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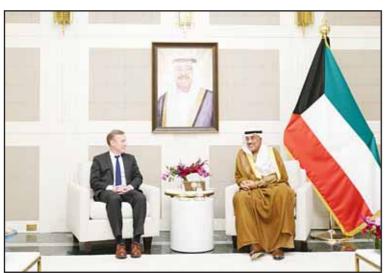
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16 PAGES

150 FILS

Amir's Rep receives US National Security Advisor



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 meets US National Security Agency Advisor Jake Sullivan in New York. NEW YORK, Sept 25, (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 received US National Security Agency Advisor Jake Sullivan.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, currently held in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir.

During the meeting, multiple topics on security issues, as well as ways to bolster coordination between the two countries were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Kuwait hosted 5th summit in 1987

OIC marks 55th anniversary of establishment

JEDDAH, Sept 25, (KUNA): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) marked today, September 25th its 55th year of establishment via celebrating achievements and efforts within the Islamic mainframe since establishment in the late 1960s.

On September 25, 1969, the OIC -- formerly known as the Organization of Islamic Conference up to the Astana, Kazakhstan, summit in 2011 -- was established in Rabat, Morocco, in reaction to the arson attack by a Jewish extremist targeting the Aqsa Mosque in Palestine.

The organization, with 57 members from four continents, made it its mission to fend off harm targeting Muslim countries as well as promoting interests of Islamic nations within the regional and international spheres.

The statute of the OIC was approved by the third Foreign Ministers conference in 1972 with the number of lishment to the current 57 number.

its goals with more 10-years strategies launched 2016 and one executed by 2025.

The strategy included 18 spheres and 107 goals including issues such as the security of Palestinians, the sanctity of the Aqsa Mosque in Palestine, battling poverty, sustainable develop, and other issues of paramount importance.

As the OIC is scheduled to mark this joyous occasion, the State of Kuwait -- which is a founding member of the organization -- had played an integral part in the development of the Islamic-oriented entity.

In 1987, Kuwait hosted the fifth OIC summit, promoting Islamic solidarity during the event.

The then Amir late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivered a speech during the event, calling for solidarity against notions of extremism and he also urged for the support of the wellbeing of all mankind.

The speech was then included as one of the most impor-

Ministers meeting in 2015 in Kuwait, lauding then Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for

Kuwait reiterates support for int'l transport logistics

BEIJING, Sept 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan Wednesday restated her country's commitment to global sustainable transport involving infrastructure development, and initiatives for promoting green transport and cutting

The minister made the remarks while addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum (GSTF) 2024,



Dr. Al-Mashaan

held in Beijing with the theme: Sustainable Transport Logistics Connecting the World", the Ministry of Public Works said in a press statement. She also expounded on Ku-

wait's 2035 Vision that complies with the UN Agenda 2035 for Sustainable Development, saying that the Kuwaiti Public Authority for Roads and Transportation has a strategic plan including bids for new road projects.

The Kuwaiti minister, further, attended a ministerial session held on the sidelines of the forum on ways of sharing expertise and cooperation in the field of sustainable development.

The gathering is mainly meant to promote global transport cooperation and construct a safe, convenient, efficient, green, economical, inclusive and resilient sustainable transport system as an inherent requirement of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Many Arab and world transport ministers are participating in the forum.

Continued on Page 5

Vital systems restored after cyberattack: MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Health Ministry announced on Wednesday that many essential features are back and running after a cyberattack that affected systems in some hospitals and the Sahel app.

In a press statement, the Ministry said that systems have been restored to their backups including systems at Kuwait Cancer Control Center and administrative systems, like the health insurance and expatriate check-up systems.

After a technical malfunction that affected their systems, their technical teams have tracked the causes and reveled attempts of a breach into their systems, added the Ministry

The ministry stressed that it took all initiatives to maintain basic and vital health care services in primary health care centers and in public hospitals, and to maintain their data.

The ministry also worked with competent government security agencies to contain the problem and stop its spread to other systems, and to reinforce security systems and update them in order to combat breaches more effectively.

From day one, the ministry was able to restore main systems and prevent the breach from reaching essential databases, and that all health care systems were halted in order to install new versions of programs and updates, in case of future attacks.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday sent a cable to Member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ruler of Umm Al-Quwain Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al-Mualla, on the death of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad bin Rashid Al-Mualla.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy upon the deceased and to grant his family patience and solace.

Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable to Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al-Mualla, offering prayers for mercy upon the soul of Sheikh Abdullah. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has announced a disruption in the international submarine cable (Falcon) operated by GCX Company, which connects Kuwait to Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia. The cable was cut in an area outside Kuwaiti territorial waters, leading to a decline in internet service quality

across the country CITRA, through its official social media accounts, stated that it is working closely with GCX to implement the necessary technical repairs. Additionally, the authority is collaborating with internet service providers to redirect data traffic via alternative international cables to ensure service continuity. (KUNA)

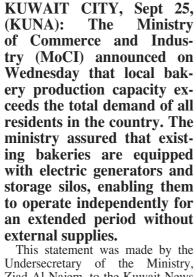
GAZA: The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 41,495, according to Gaza-based health authorities in a statement on

Wednesday. In the past 24 hours, the Israeli military killed 28 people and wounded 85 others, bringing the total number of injuries to 96,006 since the conflict erupted in early October 2023. (Xinhua)

members increasing from 30 during the process of estab-Direct Investment Promotion Authority tant and official documents of the OIC. (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Mishal Jaber Al-Kuwait was also praised during the 42nd OIC Foreign The statute was amended during the 11th OIC summit in Ahmad Al-Sabah, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Crown Prince Diwan Dakar, Senegal, in 2008 to be compatible with the 21st century Crown Prince Diwan photo needs and to serve the 1.5 billion Muslims around the globe. Mazen Al-Issa, and Kuwait Permanent attaining the UN honoring of global humanitarian leader. Representative to the UN Tareq Al-Ban-In 2005, the OIC set a plan to address challenges facing **Continued on Page 5** Islamic countries and by 2015, the plan executed most of **Kuwait confirms strong food**

reserves amid global turmoil

Emergency teams ready to enforce price controls



Ziad Al-Najem, to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following a meeting of the committee overseeing the implementation of the National Food Security Strategy. The meeting focused on assessing the readiness of food security emergency plans in response to regional and global devel-

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PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting. Cabinet raps Lebanon carnage

Kuwait vows political, humanitarian support for Palestinians in all forums



Photo by Rizk Taufig Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the exhibition.

