the box office for “Inside Out 2” is hard to refute. With nearly \$1.7 billion in ticket sales, it’s the year’s biggest box-office hit. On Wednesday, “Inside Out 2” arrives on Disney+ to make one of the most anticipated streaming debuts of the year. In it, Riley has grown up a couple years but entered a new chapter in life: puberty, bringing with it a number of new emotions. In my review, I wrote that “the filmmakers of ‘Inside Out 2’ have managed again to filter complex psychological developments into a bright, entertaining head trip that in its finest moments packs an emotional wallop.” (AP)



Johansson



Munn

nounced may) means plum in Chinese.”

Mulaney, 42, and Munn, 44, who also share a 2-year-old son, married in July. (AP)

■ ■ ■

XINING: An ancient rock painting site has been discovered in the Tongtian River basin in the source

area of the Yangtze River in north-west China’s Qinghai Province, according to local authorities.

The site is located on a cliff at an altitude of 4,094 meters in Chumarle County in the province’s Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The rock paintings of the site feature nomadic style of life on the grasslands in northern

China, according to Jamyang Nyima, head of the Yushu research institute of history and culture.

The new discovery will provide important evidence for studying the culture at the source of the Yangtze River, Jamyang Nyima said, adding that the date of the site has not yet been determined. (Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES: It’s a three-peat for “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.”

The **Tim Burton** legacy sequel to his 1988 horror comedy topped the North American box office charts for the third straight weekend with \$26 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It edged out the animated new release “Transformers: One,” which brought in \$25 million. The Optimus Prime origin story from Paramount Pictures featuring the voices of **Chris Hemsworth**, **Brian Tyree Henry** and **Scarlett Johansson** earned \$39 million globally.

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice,” a Warner Bros. release with **Michael Keaton** and **Winona Ryder** returning as stars, has earned more than \$226 million domestically in its three weeks after a monster opening of \$110 million - the third best of the year - and a second weekend of \$51.6 million. It has now earned \$329.8 million globally.

Third place went to the **James McAvoy** horror “Speak No Evil,” which came in at \$5.9 million in its second week for a total of \$21.5 million.

But for “Beetlejuice,” the box office was in a quiet phase that is expected to break when “Joker: Folie à Deux” dances its way onto the big screen on Oct. 4.

“September has been a bit of a sleepy month and with around 47% of the revenue being generated by this single film,” said **Paul Dergarabedian**, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “Fortunately, October is on track to deliver interesting blockbusters.” (AP)

■ ■ ■

LOS ANGELES: Comedian **John Mulaney** and actor **Olivia Munn** now have a second child, a daughter named **Méi June Mulaney**.

Munn said in an Instagram post Sunday that the girl was born via a surrogate on Thursday.

“I had so many profound emotions about not being able to carry my daughter,” Munn said in the post that included a photo of the parents and baby together on a

hospital bed. “When I first met our gestational surrogate we spoke mother to mother. She showed me so much grace and understanding. I knew I had found a real-life angel. Words cannot express my gratitude that she kept our baby safe for 9 months and made our dreams come true.”

Munn added that “Méi (pronounced

People & Places

Books

Memoir unveiled

JoJo finds her voice again after 20 years

NEW YORK, Sept 23, (AP): Joanna Levesque shot to stardom at 13. Two decades later, “**JoJo**” - as she’s better known - has written a memoir and says the song responsible for her meteoric rise, “Leave (Get Out),” was foreign to her. In fact, she cried when her label told her they wanted to make it her first single.

Lyrics about a boy who treated her poorly were not relatable to the sixth grader who recorded the hit. And sonically, the pop sound was far away from the young prodigy’s R&B and hip-hop comfort zone.

“I think that’s where the initial seed of confusion was planted within me, where I was like, ‘Oh, you should trust other people over yourself because ...



JoJo

look at this. You trusted other people and look how big it paid off,” she said in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

“Leave (Get Out)” went on to top the Billboard charts, making Levesque the youngest solo artist ever to have a No. 1 hit. “I grew to love it. But initially, I just didn’t get it,” she said. Much of Levesque’s experience with young pop stardom was similarly unpredictable or tumultuous, and she details those feelings in her new memoir, “Over the Influence.”

With “Leave (Get Out)” and her several other commercial hits like “Too Little Too Late” and “Baby It’s You,” Levesque’s formative years were spent in recording studios and tour buses. Still, she had a strong resonance with teens and young people, and her raw talent grabbed the attention of music fans of all ages.

Records

“Sometimes, I don’t know what to say when people are like, ‘I grew up with you’ and I’m like, ‘We grew up together’ because I still am just a baby lady. But I feel really grateful to have this longevity and to still be here after all the crazy stuff that was going on,” she said.

Some of that “crazy stuff” Levesque is referring to is a years-long legal battle with her former record label. Blackground Records, which signed her as a 12-year-old, stalled the release of her third album and slowed down the trajectory of her blazing career.

Levesque said she knows, despite the hurdles and roadblocks the label and its executives put in her path, they shaped “what JoJo is.”

“Even though there were things that were chaotic and frustrating and scary and not at all what I would have wanted to go through, I take the good and the bad,” she said.

Levesque felt like the executives and team she worked with at the label were family, describing them as her “father figures and my uncles and my brothers.” “I love them, now, still, even though it didn’t work out,” she said.

With new music on the way, Levesque said she thinks the industry is headed in a direction that grants artists more freedom over their work and more of a voice in discussions about the direction of their careers. In 2018, she re-recorded her first two albums, which were not made available on streaming, to regain control of the rights. Three years later, Taylor Swift started doing the same.

“Things are changing and it’s crumbling - the old way of doing things,” she said. “I think it’s great. The structure of major labels still offers a lot, but at what cost?”

As she looks forward to the next chapter of her already veteran-level career, Levesque said it’s “refreshing” for her to see a new generation of young women in music who are defying the standards she felt she had to follow when she was coming up.

“You have to be nice. You have to be acceptable in these ways. You have to play these politics of politeness.” It’s just exhausting,” she said. “So many of us that grew up with that woven into the fabric of our beliefs burn out and crash and burn.”

It’s “healing” to see artists like Chappell Roan and Billie Eilish play by their own rules, she said.

In writing her memoir and tracing her life from the earliest childhood memories to today, Levesque said she’s “reclaiming ownership” over her life.

“My hope is that other people will read this, in my gross transparency sometimes in this book, and hopefully be inspired to carve their own path, whatever that looks like for them.”

Also:

NEW YORK: Two reports released Monday provide a mixed but compelling outlook on the wave of book removals and challenges as the annual Banned Books Week begins for schools, stores and libraries nationwide.

The American Library Association found a substantial drop in 2024 so far in complaints about books stocked in public, school and academic libraries, and in the number of books receiving objections. Meanwhile, PEN America is documenting an explosion in books being removed from school shelves in 2023-24, tripling to more than 10,000 over the previous year. More than 8,000 were pulled just in **Florida** and **Iowa**, where laws restricting the content of books have been passed.

The two surveys don’t necessarily contradict each other.

The library association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom has recorded 414 challenges over the first eight months of 2024, with 1,128 different titles criticized. Over the same time period last year, the office tallied 695 cases, involving 1,915 books. The ALA relies on media accounts and reports from librarians and has long acknowledged that many challenges may not be included, whether because librarians preemptively withhold a book that may be controversial or decline to even acquire it.