Block on all transactions if biometrics not done: PACI

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (Agencies): The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has said that all transactions would be put on hold for citizens by the end of this month unless the biometric fingerprinting process was completed.

This came in a statement from PACI, which affirmed that the procedure was in line with top authorities' directives. It urged citizens to complete the process before September 30th to ensure their transactions would go smoothly

The deadline for the biometric fingerprints for expatriates is set for December 30. The Ministry of Interior has announced a temporary exemption

from biometric fingerprinting for certain categories of citizens who are abroad, reports Al-Seyassah daily. This exemption applies to students on scholarships, their com-

panions, patients receiving treatment abroad and their companions, as well as diplomats and workers in foreign offices These individuals will not be required to undergo biometric fin-

gerprinting until their return to Kuwait. Upon their return, biometric fingerprinting will be completed either at the airport or at the General Department of Criminal Evidence offices in Kuwaiti governorates.

The Ministry emphasized that citizens who are abroad for study or treatment at their own expense must submit proof of their circumstances to Kuwaiti embassies for approval to delay the fingerprinting requirement temporarily.

This move aims to facilitate the completion of transactions for citizens abroad while maintaining security standards.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Kuwait will continue its political and humanitarian support to the Palestinian people in all regional and international forums especially in the UN Human Rights Council, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs affirmed Tuesday.

In statements to KUNA on the sidelines of his participation in the Women in War - Palestine art exhibition kicked off in Kuwait today, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reiterated the State of Kuwait's principled position in support of the Palestinian people, their just cause and their right to establish their independent state.

He renewed the commitment of the State of Kuwait, government and people to continue providing relief and humanitarian aid to the brotherly Palestinian people in order to alleviate their suffering.

Continued on Page 5

14 held with 20kg of drugs, alcohol

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): The Interior Ministry said on Wednesday that 14 suspects were arrested for the possession of 20 kilograms of narcotics, alcohol and other illicit materials.

The Interior Ministry's public relations department revealed that the suspects had confessed to the possession of the materials and would be sent to legal authorities for due process.

The statement affirmed that the Interior Ministry would continue its efforts to clamp down on those seeking to facilitate usage and selling of narcotics in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health has announced plans to take legal action in response to a video published on the social media, where an unidentified person claims his mother did not receive treatment on time from a government hospital, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Continued on Page 5

No automatic citizenship for spouses wedded to Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Cabinet has condemned and denounced strongly the Israeli occupation air strikes launched on Lebanon that killed and wounded hundreds of people.

During its meeting held on Tuesday at Bayan Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet said that these attacks are in a blatant violation of all

international norms and law, including international humanitarian law, and pose grave threats to the region's stability and security.

The State of Kuwait expressed its solidarity with, and support to, Lebanon, rejecting all measures that undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and stability, Shareeda Al-Mousherji, Deputy

Continued on Page 5

Over 90,000 in Lebanon displaced

Hezbollah fires missile at Tel Aviv as Israel activates reserve troops

TEL AVIV, Israel, Sept 25, (AP): Hezbollah hurled dozens of projectiles into Israel early Wednesday, including a missile aimed at Tel Aviv that was the militant group's deepest strike yet, and the Israeli military said it would activate reserve troops in response to the

rising tensions.

The Israeli military said it intercepted the surface-to-surface missile, which marked a further escalation after Israeli strikes on Lebanon killed hundreds of

Continued on Page 5



A woman reacts at the scene of an Israeli airstrike in the town of Maisara, north of Beirut. (AP)

Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh strong at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 25-65 km/h causing rising dust.

By Night: Rather hot with light to moderate freshening at times

Weather

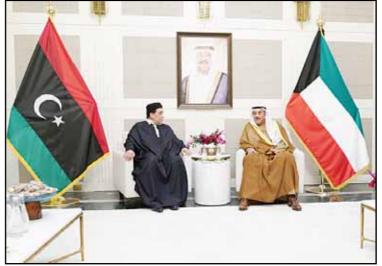
over coastal areas northwesterly Bubyan 32 28 32 26 28 Jahra wind, with speeds of 15-45 km/h. Failaka Island Station Max Exp Salmiyah **Kuwait City** Ahmadi Kuwait Airport 43 Jal Aliyah Nuwaisib Abdaly

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

Receptions of HH Amir's Representative



Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



President of Libyan Presidential Council.



Bahrain's Crown Prince and PM.

HH Amir's Representative receives several leaders in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (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 received Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, currently held in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to the Pakistani

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

Libya

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received the President of Libya's Presidential Council Mohamed Al Menfi on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to the Libyan leader.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

Tajikistan

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to the Tajikistani leader.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

Latvia

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Latvian President Edgars Rinkevics on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His High-

ness the Amir to President Rinkevics. During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

Bahrain

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman Bin bin Hamad Al-Khalifa on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster deep-rooted bilateral relations between the brotherly Gulf countries, in addition to latest regional and international developments, were discussed.

Cyprus

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to President Christodoulides.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

All the above meetings were attended by Kuwait Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Al-Issa and Kuwait Permanent Representative to the UN Tareq Al-Banai.

Blackrock chief

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Chairman and Chief **Executive Officer of Blackrock Company** Larry Fink on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to Fink and desire to boost major companies' presence in Kuwait.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed some investment and economic topics, and sharing the latest global developments, in addition to means of enhancing cooperation between the two sides.

Kuwait's FM Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah attended the meeting.



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs receives the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Kuwait Deputy FM meets with Saudi, World Bank, UN & Tajikistan officials

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday the Saudi Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Prince Sultan bin Saad Khaled Al-Saud, discussing bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries in all sectors, regional and international issues

WB official

Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber received on Wednesday the Resident Representative of the World Bank Dr. Ziad Nakat, discussing the bilateral relations and means of promoting them to higher levels.

UN official

Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber received on Wednesday the Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Resident Coordinator to the State of Kuwait, Ghada Al-Taher, holding talks on cooperation and coordination with the UN regarding multiple issues and affairs.

Tajikistan ambassador

Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber received on Wednesday the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Kuwait Dr. Zubaidullah Zubaidov, holding talks on means of cementing the bilateral relations between the two countries in various sectors.

PADA's new measures aiming to curb disability benefits' misuse

Circular cites travel rules for disability caregivers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Public Authority for **Disability Affairs (PADA)** is currently working on a comprehensive screening of all individuals responsible for caring for disabled persons registered with the authority.

This initiative aims to assess the eligibility of each case individually and establish new, stricter controls and requirements for granting benefits, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that this measure, which was implemented under direct instructions from the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, is designed to ensure that benefits are allocated only to those who truly deserve them. It also aims to curb the misuse of public funds associated with the "assignee" benefit, as some individuals exploit it in ways that undermine its intended purpose. This situation has led to the state treasury spending tens of millions of dinars annually without

justification. The Public Institution for Social Security has raised concerns with PADA regarding the large number of citizens seeking to benefit from a program that offers significant financial and moral advantages, including early retirement and the possibility of receiving nearly 100 percent of their salary after 20 years of service for men and 15 years for

International bodies affiliated with the United Nations have repeatedly recommended that Kuwait review the benefits granted to taxpayers, as they are often misused. These recommendations emphasize that the disabled do not benefit from these advantages; instead, they primarily accrue to the taxpayers them-

Taxpayers

authority has recently observed that some taxpayers have traveled abroad for over six months, with some cases exceeding two years. This raises the question: "Who is caring for the disabled during this entire period? Why is the state spending millions on these individuals if they are not fulfilling their assigned roles and legal responsibilities that justify the substantial benefits they receive?"

Meanwhile, sources from PADA revealed that nearly 20,000 citizens hold a disability care certificate, leading to an expenditure of tens of millions of public funds annually. However, this number continues to rise, prompting the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) to address the authority about the increasing pressure on the institution in processing retirement requests from those caring for disabled rela-

To manage the issue and address the wrongful exploitation of this benefit, a recent circular was issued by Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Family and Childhood Affairs Amthal Al-Huwailah. This circular mandates that caregivers submit a statement confirming they have not resided outside the country for more than 45 days, except when accompanying the disabled person. Also, caregivers must provide an annual certificate from the Ports Administration, a copy of their passport, and the residence details of any assigned servants or drivers, along with periodic



First Deputy PM, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad receiving the UAE ambassador.

First Deputy PM affirms depth of relations with UAE

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah affirmed Wednesday the depth of brotherly relations between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. According to a press statement by the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior, this came during Sheikh Fahad's reception of the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr.

They discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the security fields and ways to support and develop them, as well as recent developments and events happening regionally and internationally.

For his part, the UAE Ambassador stressed the importance of the topics discussed, which led to more cooperation and coordination between the two countries. (KUNA)

Other Voices

The highest, most dangerous, the most important

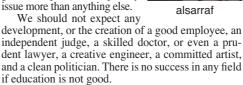
Ahmed Al Sarraf

Our government, thankfully, is making great efforts to eliminate many diseases, deformities and violations. For example, but not limited to, the persistent efforts to uncover those who forge the country's nationality, the serious follow-up to uncover and prosecute those who steal public money,

reduce financial waste in various government agencies, and

Matar Al-Nevadi.

increase its non-oil resources. However, all of these matters and dozens of others will return to their previous state if there is no serious and strong interest in raising the level of education through a binding national project to raise its level, as it is the most important, dangerous, important and priority



Education has fallen behind at all levels, because it is controlled by the Brotherhood forces, and to a lesser extent, the Salafist, over all its affairs, teachers, curriculum, thought, politics and style! Education in Finland is of an excellent standard,

due to the very high standards of teachers, who are required to hold a master's degree, pass intensive training courses, and have a personal interview.

In this regard, education expert Mohammed Al-Rubaie says that Finland does not follow a unified examination method, except for the General Secondary Certificate, and therefore all students are classified on an individual basis, and grades are determined by the teacher, which helps in understanding the students' strengths and improving the level of the weak, on an ongoing basis.

The evaluation is based on the individual abilities of the student, and makes the school a more fair

and enjoyable place, and far from competition, to achieve social equality, as school enrollment begins at seven, and remains compulsory until the age of 16, and students spend their time in an environment that encourages critical and analytical thinking, through a comprehensive educational environment, which helps them develop problem-solving skills and independent thinking, through classes with a smaller

number of students. Finnish education is also known for having the fewest home study hours, which average about half

Education in Japan, a country known for its social organization and rich culture, is another matter, especially since it changed culturally, morally and politically after its humiliating defeat in World War II, where it witnessed a tremendous renaissance.

Education, according to the expert Al-Rubaie, was the cornerstone of all its progress and advancement, due to its focus on discipline, ethics and interest in comprehensive education, which includes extracurricular activities. These factors combined contributed to the preparation of a skilled and qualified workforce, capable of leading innovation and economic growth.

Japan also invests heavily in research and development, which enhances its technological and economic capabilities. Education in Japan is not only a means of acquiring knowledge, but also a tool for promoting social and ethical values, which contributes to building a cohesive and productive society.

This close relationship between education and economic progress makes Japan a model for how education can be used as a means to achieve sustainable development and economic growth.

We reiterate, and others, for the millionth time, that the key to the progress and advancement of any society lies in the development of education.