Challenges have surged to record highs over the past few years, and the 2024 totals so far still exceed the ALA’s numbers before 2020. **Deborah Caldwell-Stone**, who directs the association’s Office for Intellectual Freedom, also cautioned that the numbers predate the start of the fall school year, when laws that had been on hold in Iowa will again be in effect.

“Reports from Iowa are still coming in,” she said. “And we expect that to continue through the end of the year.”

The library association defines a “challenge” as a “formal, written complaint filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness.” The ALA doesn’t keep a precise figure of how many books have actually been withdrawn.



This image released by Disney shows Tom Ellis in a scene from ‘Tell Me Lies.’ (AP)

Television

Showrunner Oppenheimer embraces the truth

‘Tell Me Lies’ explores unhealthy love

LOS ANGELES, Sept 23, (AP): Dramatizing toxic relationships can be tricky, just ask the filmmakers and cast of “It Ends With Us.” While the movie about a woman who falls in love with a man who abuses her has been a box office success, it prompted discourse about whether it glorified domestic violence.

The Hulu series “Tell Me Lies,” now streaming its second season, is about an on again-off again relationship between Lucy and Stephen (Grace Van Patten and Jackson White). Their relationship isn’t physically abusive, but it is unhealthy.

Meaghan Oppenheimer, executive producer and showrunner, says she’s very mindful of respecting the weight of early relationships on a person’s life. She says at that age “you’re learning how to love and what love is.”

“This age is so important, and I think most people when they write about YA, they don’t take it seriously,” said Oppenheimer. “There’s sort of a flip-pant aspect to some of it.”

In “Tell Me Lies,” she also wanted to tap into how people sometimes romanticize unhealthy relationships with the justification that the harder they are to maintain, the stronger the connection.

“As you mature, hopefully you realize that happiness is the most exciting thing. The back-and-forth relationships, the on and off, they’re actually really boring because they follow the same cycle, and there’s never any actual growth,” she said.

We’ve all known someone like Lucy, have been Lucy, or even Ste-

phen, says Oppenheimer.

“We’ve all had that friend, and a lot of us have been that friend. It’s wild what we do to ourselves in pursuit of love and intimacy. We accept behavior and treatment that we would never accept in any other part of our life, and we can be the most hurtful.”

Van Patten says she “can totally relate” to Lucy’s clouded judgement when it comes to Stephen.

“I definitely relate to being really young and not knowing who I am and grasping and pretending I knew who I was and losing myself in certain situations that I thought were priorities at that time.”

Relationship

This season, Lucy and Stephen spend a lot of energy trying to make the other miserable. Van Patten and White are dating in real life, and Van Patten says the shift to their on-screen personas “was really fun.”

“(Lucy’s) anger is still a need to connect with him. It’s a way to still have Stephen in her life without being with him. I found it really interesting to act with (White) in those situations because there’s so much beyond what we had to say. It was almost kind of more how we were looking at each other and what we were saying in our heads as opposed to the lines that were written.”

Van Patten says they would apologize after a particularly cruel take.

“Before a scene we would be like, ‘People do this? This is crazy.’ And then we both have to, like, get into it and justify our actions and do it. And

then it’s like, ‘My God. I’m so sorry I had to just do that to you.’”

White says he and Van Patten “could just kind of flip whenever we needed to,” but don’t share as many scenes in season two.

The new season introduces another unhealthy relationship - Lucy’s friend Bree (Catherine Missal) and the husband of a professor, played by Tom Ellis (“Lucifer”). Ellis is married to Oppenheimer.

“Someone pitched the idea of Tom, and I was like, ‘That’s crazy.’ Then I couldn’t get it out of my head. So I just asked him,” said Oppenheimer. “He was a little nervous but really excited. It’s darker territory than he’s played in before. I think by the end, it felt really heavy for him. It was hard for him to play a character that he couldn’t really forgive. I kept having to be like, ‘Be colder. Don’t smile so much.’”

Ellis says the role took its toll, but the couple’s baby daughter, Dolly, helped pull him out.

“There was no familiarity there for me at all. It left me feeling quite dark, actually, at the end of it,” he said. “I was really thankful for Dolly who was sort of an instant kind of release from the story that we were telling.”

When it comes to the characters, it’s more difficult to write Lucy than Stephen, said Oppenheimer.

“Stephen is obviously very complicated, but he moves in a straight line. He is completely focused on what he wants and everything he does serves a purpose to get that. Lucy doesn’t know what she wants.”



Meaghan Oppenheimer, the creator and showrunner of the Hulu series ‘Tell Me Lies,’ poses for a portrait at home, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Borges



Morris

Variety

MILAN: Milan designers wrapped up six days of runway womenswear previews with a gala award ceremony at Milan’s famed **Teatro alla Scala** to honor innovations in sustainability.

The first iteration of the awards was launched in 2017 in a bid to recognize green innovation in an industry long associated with excess, and better brand communication about steps they are taking to improve their carbon footprint.

This week also marked the second edition of the Black Carpet Awards, honoring excellence among people of color living and working in Italy as a means of promoting equity.

British fashion designer **Ib Kamara** and Angolan supermodel **Maria Borges** handed out honors at the second edition of the Black Carpet Awards honoring contributions of people of color working in Italy across a variety of sectors.

Honorees included shot-putter **Danielle Madam**, actor **Alberto Malachino**, **Cinzia Adanna Ebonine**, an educator who founded a platform to promote inclusive education, **Justin Randolph Thompson**, founder of Black History Month Florence, and **Alice Edun**, the founder of Italy’s first haircare brand for curly hair. (AP)



MIAMI GARDENS, Fla.: Eugene “**Mercury**” **Morris**, who starred for the unbeaten 1972 Miami Dolphins as part of a star-studded backfield and helped the team win two Super Bowl titles, has died, the team said Sunday.

Morris, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, was 77. In a statement, his family said his “talent and passion left an indelible mark on the sport.”

“Beyond the field, Mercury was a devoted father, a loving brother, a loyal

friend, and a pillar in the community,” his family wrote in the statement. “His presence extended far beyond football, as he touched the lives of many throughout his time in Miami.”

Morris was the starting halfback and one of three go-to runners that Dolphins coach **Don Shula** utilized in Miami’s back-to-back title seasons of 1972 and 1973, alongside Pro Football Hall of



Kevin Bacon, (left), and Michael Bacon of The Bacon Brothers perform during Bourbon and Beyond music festival on Sunday, Sept. 22, at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky. (AP)

Famer **Larry Csonka** and **Jim Kiick**. Morris led the Dolphins in rushing touchdowns in both of those seasons, finishing with an NFL-best 12 in 1972 and then 10 more in 1973. (AP)



MACAO: As lights dimmed and anticipation filled the air, the curtain was raised at the Greater Bay Area Film Concert 2024. On Sunday night, in China’s Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), the audience enjoyed a feast of music and a dazzling stage.

The annual event, coinciding with the Mid-Autumn Festival, conveys Chinese traditions as well as cutting-edge art design. Since its inception in 2021, the concert has become a cultural nexus in **Guangdong**, **Hong Kong**, and Macao, fostering deeper connections among the dynamic communities.