One of the reasons for our repeated defeats in all our military wars, our ongoing battles against corruption, and the continuation of our industrial, cultural, and even moral backwardness, is due primarily to the weakness of the education systems in our countries.

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

reports to ensure proper oversight and sustainable care for individuals with disabilities.

The sources indicated that this circular aligns with the regulations

They clarified that caregivers can travel for more than 45 days if it is for medical treatment, provided they submit all necessary documentation

of the Disability Law.

and medical reports, which will be reviewed by the authority's medical committees, which consist of highly skilled professionals in various spe-

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Court jails blogger to 5 years with diwaniya (*) hard labor over offensive tweets

Narcotics found on ministry employee; illegal expats held



Jahra Governor Al-Habashi during the inspection tour.

Governor Al-Habashi visits Jahra Security Directorate

The Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi conducted an inspection visit to the Operations Department at the Jahra Security Directorate, emphasizing that all resources are being utilized to ensure the preservation of security and the safety of the Jahra region, reports Al-Seyassah region,

During the visit, Al-Habashi held discussions with the senior officials of the directorate to learn about security challenges and how they are being addressed.

He received a detailed briefing from security officials on the issue of vigilance and the effective measures in place.

Al-Habashi underscored that "security is a red line, and we will not allow anyone to cross or tamper with it."

Addressing the security director and senior officials, he stated, "You play a critical role in maintaining security and sta-bility. No matter how much effort you put in, we emphasize that your role must be even greater and more decisive.

While at the Jahra Security Directorate, the governor also inspected the biometric fingerprint center.

He was briefed on the progress of operations, noting the efficiency in processing fingerprints for citizens and residents without any delays. Al-Habashi praised the outstanding work and efforts of the specialists involved in managing the cent-

GTD's Al-powered cameras to track traffic rule violators

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Under the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, Head of the Traffic Control Cameras Department at the General Traffic Department in the Ministry of Interior Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Rashidi revealed that the department is utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and modern technologies to automatically monitor traffic violations and stay current with the latest technological developments

In a press interview, he explained that this technological advancement aims to reduce traffic accidents and en-

Installation of an automatic monitoring camera system targeting violations such as not wearing seat belts and using mobile phones while driving has begun. A total of 152 cameras will be installed on all roads.

The installation of these cameras is being conducted under the direct supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs in the Ministry of Interior Major General Yousef Al-Khudah.

The new cameras are equipped with an AI program that captures high-resolution images at any time, day or night, and under any traffic and weather conditions.

These cameras use AI technology to enhance image resolution and detect potential violations, such as drivers using mobile phones while driving, not wearing seat belts while driving, or underage children being seated in the front seat. This technology automatically reviews the captured images to verify the presence of possible violations.

Eng. Al-Rashidi announced the upcoming installation of 100 new traffic cameras that will specifically monitor seat belt compliance and mobile phone use while driv-

He affirmed the need for drivers to adhere to traffic laws to ensure their safety and that of other road users. Eng. Al-Rashidi revealed that there are currently 243 speed cameras and 250 traffic light cameras distributed

on all roads of the country. The details of the interview are as follows:

Question: Tell us about the automatic monitoring camera system for violations related to not wearing a seatbelt and using a mobile phone while driving.

Answer: The new cameras are equipped with artificial intelligence software that captures high-resolution images at any time of day or night, and under any traffic and weather conditions. They use AI technology to enhance image quality and detect potential violations, such as a driver using a mobile phone while driving, not wearing a seat belt while driving, or an underage child sitting in the front seat. This technology automatically reviews the images and verifies whether a violation has occurred.

O: How are violations detected?

A: When the system identifies a driver who is likely using a mobile device or not wearing a seat belt while driving, it sends the image to the work center in the General Traffic Department via the Ministry of Interior's wireless communications network. A qualified employee then reviews the image before recording it in the computer system.

Q: Are the cameras intended to monitor violations other than seat belts and use of phones while driving?

A: No, these new cameras specifically monitor seat belt violations, mobile phone use while driving, and underage children sitting in the front seat. There are other cameras in place to monitor speed and red light viola-

Q: What is the purpose of these cameras?

A: The purpose of these cameras is to ensure the safety of road users, as many traffic accidents are caused by the use of mobile phones while driving. Handsets can be used while driving only to answer important calls, without getting distracted by messages or other activities on the phone while driving.

Q: How long does it take for a violation to be recorded in the Sahel application?

A: After the cameras detect a violation, it is reviewed by specialized employees in the administration. The violator is typically notified on the Sahel application in less than 48 hours.

Q: Can these cameras detect malicious violations? **A:** No, the detection of violations is done automatically without human intervention. Any detected violations are then reviewed by specialized employees at the General Traffic Department.

Q: What should a road user do if they wish to verify any violations detected by the cameras against them?

A: Any road user can visit the Traffic Control Cameras Department to verify the violation through the images in the system, provided that the concerned person

Q: As for the speed cameras on the roads, is it true that speed cameras do not capture speeders in all lanes?

A: That is not true. The speed cameras installed on all roads capture speeding violations across all lanes. If a violator thinks they can avoid detection by moving to the far right lane, that is a misconception. These cameras operate with high accuracy and efficiency.

Q: Is there an awareness campaign about the installation of these cameras to monitor seat belt violations and phone use while driving?

A: Yes, the Traffic and Operations Sector, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior, launched an intensive awareness campaign Sunday, across all media outlets and the ministry's social media accounts. The goal is to raise traffic awareness among all segments of society regarding the importance of wearing seat belts and not using mobile phones while driving.

Q: What message do you have for motorists?

A: I urge all road users to adhere to traffic rules to ensure their safety and that of others. It is important to contribute to the great efforts exerted by the Ministry of Interior. Traffic safety is a shared responsibility between the ministry and members of society.

Court upholds 4-year jail for PAFN inspector for bribery

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Nasr Salem Al-Haid, upheld the four-year prison sentence with hard labor issued against an inspector from the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN). The court also ordered her dismissal from her position and imposed a fine of KD 4,000. The expatriate mediator also received the

The Public Prosecution charged the first defendant - a public employee and inspector at PAFN, with accepting a bribe of KD 2,000 to overlook violations at a supermarket in Hawally Governorate, and failing to report it to her employer. The second defendant, an expatriate, was accused of facilitating the bribery scheme.

According to the case file, an Asian employee at a supermarket in Hawally reported to the Public Prosecution that the suspect entered the supermarket with others wearing PAFN uniforms, identified themselves, and issued 19 citations.

The suspect had personally issued four citations under her name. After they left the supermarket, the second suspect came to the supermarket, approached the employee, presented all the violations, and informed him that the total value of the violations was KD 3,200 but they could pay KD 2,000 to make the violations "disappear."

The relevant authorities were notified and both suspects were subsequently arrested red-handed in a sting operation while the bribery process was hap-

Images of the two suspects discussing the way to coordinate the crime were presented to the investiga-

During the first session, the Court of Appeals declined to suspend the execution of the ruling or release the defendants. The judgment was adjourned until after the Criminal Court ruled that they should each be imprisoned for four years and fined KD 4,000. The first defendant was also ordered termination from her job, and the second was ordered to be deported.

The court ultimately rejected the appeal and upheld the original ruling, confirming the legality of the search and arrest procedures, as well as the items seized, including the documented violations and the photographs of the defendants in the ambush. This evidence reinforced the case against the defendants.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Criminal Court has sentenced a blogger to five years in prison with hard labor for challenging the powers of HH the Amir, reports Al-Anba daily.

The security authorities referred the accused to trial after he posted the offensive statements on his account on the X platform.

Info employee arrested: A Ministry of Information employee was referred to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry after an undisclosed quantity of a narcotic substance was found in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, a National Guard officer, assigned at the Ministry of Information, noticed the abnormal behavior of the employee before the start of the workday. The officer subjected the employee to a precautionary search and was surprised to find narcotics in the latter's possession.

The officer immediately informed the Operations Unit in the Interior Ministry, which dispatched a security patrol from Salhiya Police Station in preparation for the employee's referral to

DCGD.qqq Expat held for residency violation: Farwaniya security forces arrested an expatriate for violating the Residency Law and selling drugs, with an undisclosed quantity of narcotic pills and shabu in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that

while patrolling in Farwaniya at night, the security forces noticed a person who was walking and tried to hide between cars upon seeing the police patrol. They stopped him for inspection and this led to the discovery of the drugs.

A case was registered and the expatriate was referred to the concerned authorities.



'Illegal' steals electric cables: A 31-year-old Gulf national has informed Dhahr Police Station that an iPad Pro was stolen from the diwaniya in his house; indicating he has no suspect in mind, reports Al-Anba daily.

A misdemeanor case was registered and investigations are ongoing to arrest the thief.

On the other hand, Ahmadi securitymen caught an expatriate in the

A security source said the expatriate entered a power transmission center where he stole the cables. He disclosed a citizen informed the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry about the suspected theft of electric cables and it turned out that the thief also violated the Residency Law.

A case was registered and the culprit was referred to the concerned authorities.

Goats worth KD3,000 stolen: A 33-year-old citizen, who lives in Al-Raqqa, filed a report at Mina Abdullah Police Station that 21 goats were stolen from his stable. which is located near the Ahmadi stables; as well as the disappearance of the stable guard whom he knows only as 'Abu Mustafa', reports Al-Anba daily.

A team of criminal securitymen has been instructed to arrest the culprit who stole the sheep worth

A security source disclosed that the citizen gave police a breakdown of the stolen livestock as follows: 10 productive goats – five of which are white and brown, one is white and black, two are white and two are brown; one large brown billy goat, six other goats and four small multi-colored billy goats.

'Go and look for a job': A 25-yearold expatriate woman residing in Jahra informed police that her husband, who is 14 years older than her, severely beat her when she asked him to look for a job, reports Al-Anba daily. The investigator at Jahra Police

Station issued a directive to arrest the husband when the latter did not respond to several calls from the The woman told police that her

husband was laid off, so she asked him to wake up at 9:00 am to look for a job; but he got angry and beat Accordingly, the investigator gave instruction to contact the

husband to listen to his side of the story, but the latter did not respond to the repeated calls from the station. The wife attached a medical certificate to the case file in order to

substantiate her claim, stating she feels pain in her head and neck. A misdemeanor case was regis-

tered and the husband will be summoned for questioning, followed by legal action if proven guilty.

'Impact of global economic shifts on Kuwait's financial landscape'

"WE are currently facing a significant economic challenge amidst rapidly changing global conditions that are affecting countries worldwide. One key factor is the fluctuation of currency values, which influences political stability and shapes global economic decisions," columnist Dr. Ghadir Mohammed **Asiri**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily. "A recent example is the US Federal

Reserve's decision to lower interest rates by 0.5%,

a move aimed combating inflation and preventing economic recession in the United States. "Following a

statement from Jerome Powell, Chairman of the Federal Reserve,

Dr. Ghadir Asiri this decision is considered a major global event that will have wide-reaching consequences. "It will impact mortgage rates, credit

card interest, and savings for millions, extending beyond US borders to affect numerous countries, including those in the Gulf region.

"The ripple effect of this rate cut on the global economy, particularly in relation to gold prices and savings, is evident in many nations, especially the Gulf countries, given their economic inter-dependencies.

"In response, the Central Bank of Kuwait reduced its own interest rates by 25 basis points, or a quarter of a percentage

point.
"This decision is expected to stimute the legal late reform and recovery in the local market. Economic policies around the world are interconnected, and changes in one region often lead to reforms elsewhere. As a result of the US rate cut, many countries, particularly those in the Gulf, followed suit by lowering their own interest rates.