Swedish musician **Emilia Rydberg** brought her hit song “Big Big World,” which resonated with lots of her fans in **China**. She told Xinhua that she was honored to perform in China and that the stage was “amazing.”

Rydberg noted that she has a mixed background and has traveled extensively, so she enjoys cross-cultural cooperation. “It would be a dream come true to collaborate with Chinese artists,” she said. (Xinhua)

Floods and violence devastate communities

Cholera spreads in war-torn Sudan, killing at least 388

CAIRO, Sept 23, (AP): Cholera is spreading in war-torn Sudan, killing at least 388 people and sickening about 13,000 others over the past two months, health authorities said, as more than 17 months of fighting between the military and a notorious paramilitary group shows no sign of abating.

The disease is spreading in areas devastated by recent heavy rainfall and floods especially in eastern Sudan where millions of war displaced people sheltered.

The casualties from cholera included six dead and about 400 sickened over the weekend, according to Sunday's report by the Health Ministry. The disease was detected in 10 of the country's 18 provinces with the eastern Kassala and al-Qadafir provinces the most hit, the ministry said.

Cholera is a fast-developing, highly contagious infection that causes diarrhea, leading to severe dehydration and possible death within hours when not treated, according to the World Health Organization. It is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food or water.

The disease is not uncommon in Sudan. A previous major outbreak left at least 700 dead and sickened about 22,000 in less than two months in 2017.

Sudan was plunged into chaos in April last year when simmering tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open warfare across the country.

The fighting, which wrecked the capital, Khartoum, and other urban areas has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, especially in the western region of Darfur, according to the United Nations and international rights groups.

It has killed at least 20,000 people and wounded tens of thousands others, according to the UN. However, rights groups and activists say the toll was much higher.

Displacement (cross head)

The war also has created the world's largest displaced

ment crisis. More than 13 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the fighting began, according to the International Organization for Migration. They include over 2.3 million who fled to neighboring countries.

Devastating seasonal floods and cholera have compounded the Sudanese misery. At least 225 people have been killed and about 900 others were injured in the floods, the Health Ministry said. Critical infrastructure has been washed away, and more than 76,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged, it said.

Famine was also confirmed in July in the Zamzam camp for displaced people, which is located about 15 kilometers (10 miles) from North Darfur's embattled capital of al-Fasher, according to global experts from the Famine Review Committee. About 25.6 million people - more than half of Sudan's population - will face acute hunger this year, they warned.

Fighting, meanwhile, rages in al-Fasher, the last major city in Darfur that is still held by the military. The RSF has been attempting to retake it since the start of the year.

Meanwhile, Sudanese Health Minister Haitham Mohamed Ibrahim announced on Sunday the launch of a one-month campaign to address the cholera epidemic.

The decision to launch the campaign was made during an urgent meeting of the higher committee for health and humanitarian emergencies in Kassala, the capital city of Kassala State in eastern Sudan, the minister said in a statement.

He said the campaign aims to combat cholera, enhance response to the disease in the states, unify the efforts, utilize available capabilities, and maximize the role of the community, with a focus on environmental sanitation.

The campaign's programs include vaccination, vector control, environmental health interventions, food control, and water purification, besides raising awareness about the dangers of cholera and health promotion activities, he noted.

Hospitals overwhelmed by eye injuries

Lebanese doctor battles to save eyes of exploding device victims

BEIRUT, Sept 23, (AP): For almost a week, ophthalmologist Elias Jaradeh has worked around the clock, trying to keep up with the flood of patients whose eyes were injured when pagers and walkie-talkies exploded en masse across Lebanon.

He has lost track of how many eye operations he has

performed in multiple hospitals, surviving on two hours of sleep before starting on the next operation. He has managed to save some patients' sight, but many will never see again.

"There is no doubt that what happened was extremely tragic, when you see this overwhelming number of people



Elias Jaradeh, a legislator and an ophthalmologist, center, who has conducted dozens of operation for victims of last week's attack in Lebanon, makes an eye surgery operation for a man who was injured in the explosion of one of the handheld devices, at the Eye Specialist hospital, in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, Sept. 20, 2024. (AP)

with eye injuries arriving at the same time to the hospital, most of them young men, but also children and young women," he told The Associated Press at a Beirut hospital this past week, struggling to hold back tears.

Disabilities

Lebanese hospitals and medics were inundated after thousands of hand-held devices belonging to the Hezbollah militant group detonated simultaneously on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, killing at least 39 people. Around 3,000 more were wounded, some with life-altering disabilities. Israel is widely believed to have been behind the attack, although it has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

Although the explosions appear to have targeted Hezbollah fighters, many of the victims were civilians. And many of those hurt in the attack suffered injuries to their hands, face and eyes because the devices received messages just before they detonated, so they were looking at the devices as they exploded.

Authorities have not said how many people lost their eyes.

Veteran and hardened Lebanese eye doctors who have dealt with the aftermath of multiple wars, civil unrest and explosions, said they have never seen anything like it.

Jaradeh, who is also a lawmaker representing south Lebanon as a reformist, said most of the patients sent to his hospital, which specializes in ophthalmology, were young people who had significant damage to one or both eyes. He said he found plastic and metal shrapnel inside some of their eyes.

Four years ago, a powerful blast tore through Beirut's port, killing more than 200 people and wounding more than 6,000. That explosion, caused by the detonation of hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrates that had been stored unsafely at a port warehouse, blew out windows and doors for miles around and sent cascades of glass shards pouring onto the streets, leading to horrific injuries.

Jaradeh also treated people hurt in the port explosion, but his experience with those wounded by the exploding pagers and walkie-talkies has been so much more intense because of the sheer volume of people with eye injuries.

"Containing the shock after the Beirut port blast was, I believe, 48 hours while we haven't reached the period of containing the shock now," Jaradeh said.

Jaradeh said he found it hard to dissociate his job as a doctor from his emotions in the operating theater.

"No matter what they taught you (in medical school) about distancing yourself, I think in a situation like this, it is very hard when you see the sheer numbers of wounded. This is linked to a war on Lebanon and war on humanity," Jaradeh said.

Limbs severed, faces shattered

Psychological scars haunt Lebanese after explosions

BEIRUT, Sept 23, (Xinhua): Tears welled in Elias Jaradeh's eyes as the surgeon stepped out of an operating room at Ragheb Harb Hospital in Lebanon's southern city of Nabatieh. Inside the operating room were dozens of citizens with eye injuries sustained from the explosions of pagers and wireless communication devices a few days ago.

"We went through difficult and critical hours inside the operating rooms, as we saw the injured protruding eyes, severed limbs, and shattered faces," Jradi said.

The pagers and wireless devices widely used by members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group exploded earlier in the week, resulting in 37 fatalities and 2,931 injuries.

In a choked, low voice, Jradi, also a parliamentarian, told Xinhua that it was a terrifying scene never seen in the history of wars, with hundreds of people injured in their eyes and arms crammed into emergency rooms.

"We had to prioritize the most severely injured and perform critical surgeries on them," Jradi said. "At the same time, we had to treat severed limbs through specialized surgeons and bleeding eyes, as a large percentage of them lost their sight."

For Laila Abdallah, a nurse at the governmental hospital in Nabatieh, the days of the explosions still rattle her to the core.

"We did not know what was happening outside, as ambulance sirens were blaring everywhere, with rescue crews transporting numerous injured people covered in blood to the emergency department," she said.