"The Gulf economies are particularly influenced by the US dollar, given the strong link between their currencies and the dollar, as well as the deep economic ties between the Gulf states and the US. This interdependence suggests that the reduction in interest rates could potentially revive the Gulf stock exchanges and boost economic activity across the region. "Additionally, Kuwait has made no-

table economic strides, such as the approval of Decree Law 99 of 2024, which formalizes Kuwait's membership in the Union of Tax Authorities in Islamic Countries and its unique regulatory framework

"According to the accompanying explanatory memorandum, Kuwait's decision to join the union was driven by a desire to streamline tax administration and bolster tax collection in accordance with Islamic law, with a particular focus on zakat.

"This move is also aimed at addressing the growing economic challenges facing the world. The union serves as a platform for Islamic countries to discuss and exchange expertise on tax policy development, management, and the vital role that both taxes and zakat play in economic growth and organization across major economies.

"These global recognition enhances international trust in Kuwait, positioning it as a key player in the global economic landscape. By aligning itself with global standards, Kuwait is paving the way to becoming an economic hub of international repute. This step signals the country's readiness to open its doors to foreign investments, further boosting its credibility on the global stage.

"With Kuwait securing a global tax identification number and achieving recognition as a trustworthy economic center, the country is poised to capitalize on new opportunities.

'These initiatives will elevate Kuwait's economic standing, maintain the strength of the Kuwaiti dinar, and reinforce the resilience of its local economy amidst the ongoing global economic shifts and monumental decisions being made worldwide.'

Also:

"After the occupying entity dropped warning leaflets over southern Lebanon, including areas like Al-Wazzani, which borders Syria, urging residents to evacuate towards Khiam, the entity's government dismissed the act as a rogue operation by one of its brigade leaders, even going as far as calling him a liar,' columnist Fakhri Hashim Al Sayed Rajab, wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"But what do such contradictory statements imply? Are they acting on whims? This is clearly a blatant falsehood. There are movements in the region that are directly tied to these recent developments.

"What we are witnessing now is nothing more than a desperate, last-ditch attempt following his disastrous diplomatic failure, all before the anticipated conflict erupts in southern Lebanon.

"Furthermore, southern Syria is not beyond the scope of danger; it is intricately connected to the broader plans of the occupying entity. The rumors being spread about the presence of Yemeni forces in Syria, allegedly facilitated by Jordanian groups, are likely fabricated by the entity to justify revisiting amendments to the Wadi Araba Agreement of

"These proposed changes were initially sought in 2019, and they are targeting a region that forms a critical arc with Al-Wazzani -- an area the occupier is actively trying to surround and se-

"This is part of a larger agenda to reinvigorate the global trade route through India. The strategic and geopolitical significance of this region is interwoven with its geo-economic importance, and the full ramifications of these actions may not become evident for hours or

"The real conflict has not yet started, but it aims to redraw regional maps -one of the key objectives of the occupying entity. "And tomorrow is near for those who will witness it."

"Already, the entity has initiated a wave of disruptions by sabotaging pager systems in Lebanon. Although pagers operate through relatively simple technology, they remain vital in specialized fields such as hospitals and health care facilities, where swift and reliable communication is essential.

"The receivers of these pagers were hacked and detonated, leading to hundreds of casualties. This event serves as a grim warning, signaling the potential for even larger, more dangerous sce-

"It reveals the malicious intentions of the occupier and highlights that recent negotiations were nothing but a charade -- a mere attempt to stall for time. The painful reality is that some still refuse to acknowledge the gravity of the situation, despite the fact that this is a na-

"The enemy is treacherous, and their deceit is masked by the fake smiles broadcast through the media. Sadly, some continue to maintain a stance of silence in the face of this threat.

"We can only pray that we do not lose this battle and hope that everyone understands that the enemy is adept at deceit, betrayal, and breaking prom-

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CAPT reviews 18 road repair bids after a decade of delay

26 firms compete for tenders amid price hikes

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: According to informed sources, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) held a negotiation session regarding the costs of 18 road repair tenders with the bidders that met the conditions. A total of 26 local and international companies are competing for these tenders.

They revealed that the increase in bids submitted by the companies for the tenders ranged from seven percent to 95 percent, compared to

the estimated prices set by the Ministry of Public Works for each tender.

The sources affirmed the commitment of CAPT and the Ministry of Public Works to award the tenders to companies with the best financial and technical proposals. This is aimed to preserve public funds and ensure high-quality work.

They also highlighted the importance of accelerating the procedures to initiate road maintenance work, which faced delays of nearly ten years.

In addition, the sources indicated that the Ministry of Public Works is focused on maintaining both internal and express roads.

They revealed that the ministry has allocated 12 tenders for the repair of internal roads, which will be managed by the Maintenance Engineering Sector of the ministry, as well as six tenders for the repair of expressways, to be executed by the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART).



Kuwait Municipality meeting with World Bank delegation.

Municipality, World Bank tackle mechanisms of building permit

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Kuwait Municipality recently held a meeting with a delegation from the World Bank to discuss the mechanisms for automating and streamlining the issuance of building permits, reports Al-Seyassah

The meeting aimed to enhance collaboration between the two entities to support the goals of sustainable development.

The municipality's statement highlighted discussions on various processes, including determining business locations, addressing challenges related to building permits and property registration, and presenting the electronic building permit issuance system.

The World Bank delegation was briefed on how reports are generated through the automated system, the required documentation, and the time frame for achieving results.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed grievance submission mechanisms, environmental procedures, and the role of consulting offices, emphasizing the importance of gathering feedback from beneficiaries.

Awqaf's undersecretary granted new HR powers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi has issued a decision to authorize the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to take several actions regarding the technical assistant and support job categories. This includes referring employees to retirement, changing job titles, raising job levels, and granting legally prescribed allowances and bonuses, as well as suspending them as necessary, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The decision also authorizes the Undersecretary to terminate the services of employees in public positions and reappoint them without a time gap after receiving the approval of the Civil Service Commis-



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Lawyer urges for unified building law

Kuwait's real estate market faces change amid legal disputes drop

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The real estate market is the second-largest source of income for the Kuwaiti economy after oil. This necessitates robust regulations and legislation. In recent years, several amendments have been made to real estate laws to keep pace with the rapid economic and political developments in the country.