"The horror of the scene shook my body and caused my vision to blur for moments before I was able to find strength again to continue helping the

injured," the nurse recalled, adding, "The blood-stained bodies have not left my mind."

Hassan Hamdan, a 50-year-old citizen, said the scene resembled "a horror movie I've never seen in my life, as large numbers of people were falling on the ground, in shops, or inside cars, with most of their injuries being in faces, eyes, and hands."

"I found no way to help the dozens of injured around me in the streets of Nabatieh, so I called the Red Cross, from where ambulances were distributed in every direction, picking up the injured and rushing to hospitals," Hamdan said.

Kawthar Fahs, another Lebanese citizen, told Xinhua she was accompanied by her little child at a fruit shop in the center of the southern city of Tyre when a device exploded on a young man in his thirties a few meters away.

Screaming

"My child seemed anxious and confused and started screaming when he heard the explosion and saw citizens running to help," she said.

Despite the large amount of casualties, local hospitals had prepared to accommodate more injured individuals, as Israel had previously indicated it would intensify military operations in Lebanon.

"We were ready thanks to the intensive training offered to the medical and nursing staff and other hospital workers since the beginning of the war in the Gaza Strip," Moueness Kalakesh, director of Marjeyoun Governmental Hospital, told Xinhua.

While the physical wounds of the victims are being treated, the emotional scars left by the explosions may linger for a long time.

HANGZHOU, Sept 23, (Xinhua): China is working on serving a more diverse range of food options for future deep-space exploration missions, according to the Second Frontier Forum of Space Medicine held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China.

During the recently concluded Mid-Autumn Festival, a cherished tradition symbolizing family reunion, the Shenzhou-18 crew aboard China's orbiting space station enjoyed "space mooncakes" stuffed with lotus paste as well as their personal favorites such as spicy lamb and braised pork chops, which had been prepared in advance by the ground support team.

"We have developed technologies to bring Chinese cuisine to the 'space dining table', allowing astronauts to enjoy 'home-cooked flavors'," said Li Yinghui, a researcher at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center.

Li added that China has advanced precision nutrition control technology and built accurate standards for space flight nutritional supplies that can help astronauts address physiological issues caused by weightlessness and radiation and stay healthy during missions lasting over 180 days.

"Various functional space foods featuring antioxidant effects, immune support, fatigue relief and gut microbiome regulation have been developed to enhance astronauts' in-orbit adaptability," said Li.

Also:

MOSCOW: A Russian space capsule undocked from the International Space Station on Monday to take three astronauts back to Earth, two of them completing a record-long stay on the orbiting laboratory.

The capsule carrying Russians **Oleg Kononenko** and **Nikolai Chub** and American **Tracy Dyson** is expected to land in the vast **Kazakhstan** steppe about 3-1/2 hours after the undocking.

Kononenko and Chub blasted off for the space station on Sept. 15, 2023, and on Friday set the record for the longest continuous mission on the ISS. Dyson, in her third mission into outer space, spent six months aboard.

Eight astronauts remain on the space station, includ-

China hosts forum

'Space medicine' to aid future missions

HANGZHOU, Sept 23, (Xinhua): China's space station has gained initial results in the field of space medicine that will contribute to future manned lunar landings and other deep space exploration missions, according to the Second Frontier Forum of Space Medicine that opened on Saturday in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in east China.

During the two-day forum, experts and scholars will exchange cutting-edge theories and share development trends in space medicine, and discuss major topics such as extraterrestrial survival insurance for astronauts on deep space exploration missions.

"The technical support of space medicine is an indispensable part of the application and development stage of China's space station, and of the implementation of a manned lunar landing mission, both of which have ushered in new opportunities for the development of space medicine," Yang Liwei, deputy chief designer of China's manned space program and China's first taikonaut, said at the opening ceremony.

Space medicine plays an important role in promoting public health. It provides theoretical support and a technical platform for research on cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems, human aging, and drug protection and screening.

"We will continue to improve our in-orbit protection capabilities and build technical reserves for manned deep space exploration missions," said Li Yinghui, a researcher at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center.

ing Americans **Butch Wilmore** and **Suni Williams**, who have remained long past their scheduled return to Earth.

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Lynx fends off Mercury in playoff opener

Wilson scores 21 points, helps Aces beat Storm

LAS VEGAS, Sept 23, (AP): A’ja Wilson scored 21 points and blocked five shots after earning her record-tying third MVP award earlier Sunday, and the two-time defending-champion Las Vegas Aces held the Seattle Storm to a pair of free throws in the fourth quarter in pulling away for a 78-67 victory in Game 1 of the best-of-three series.

Wilson made just 1 of 8 shots as Las Vegas missed 16 of 18 altogether and fell behind 18-9 after one quarter. She had four points at halftime and Seattle led 42-38 after Jordan Horston and Mercedes Russell both made two free throws in the final 43 seconds.

But the third quarter was a different story as Wilson sank seven shots with a 3-pointer, accounting for 15 of the Aces’ 26 points. Skylar Diggins-Smith had a three-point play in the final minute and the Storm took a 65-64 lead into the final period.

Kelsey Plum missed her first seven shots, but she had the first basket of the final quarter at the 7:04 mark to give Las Vegas the lead. Seattle missed its first seven shots, and back-to-back layups from Wilson and Tiffany Hayes pushed the Aces’ lead to 70-65 with 4:49 left to play. Diggins-Smith hit two free throws for the Storm’s first points to get them within three, but Chelsea Gray had two baskets in an 8-0 run to wrap up the victory. Seattle missed all 13 of its shots and turned the ball over six times in the final 10 minutes.

Hayes finished with 20 points and five

steals off the bench for fourth-seeded Las Vegas. Gray had 16 points and seven assists. Jackie Young added 12 points and seven rebounds. Wilson had eight boards. She joined Sheryl Swoopes, Lisa Leslie and Lauren Jackson as the league’s only three-time MVPs.

Diggins-Smith led fifth-seeded Seattle with 16 points and eight assists. Gabby Williams finished with 14 points and eight rebounds, while Nneka Ogumike had 13 points and 10 rebounds. Horston had 10 points off the bench.

Seattle beat Las Vegas by 13 the first time they met this season, but the Aces closed with three straight victories over the Storm - two by double digits.

BASKETBALL

Las Vegas will host Game 2 on Tuesday. Seattle will host Game 3 on Wednesday if necessary.

Lynx 102, Mercury 95

In Minneapolis, Napheesa Collier scored a playoff career-high 38 points and the Minnesota Lynx blew a 23-point lead before rallying late to beat the Phoenix Mercury in Game 1 of a best-of-three series.

Minnesota, the Western Conference champions and No. 2 seed, turned a 32-19 first-quarter lead into a 50-27 advantage with 5:35 left before halftime. Phoenix whittled nine points off its deficit, trailing 56-42 at intermission, and closed within 77-69 heading

to the fourth quarter.

Kahleah Copper scored five points in a 10-2 run and her 3-pointer followed by two free throws by Brittney Griner gave seventh-seeded Phoenix its first lead since scoring the first four points of the game. Natasha Cloud’s layup put the Mercury on top 92-91 with 2:06 left to play, but Myisha Hines-Allen answered with a layup and Bridget Carleton hit a 3-pointer in a 9-0 spurt to pull out the victory.