In a press interview, Lawyer Mohammad Al-Qattan highlighted a significant decrease in real estate cases during the first eight months of this year. It dropped by 66.2 percent compared to the same period last year. This year, approximately 866 real estate cases were recorded, down from about 2,413 cases

Al-Qattan highlighted that "real estate fraud" cases accounted for roughly 75.8 percent of all real estate cases. From 2021 to 2024, approximately 5,900 such cases were reported. The civil courts handled around 10,000 real



estate cases in the past three years. He stressed the urgent need to review existing real estate legislation and introduce a "Unified Building Law" that consolidates the powers of all relevant laws - be it civil, commercial, or municipal - into a comprehensive framework for construction and real estate stakeholders.

Below is the interview held with Lawyer Mohammad Al-Qattan:

Question: What are the most common real estate issues in Kuwait, and how do they differ from other coun-

Answer: Real estate issues in Kuwait differ from other countries because the construction system of real estate companies has several negatives.

In Kuwait, a major issue is the practice of subcontracting. Many real estate companies hire different firms to carry out the work than those that contracted directly with clients. This creates a disconnect between the on-the-ground implementers and the contractors. Consequently, the differences between Kuwait and other countries arise from the strength and structure of the companies qualified for contracting and tender par-

Q̂: What are the most prominent real estate issues during the current year?

A: Courts have recorded a significant decline in real estate cases, with a 66.2 percent decrease in the first eight months compared to last year, totaling 866 cases between companies and clients. This decrease is attributed to increased legal and contractual awareness before commencing construction, which we have helped foster through awareness sessions.

Q: Do real estate legislations in the country need to be reviewed?

A: Real estate sector in Kuwait is governed by multiple entities, each with its own regulations, and all framed within civil law, as the relationship between clients and companies is contrac-

The general civil law consists of about 50 articles that outline the entire relationship, including the obligations between contractors and consulting offices. This is supplemented by commercial law, company regulations, municipal regulations, and the regulations of the engineers' association.

There is a clear need for new legislation in the Kuwaiti real estate market. A "Unified Building Law" should be enacted, which consolidates the powers of all laws and presents a cohesive framework for construction and real estate dealers, tailored to current realities.

Q: What is the size of real estate fraud cases out of the total cases?

A: While there isn't a specific legal term for "real estate fraud", it falls under general fraud as defined in Article 231 of the Penal Code.

Fraud involves deceiving the victim into believing in the existence of a fictitious project, leading them to willingly hand over money. In these cases, the fake project often relates to property, with many criminal cases filed in the Public Prosecution concerning properties located outside Kuwait.

For example, some cases involve the sale of land falsely represented as being within a building area with issued building licenses, when in reality, it is classified as agricultural land for which such licenses cannot be granted. These fraudulent schemes often involve properties in locations like London and Georgia. Other cases pertain to the sale of fictitious residential apartments purportedly situated in upscale complexes.

Within Kuwait, the majority of fraud cases revolve around chalets, distinguishing them from real estate disputes in civil courts, which typically involve conflicts between property owners and

Q: What is your opinion on current real estate contracts and their suitability for the local market?

A: Current real estate contracts in Kuwait contain several common mistakes, particularly regarding vague terms and rights. It is important that these contracts be prepared by specialized lawyers to ensure that the rights and obligations of both parties are clearly defined. There needs to be a strong empha-

sis on organizing the relationship between the consulting engineer and the employer. Contracts should accurately outline the roles and responsibilities of each party, with a detailed description of the project. The tasks must be specified, and the rights and obligations of both parties must be clearly and accurately stated. In addition, it is necessary to specify

the services required from the consultant and to state their validity in detail. Payment terms, including amounts, methods, and deadlines, should be clearly stated. The right to amend the contract should also be defined, along with the procedures for making such amendments. It is also important to ensure that

gal representative, and that copies of the company's signature approval and trade license are obtained. **Q:** What about electronic contracts?

all contracts are executed with the le-

Some see them as the ideal solution to this problem.

A: Electronic contracts represent a major digital transformation of traditional written contracts, offering a more convenient way for contracting parties to manage their agreements in one place. However, it is important to note that the original contracts are still essential and must be concluded with the contracting parties. Engaging with a legal representative remains necessary to ensure that all legal aspects are properly addressed.

Strengthening administrative oversight

Municipality gears up to address SAB concerns, filling 77 supervisory roles

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: According to sources from Kuwait Municipality, the Deputy Director General for Financial and Administrative Affairs Farhan Al-Ajmi presented a plan to senior management aimed at filling vacancies and addressing the observations of the State Audit Bureau (SAB). This plan includes a strategy to prevent any deficiencies in the administrative system, with the recommendation that supervisory positions remain unrotated temporarily until the vacancies are filled, reports Al-Rai

They explained that Al-Ajmi's presentation included a mechanism to monitor the work development plans assigned to branch and department managers and supervisors, in light of the recent rotation within the municipality.

As part of the municipality's plan to fill vacancies, empower national youth, and address SAB's observations, 77 vacant supervisory positions will be filled starting next week. The municipality has announced these positions and the corresponding test dates on its official

In addition, 145 supervisory positions were previously announced to address the shortage, in line with the municipality's policy to enable national competencies to lead the work process through its decentralization plan. This aligns with the vision of the municipality's director general and supports the directives aimed at advancing municipal work and empowering national staff.



Al-Seyassah photo Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud, advisor at the Amiri Diwan, honored Kuwaiti photogra-pher Ahmed Yousef Al-Shehab.