Collier sank 11 of 19 shots from the floor with three 3-pointers and 13 of 14 free throws for Minnesota. She added six rebounds and four assists. Kayla McBride hit three 3-pointers and all seven of her foul shots, scoring 20. Carleton had 12 points, six boards and four assists, and Hines-Allen added 10 points, five rebounds and three assists off the bench.

Sun 93, Fever 69

In Uncasville, Alyssa Thomas always raises her play in the postseason. Thomas had her fourth career triple-double in the playoffs and 15th overall to spoil Caitlin Clark’s postseason debut as the Connecticut Sun beat the Indiana Fever 93-69 on Sunday in Game 1 of their best-of-three series.

The Sun’s star finished with 12 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds.

“We did what we were supposed to do. I’ve been waiting all season for the playoffs, this is what you’re playing for,” said Thomas, who had a triple-double in the regular season opener this

year, also against Indiana. “This is just the beginning for us, we’re ready to go.”

DeWanna Bonner, who finished with 22 points, has been there for all of Thomas’ postseason stat-sheet stuffing games.

“She gets us in places that we need to be during important times,” Bonner said. “The way she reads the game and sees the floor. ... It’s an advantage to have a player that can pass the ball, direct the game, defend and literally play for 40 minutes. Our team doesn’t go without her.

“We wouldn’t be in this position each and every year. This is her time, every year.”

Marina Mabrey led the third-seeded Sun with 27 points, 20 of which came in the second half. Her 27 points are the most by a reserve in the playoffs, according to ESPN.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Connecticut with a potential decisive third game in Indiana on Friday night, if necessary.

Clark, who earlier in the day was announced as the AP Rookie of the Year, finished with 11 points, recovering from a rough start. She also had eight assists. Kelsey Mitchell scored 21 points and Aliyah Boston added 17 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana.

“We didn’t play well, didn’t play to the level we’re capable of playing,” Clark said. “We didn’t shoot the ball like we’re capable of. We’re capable of winning this game.”



Seattle Storm guard Skylar Diggins-Smith (4) controls the ball near Las Vegas Aces guard Kelsey Plum (10) as Aces Head Coach Becky Hammon watches on during a first-round WNBA basketball playoff game in Las Vegas. (AP)

Clark shirts - cheered on everything they did.

After a back-and-forth first 16 minutes, Indiana led 36-34 with 3:45 left in the first half. The Sun then took over, closing the opening 20 minutes on a 12-2 run.

Bonner had four points and an emphatic block of a Clark layup during the spurt. Bonner finished the opening 20 minutes with 16 points. Clark had a quiet first half with just three points, making one of her nine shots.

Horschel wins again at Wentworth

Ko extends her LPGA hot streak

VIRGINIA WATER, England, Sept 23, (AP): Billy Horschel became the first American to win the BMW PGA Championship twice when he holed an eagle to beat four-time major winner Rory McIlroy in a playoff on Sunday.

Horschel showed no sign of nerves when he sank a long putt from near the edge of the 18th green on the second playoff hole. Horschel and McIlroy each closed with a 5-under 67 and were joined at 20-under 268 by Thriston Lawrence, who had a 65.

Lawrence was eliminated on the first extra hole with a bogey on the par-5 18th.

Horschel won at Virginia Water three years ago. Arnold Palmer, in 1975, was the only other American winner of the flagship event on the European tour.

Matteo Manassero, who started the final round with a three-shot lead, closed with a 73 and tied for fourth. McIlroy was runner-up for the third time since winning at Wentworth in 2014. He also was runner-up last week in the Irish Open.

GOLF



Lydia Ko, of New Zealand, poses for photos with the trophy after winning the LPGA Kroger Queen City Championship golf tournament at TPC River's Bend in Maineville, Ohio. (AP)

Debois changes perceptions and muscles onto the top

LONDON, Sept 23, (AP): Tyson Fury looked as stunned as everyone else inside Wembley Stadium after witnessing Daniel Dubois dismantle Anthony Joshua in the latest shake-up of boxing’s heavyweight division.

Except Fury had other things on his mind.

“Listen, that’s cost me 150 million,” Fury, scratching his head, shouted to a friend at ringside on Saturday night.

Maybe Fury vs. Joshua - the long-awaited heavyweight fight that boxing’s new overlords in Saudi Arabia had reportedly been planning - might never happen.

Instead, it’s Dubois, another British fighter, who has muscled his way onto the sport’s top table.

Given his age, he could be there to stay.

The 27-year-old Dubois might have the boxing world at his feet after a brutal fifth-round knockout of Joshua that not only legitimized his status as the IBF titleholder but made plenty sit up and take notice.

That included Fury and Oleksandr Usyk, currently the two major powers among the heavyweights who are preparing for a rematch in Saudi in December and were seen joking around at ringside on Saturday. Usyk won their first fight in May to become the first undisputed heavyweight champion since 2000, but vacated his IBF belt in June.

The wider plan was for Joshua to take on Fury - reportedly there was an agreement on a double-header for the sum Fury was talking about - or to fight Usyk for a third time, having already lost twice to the Ukrainian.

Now Joshua, outclassed by Dubois, looks to be out of the picture. Dubois is the main in waiting.

As for a potential Fury-Dubois fight, Frank Warren - the British promoter who represents both boxers - said that would put him in a “very, very awkward position.”

going to the team management.

Paul Broadhurst finished off his second PGA Tour Champions victory of the year with a few nervous moments Sunday, closing with an even-par 72 at Pebble Beach for a three-shot victory in the Pure Insurance Championship.

Broadhurst was staked to a five-shot lead going into the final round and expanded that to as many as six shots. But the lead shrunk to two shots when Alex Cejka shot a 64, and the Englishman held his nerve to the end.

Broadhurst, who finished at 14-under 202, got up-and-down for a tough par on the par-3 17th that kept his lead at two shots playing the final hole.

Broadhurst, a 59-year-old from England, has two senior majors among his seven career PGA Tour Champions titles. He moved up to No. 8 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

Frankie Capan III closed with a

1-under 70 and won the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship by two shots on Sunday for his first Korn Ferry Tour title.

Capan already is assured of finishing in the top 30 on the Korn Ferry Tour points list to get a PGA Tour card for the 2025.

He won by two over Carter Jenkins (67), William Mouw (69) and Thomas Rosenmueller of Germany (70). All but Jenkins are assured of getting PGA Tour cards. Jenkins moved up to No. 37 in the points list with one tournament remaining.

The top 75 advance to the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship in two weeks.

Dan McCarthy had a closing 69 to tie for seventh, while Rick Lamb, Cole Hammer, Jacob Solomon and Davis Shore joined him in moving inside the top 75 to at least give themselves one last chance.

Barcelona said that surgery on Ter Stegen’s knee was planned Monday after tests confirmed “that he has a complete rupture in the patella tendon in his right knee.”

SOCCER

The injury comes just as Ter Stegen had been confirmed as the German national team’s No. 1 goalkeeper after years as Manuel Neuer’s backup.

Neuer retired from international soccer after Euro 2024 and coach Julian Nagelsmann said Ter Stegen - who has played 42 games for Germany but none at a major tournament - would be first choice in the future. However, he only played two Nations League games before his injury.

“The news of Marc’s injury was a big shock for us,” Nagelsmann said Monday. “We in the national team are going to miss him on and off the field. We wish Marc all the best for the operation and a quick recovery. We’ll always be there for him on his way back.”

Germany’s most recent squad included backup goalkeepers Alexander Nübel from Stuttgart and Oliver Baumann from Hoffenheim. Neither has played a game for Germany.

Gazdag scores twice in Union’s 4-0 victory over DC United

CHESTER, Pa., Sept 23, (AP): Dániel Gazdag scored one of his two goals three minutes after Mikael Uhre found the net early in the first half and the Philadelphia Union breezed to a 4-0 victory over D.C. United on Sunday night.

With the victory, Philadelphia (9-12-9) pulled even with Toronto FC for one of two wild-card spots with four matches left in the regular season. The loss for DC United (8-13-9) leaves it three

points off the pace for the play-in match.

Uhre gave the Union the lead for good when he took a pass from 20-year-old Quinn Sullivan in the 13th minute and scored for the 10th time this season.

Gazdag found the net unassisted in the 16th minute for a two-goal lead.

Tai Baribo stretched the Union’s lead to 3-0 six minutes into the second half with an assist from

Sullivan. It was the ninth goal for Baribo in 17 appearances this season. Sullivan, a 20-year-old midfielder, has a career-high 10 assists in 30 appearances.

Gazdag completed the scoring in the 69th minute with an assist from Baribo - his second. It was the 17th goal of the campaign for Gazdag, two behind DC United’s Christian Benteke in the race for the Golden Boot Award. The Union

ended Benteke’s five-match goal scoring streak. Benteke has 34 goals in 64 appearances since joining the league in 2022.

Andre Blake finished with five saves to earn his fifth clean sheet of the season for the Union, who have won three of four in their playoff push.

Alex Bono stopped six shots in goal for DC United, which had gone 2-0-1 in its previous three matches.

1-under 70 and won the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship by two shots on Sunday for his first Korn Ferry Tour title.

Capan already is assured of finishing in the top 30 on the Korn Ferry Tour points list to get a PGA Tour card for the 2025.

He won by two over Carter Jenkins (67), William Mouw (69) and Thomas Rosenmueller of Germany (70). All but Jenkins are assured of getting PGA Tour cards. Jenkins moved up to No. 37 in the points list with one tournament remaining.

The top 75 advance to the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship in two weeks.

Dan McCarthy had a closing 69 to tie for seventh, while Rick Lamb, Cole Hammer, Jacob Solomon and Davis Shore joined him in moving inside the top 75 to at least give themselves one last chance.

English soccer’s new big rivalry

Arsenal gets under Man City skin amid ‘dark arts’ accusations

LONDON, Sept 23, (AP): Call it the dark arts. Call it anti-football. Call it doing whatever it takes to win.

Arsenal tried it all against Manchester City on Sunday in the latest chapter of the Premier League’s new heavyweight rivalry - and came within seconds of victory.

“There was only one team that came to play football,” Manchester City midfielder Bernardo Silva grumbled after an intense, absorbing and incident-packed 2-2 draw at Etihad Stadium. “The other came to play to the limits of what was possible to do and allowed by the referee, unfortunately.”

SOCCER

John Stones’ equalizer for City in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time denied Arsenal, which played with 10 men for the entire second half, what would have been a defining victory for a team that is getting closer and closer to Pep Guardiola’s repeat champions.

City’s players know it, too.

Hence Bernardo’s outspoken post-match comments on Arsenal. Notice how Erling Haaland chuckled the ball at the back of Arsenal defender Gabriel’s head in City’s wild celebrations after Stones’ late intervention. Look, too, at Pep Guardiola kicking his seat in the dugout after feeling a sense of injustice at the manner of Arsenal’s equalizer by Ricardo Calafiori.

Arsenal has gotten under City’s skin.

Roll on the return match at Emirates Stadium in early February.

“As a football match, it is a great



Manchester City’s Josko Gvardiol clears the ball from Arsenal’s Bukayo Saka during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

spectacle for the Premier League,” City captain Kyle Walker said of the new rivalry with Arsenal, which has been runner-up in the last two seasons. “Probably not so much certain stuff - I think it’s part and parcel of the game and we’ll say the dark arts.”

Stones spoke of Arsenal’s attempts to slow the game down by what he perceived as feigning injuries to allow manager Mikel Arteta to “get some information on to the pitch.”

“I wouldn’t say they have mastered it but they have done it for a few years now so we knew to expect that,” Stones said. “You can call it clever or dirty, whichever way you want to put it, but they break up the game which upsets the rhythm.”

To that extent, Arteta looks to have taken a page out of former Chelsea and Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho’s playbook. Mourinho was, of course, once a huge rival of Guardiola’s and took cynical play to the extremes at times.

Arteta’s Arsenal can play beautiful football, as well. But with captain Martin Odegaard out injured and Leandro Trossard sent off against City in first-half stoppage time, the Gunners knew when it was time to change the approach to the other extreme.

“It’s unbelievable what we have done,” said Arteta, who knows City and Guardiola inside out having once been his fellow Spaniard’s assistant at the Etihad.

For Silva, matches against Liverpool - which was City’s big rival before Arsenal - were more enjoyable to play in.

“Liverpool always faced us face-to-face to try to win the games,” the Portugal playmaker said, “so by this perspective, the games against Arsenal haven’t been like the ones we had and have against Liverpool. So yes, maybe a different rivalry.”

Silva was one of many City players to get riled in what was an incendiary encounter pretty much from the start. At one stage, he curled his finger into a “0” as he faced up to Gabriel - seemingly in reference to Arsenal not winning any Premier League titles, at least since Silva joined City in 2017. Arsenal’s last league championship was in 2004.

Pressed on the difference between playing Liverpool and Arsenal, Silva said: “Maybe that Liverpool have already won a Premier League, Arsenal haven’t. That Liverpool have won a Champions League, Arsenal haven’t.”

Will this be the season that Arsenal ends its wait for the league title?

After five games, Arsenal sits in fourth place and two points behind City, the leader, having just emerged from visits to Tottenham and City - two of its toughest away games - in the space of a week with four points, either side of a 0-0 at Atalanta in the Champions League.

The stage could be a set for another City vs. Arsenal title race.



Nasser Al-Khadhra on the podium with other winners.

Al-Khadhra secures first place

Powerboat racer Nasser Al-Khadhra secured first place in the 2024 P150 class of the BKOffshore race held in Belgium on Septem-

ber 21-22, an official announced on Monday. Ali Al-Shimali, Head of the Powerboating and Wakeboard Committee at the Kuwait Sea Sport

Club, hailed Al-Khadhra’s victory as a significant milestone for the team, promising more achievements in the future.

Al-Shimali also noted that Al-Khadhra was the only Arab participant in the event, which featured top-tier international competitors.

Al-Arabi warns against poaching contracted Al-Enezi and Al-Dhafiri



Sultan Al-Enezi and Dhofar official signing the contract.

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Al-Arabi has issued a stern warning to clubs about signing its players, Sultan Al-Enezi and Abdulrahman Al-Dhafiri, emphasizing that both are under contract with the team until 2026.

Record number of disabled fans eyed

MADRID, Spain, Sept 23, (AP): A Champions League match next month between Atletico Madrid and Lille could see a record number of fans with disabilities in the stands.

The Spanish club has teamed up with AccessibAll, a group promoting better access to sport for disabled fans, with the aim of breaking the record for the highest number of supporters with disabilities attending a soccer match.

Atletico hosts Lille on Oct. 23 at the Civitas Metropolitano stadium.

The initiative, which has the support of Spanish authorities, “aims to further enhance inclusivity in football, making it easier for disabled fans to experience the joy of attending live matches,” AccessibAll said in a statement.

According to UEFA, soccer’s “most inclusive match in the world” took place last year when 1,740 disabled fans were in attendance at the Benito Villamarin stadium for a game between Betis and Real Valladolid.

In a formal statement, Al-Arabi cautioned that any club attempting to sign the duo would face consequences, noting that both players have “received their full financial entitlements.”

Sultan Al-Enezi shared a photo on his personal social media account, announcing his signing with Oman’s Dhofar Club and claiming to have terminated his contract with Al-Arabi. Meanwhile, Al-Dhafiri has been absent from Al-Arabi’s training sessions for over 10 days.

The statement clarified that the financial deductions affecting Sultan were due to administrative penalties unrelated to the costs of treating an injury he sustained last season, for which the club fully covered his medical expenses.

Al-Arabi also asserted that it “reserves all its administrative and legal rights” concerning Sultan and Al-Dhafiri.

SOCCER

Al-Arabi Secretary Fouad Al-Mazidi confirmed that both players had received all their financial dues, adding that “unilateral contract termination is illegal.” He expressed hope that the players would reconsider their decisions and return to the team.

Board Member Ali Mandani stated that Al-Arabi’s success is not dependent on any individual player, highlighting the club’s long history of resilience. Mandani added, “Anyone who wishes to play for Al-Arabi is welcome, and those who do not can stay at home or go elsewhere.”

He concluded, “Al-Arabi is greater than any player or administrator,” stressing that any player with legitimate claims against the club would have his rights respected.

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Sept 23, (AP): Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya delivered a stellar five-wicket haul in the second innings and nine wickets overall, to lead Sri Lanka to a 63-run victory over New Zealand in the first Test.

New Zealand resumed play on the final day needing 68 more runs to reach a victory target of 275 but only added four runs before Sri Lanka wrapped up the game in 3.4 overs on Monday.

CRICKET

Overnight batsman Rachin Ravindra, who had kept New Zealand’s hopes alive with a valiant 91 on Sunday, could only add one run to his total before being trapped leg before wicket by Jayasuriya. The promising left-hander’s resistance ended as he misjudged a delivery trying to defend on the back foot.

In Jayasuriya’s next over, he bowled last man William O’Rourke for a duck, sealing Sri Lanka’s victory in a tightly contested match and the 32-year-old spinner’s eighth five-wicket haul in tests.

“I love playing here in Galle,” said man of the match Jayasuriya, who now has 88 wickets in 15 matches for Sri Lanka. “There is so much assistance for spin on this wicket, all what you need is to do is to just keep pitching the

Kuwait hosts qualifiers for World Padel Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Asian and African qualifiers for the upcoming World Padel Cup for men and women (Doha 2024) kicked off, organized by the Kuwait Padel Club under the supervision of the International Padel Federation. The event features 14 men and 13 women’s teams and will run for six days.

In the men’s matches, the UAE triumphed over the Philippines, Australia defeated Saudi Arabia, Japan bested China, Egypt overcame Lebanon, Iran won against Oman, and Senegal claimed victory against Thailand, with all results being 3-0.

In the women’s competition, the UAE edged out Lebanon 2-1, Egypt secured a 3-0 victory over Bahrain, Japan triumphed over Saudi Arabia 3-0, and Australia also achieved an easy 3-0 win against Senegal.

Club Director Ali Hayat shared with KUNA that the qualifiers have already showcased intense competition in both categories on the opening day. He anticipates strong matches ahead, noting that only the men’s champion will qualify for the World Cup finals, while the top two finishers in the women’s category will advance.



A file photo of players in action.

Hayat explained that the club has closely coordinated with the International Federation and relevant state agencies to finalize all organizational and technical arrangements for the tournament. The men’s matches will occur at the Kuwait Regency Hotel courts, while the women’s competitions will be hosted at a dedicated

padel academy at the Kuwait Club.

He also emphasized that the Kuwaiti men’s and women’s teams have prepared thoroughly for the tournament, aiming to deliver their best performances and achieve commendable results. Hayat hoped that Kuwaiti players would make a strong start in the qualifiers.

ball in the right areas and the wicket will do the rest.”

“If you keep doing that wickets will come.”

Although Ravindra narrowly missed

out on a well-deserved century, his score of 92 is now the highest by a New Zealand batter in Galle, surpassing Ross Taylor’s 86. Notably, no Black Cap has scored a century in Gal-

le, where they have now lost all five matches played.

Sri Lanka’s win moved them up to third place in the World Test Championship standings, behind India and Australia. Meanwhile, New Zealand dropped to fourth after starting the series in third position.

Playing their first test since March, several Black Cap players put in strong performances, especially pacer O’Rourke who took eight wickets in his first test in Asia and just his third match overall.

“He has really impressed in his brief career, New Zealand captain Tim Southee said of O’Rourke. “The great thing is to come to a place like Galle and put up that performance. He has never played in conditions like these before and he is a good prospect for us moving forward.”

On the back of O’Rourke’s 5-55 the Kiwis managed to secure a first-innings lead, a significant thing on a Galle pitch that becomes increasingly difficult to bat on as the game progresses.

But New Zealand’s failure to break the crucial 147-run third-wicket partnership between Dinesh Chandimal and Dimuth Karunaratne in Sri Lanka’s second innings proved decisive.

Both experienced batters scored half-centuries, with Angelo Mathews also contributing a vital 50, helping Sri Lanka set a challenging target of 275. On a deteriorating pitch, that total proved too much for the visitors.



Sri Lanka’s Kamindu Mendis dives to field the ball on the fifth and final day of the first cricket test match between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Galle, Sri Lanka. (AP)



Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez, right, shoots on target during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and AC Milan at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Sports

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Kuwait wins 3 gold medals in Kazakhstan

Significant achievement for Kuwaiti shooting

ASTANA, Sept 23, (KUNA): Kuwait's shooting team claimed three gold medals in the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Kazakhstan, excelling in the trap shooting events. Nasser Al-Muqallad secured the gold medal in the men's individual category, while Kuwait's male and female teams also captured gold in their respective team competitions, marking a significant achievement for Kuwaiti shooting on the continental stage.

President of the Kuwait Shooting Federation and Secretary-General of the Asian Shooting Federation,

SHOOTING

Duaij Al-Otaibi, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Monday that the team's success in the competitions was led by shooters Nasser Al-Muqallad, Talal Al-Rashidi, and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan, who dominated the men's team category. In the women's team competition, Shahad Al-Hawal, Sarah Al-Hawal, and Reem Al-Zamanan took first place.

Al-Otaibi dedicated this remarkable achievement 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, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister, the Kuwaiti people, and the Kuwait shooting family. He emphasized the team's determination to continue enhancing Kuwait's success in shooting sports.

He highlighted the distinguished performance of Kuwait's shooters throughout the championship, which began a few days ago under the supervision of the Asian Shooting Federation. Al-Otaibi praised the impressive achievements of the Kuwaiti athletes, noting the strong competition from countries such as China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and many others from across Asia.

Al-Otaibi concluded by stating that these accomplishments reflect the political leadership's unwavering support for Kuwaiti sports.



Nasser Al-Muqallad displays the national flag after winning the individual and team gold medals.



Al-Tomoooh Club delegation returns after winning 8 medals in the Heliopolis International Championship.

KUNA photo

Al-Tomoooh Club 'returns' from Cairo with 8 medals

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The delegation of Al-Tomoooh Sports Club for people with Disabilities returned to Kuwait after a remarkable performance at the Fifth Heliopolis International Championship for People with

Disabilities, held in Cairo, Egypt. The team secured an impressive total of 8 medals: 6 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze.

Upon its arrival at Kuwait International Airport, the delegation was warmly welcomed by the Al-Tomoooh Sports Club Board of Directors and representatives from the Public Authority for Sports.

Fahad Al-Sahly, the head of the delegation, expressed to KUNA that this achievement reflects the strong support and care provided to people with mental disabilities in Kuwait. He praised the players for their dedication and high-level performance during the championship, and he extended his gratitude to the Egyptian authorities for organizing the event.

Mohsen Al-Mashmoum, who earned two gold medals and one silver, shared his joy over the accomplishment, crediting the success to the combined efforts of the players, as well as the technical and administrative staff. He thanked the club for its unwavering support and vowed to continue training to achieve even greater results.

Coach Bilal Al-Hamami commended the athletes for their enthusiasm and dominance, highlighting their top finishes in athletics, along with their outstanding performance in table tennis. The final match in table tennis was an all-Kuwaiti affair, with the team securing gold and silver.

The delegation included three athletes: Mohsen Al-Mashmoum and Hassan Al-Mutawa, who competed in both table tennis and athletics (100m and 200m races), and Mohammed Al-Otaibi, who participated in the athletics events (100m and 200m races).

Al-Mashmoum, Al-Otaibi, and Al-Mutawa all claimed gold in the 100m race. In the 200m race, both Al-Otaibi and Al-Mashmoum secured gold, while Al-Mutawa took bronze. Al-Mutawa also triumphed in table tennis, winning gold, with Al-Mashmoum earning silver.

Milan ends Inter's derby dominance

MILAN, Sept 23, (AP): Another early goal for Christian Pulisic, and this time a positive outcome for AC Milan.

Pulisic's 10th-minute strike was canceled out by Federico Dimarco but Matteo Gabbia netted two minutes from time as the Rossoneri won 2-1 at Inter Milan for their first derby victory since 2022.

Milan also prevented Inter from claiming what would have been a record seventh straight derby victory.

The win eased the pressure on Milan coach Paulo Fonseca after just one victory in his first five matches in charge, including a 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Earlier, new Roma coach Ivan Juric got off to a super start as his team beat Udinese 3-0.

Pulisic had scored an early goal at San Siro against Liverpool and he did so again on Sunday. Henrikh Mkhitaryan tried to chest the ball down but Pulisic nipped in to steal it, used his speed to surge forward and his strength to hold off another three defenders as he did so, before firing into the bottom left corner.

Inter leveled in the 28th minute as Dimarco played a one-two with Lautaro Martinez, who managed to squeeze the ball back to him through a crowd of players and he drilled into the far bottom corner.

Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi secure tough wins, title race intensifies

By Hassan Musa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi remain unwavering in their quest for dominance in the Zain Premier League, as both teams secured hard-fought victories to maintain their position at the top of the table with 15 points each.

Kuwait Club earned a crucial 3-1 win over Yarmouk, with the second goal coming as late as the 81st minute. It stayed on top of table on goal difference over Al-Arabi, who battled through a challenging 2-1 win against Khaitan.

The two teams in the title race, without any significant threat from other competitors, apart from Al-Salmiya, who are third in the standings with 10 points. The "Sky Blues" have proven their strength, having previously defeated Al-Qadisiya in the fourth round, and snatching a last-minute 2-2 draw against Al-Fahaheel.

Al-Tadamon emerged as both the biggest winner and loser of this round. It claimed a victory over its local rival, Al-Nasr, moving it to fourth place with 7 points,

capitalizing on the stumbles of Al-Fahaheel, Kazma, Al-Qadisiya, and Khaitan. However, Al-Tadamon also suffered a blow as head coach, Joao Mota, departed the club after receiving a tempting offer from Jordan's Al-Hasit Irbid.

Al-Fahaheel slipped to fifth place, level on points with Al-Tadamon but trailing on goal difference, after being unable to hold its lead against Al-Salmiya, eventually settling for a draw.

SOCCER

Al-Qadisiyah and Kazma continued their poor form with both delivering lackluster performances in a draw. They now find themselves in fifth and sixth place, respectively, with Khaitan close behind in seventh.

Al-Nasr's woes deepened after another defeat, leaving it in ninth place with just 3 points, one point ahead of Yarmouk, who sit in tenth. Al-Nasr's poor run of results also led to the resignation of their coach, Dhafer Al-Adwani, following the team's fourth defeat of the season.



Players engaged in aerial battle during the Zain Premier League matches.

Everton reaches agreement with Friedkin Group

LIVERPOOL, England, Sept 23, (AP): The Texas-based Friedkin Group has reached an agreement to buy Premier League club Everton from current owner Farhad Moshiri, the English team said Monday.

The Friedkin Group is a consortium of investments in automotive, entertainment, hospitality and sports, with Italian soccer club Roma also in its portfolio.

The group reached an agree-

ment in principle in June to buy Moshiri's 94% stake in Everton, which is in 19th place in the 20-team Premier League, but talks were called

SOCCER

off a month later.

Now the parties said in a short joint statement they have "reached agreement over the terms of the sale" of Moshiri's

stake, adding that the deal is subject to approval from English soccer authorities.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement to become custodians of this iconic football club," the Friedkin Group said in the statement.

"We are focused on securing the necessary approvals to complete the transaction. We look forward to providing stability to the club, and sharing our vision for its future."

Alcaraz clinches Laver Cup for resilient Team Europe

BERLIN, Sept 23, (AP): Four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz overcame Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 as Team Europe rallied to beat Team World 13-11 and win the Laver Cup.

Alcaraz broke the U.S. Open runner-up Fritz in the 11th game and then closed out victory on serve, sparking celebrations as the Europe team rejoiced with captain Bjorn Borg in Berlin.

Team World was favorite to win the Laver Cup for a third straight time after leading 8-4 on points heading into the last of the three days.

Europe began the comeback Sunday when Alcaraz and Casper Ruud won the doubles 6-2, 7-6 (6) against American pair Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe.

TENNIS

fue. But Shelton then downed Australian Open finalist Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (6), 7-5, 10-7 to move the World team into pole position.

Tiafoe, who reached the U.S. Open semifinals, could have sealed it for them but he lost to French Open fi-

nalist Alexander Zverev 6-7 (5), 7-5, 10-5, setting up the decider between Alcaraz and Fritz.

The Laver Cup is formatted like golf's Ryder Cup with the first team to 13 points winning the contest. Each of the four matches on Sunday was worth three points.

Europe's only win in Saturday's four matches came from Alcaraz, who won the French Open and Wimbledon this year.

The 21-year-old Spaniard showed his big-match temperament once again.