Al-Shehab recognized for securing 3rd place in IPA

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud, advisor at the Amiri Diwan, recently honored Kuwaiti photographer Ahmed Yousef Al-Shehab for securing third place in the 21st edition of the International Professional Photography Competition (IPA) in the category of mot-

orsports photography, reports Al-Seyassah daily. This prestigious competition took place in major cities like New York, Beijing, Tokyo, Athens, and Budapest.

During the meeting, Sheikh Faisal emphasized the abundance of creative youth in Kuwait across various fields and expressed his wishes for Al-Shehab's continued success and prosperity.

24 domestic labor offices resume operations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) revealed in its latest statistics that the suspension of 24 domestic labor recruitment offices was lifted upon completion of the required docu-

ments, reports Al-Anba daily. The daily obtained a copy of the statistics issued by the Department for Regulating the Recruitment of Domestic Workers; in-

dicating the number of domestic labor recruitment offices registered in the authority reached 453. It added that last month; six new licenses to operate such offices were issued, five license cancellation requests were received, 29 licenses were suspended, 63 licenses were automatically renewed, and 420 complaints from employees and employers were registered.



Al-Ahmadi Governor receives Sports Authority officials.

Ahmadi Governor promotes sports awareness for community health

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed the importance of community awareness of sports in protecting the health of family members and society in general. Al-Jaber also praised the sincere efforts to promote sports and raise the name of Kuwait high, and work to advance Kuwaiti sports in the Gulf, regionally and globally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This came during a meeting of the Ahmadi Governor in his office in the General Diwan of the Governorate the morning before yesterday with the Director General of the Public Authority for Sports Bashar Abdullah, Deputy Director General of the Sports for All Sector Haya Dhaham, Director of the Awareness Department Walid Sultan, Head of the Women's Sports Department Maraheb Al-Shammari, and

General Coordinator Ahood Al-Sultan. During the meeting, ways of joint cooperation were discussed to organize a number of sports activities and events in the governorate throughout the year, and to consolidate joint cooperation between Ahmadi Governorate and the Authority and develop joint plans for all sports and youth activities organized by the governorate and the possibility of the Authority supporting

14th Green Schools program launched

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Secretary-General of the Kuwait Environment Protection Society Jenan Behzad announced the launch of the 14th edition of the "Green Schools" program, coinciding with the start of the school year and in coordination with the Ministry of Education, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, Behzad, who manages the program, explained that this year's program will combine inperson activities at schools with sessions at the society's training center, in addition to specialized online workshops via Zoom.

The 14th edition of the program comes as a continuation of the initiative's mission to raise awareness and provide scientific and practical training. It aims to guarantee ongoing education through a wide range of learning materials that cover modern environmental issues and enhance ex-

tracurricular learning.

The registration for the program is conducted electronically.



The Minister of Finance discusses with the head of the International Monetary Fund mission the economic report on Kuwait

MoH highlights cooperation with IAEA to handle hazardous waste

Advancing innovative strategies for medical safety

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): The head of the Radiation Physics Department at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Meshari Al-Nuaimi, affirmed on Wednesday significance of the fruitful cooperation between the ministry and the **International Atomic Energy** Agency (IAEA) in the realm of safe disposal of medical waste.

Dr. Al-Nuaimi was speaking to KUNA during a visit by a delegation of the Ministry of Defense to the MoH central radioactive waste disposal fa-

The delegation's visit aimed at studying the expertise gained from the technical cooperation between the ministry and the IAEA, boosting cooperation and swapping experience, he said, revealing that the ministry witnessed, over the past decade substantial and rapid expansion of the installations and wards for treating some diseases with radioactive materials.

The expansion of the sections where radioactive materials are used has resulted in hike of non-consumed and expired materials of this kind, Dr. Al-Nuaimi explained. These wasted materials pose a hazard to humans and the environment if they are not disposed of correctly, he said, indicating that the MoH had already enacted legislations and worked out regulations for safe management of the radioactive substances.

He also indicated that the MoH measures are in harmony with the national strategy for managing waste and the environmental protection Law (14/2014), as well international criteria.

KOC dismisses 'hiring' rumors

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) said that the company follows strict standards when employing workers in all its sub-

In a statement on Wednesday, KOC strongly denied reports spread on social media, stating that the company requested a technical staff from an Arab country, adding that this news is totally far from the truth. KOC called on all media sources and social media platforms to take their news items from trusted and official sources

International Mercy Society (Rahma) signed a grant agreement using Zakat funds to provide cash assistance to more than 250 families, including 1,750 displaced persons, returnees, and members of the host community

sidiary companies.

basic needs Rabiaan expressed her hope that this agreement would meet the needs of the most vulnerable families through

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA):

The United Nations High Commis-

sioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the

across Afghanistan, helping them se-

Nasreen Rabiaan, the UNHCR Rep-

resentative to Kuwait, stated in a press

release following the signing that, ac-

cording to UNHCR statistics, approxi-

mately 24 million people inside Af-

ghanistan are in need of humanitarian

assistance. Amid the collapse of the

local economy, food insecurity, and

successive natural disasters, millions

face enormous challenges in accessing

cure their basic needs.

cash assistance, stressing that this renewed humanitarian partnership with the International Mercy Society supports the Commission's activities and contributes to extending a helping hand to forcibly displaced persons and

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: In an attempt to enhance tax

culture and raise awareness among students, the Minis-

try of Education has instructed school administrations

to support the Ministry of Finance's team in conducting

educational workshops on financial matters, reports Al-

In this regard, the Educational Development and Stu-

dent Activities Directorate has reached out to educational

zones to facilitate the efforts of the Ministry of Finance's

team, which will focus on promoting tax culture and

nated to host introductory seminars aimed at increasing

develop tax culture and enhance awareness of financial

matters, as it is important to educate students in these

Meanwhile, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Pub-

lic Education Affairs Mansour Al-Dhafiri has instructed

all educational zone directors to ensure that schools in

their educational zones promptly identify damaged stu-

dent and office furniture, send detailed lists and coor-

dinate with the Supplies and Warehouses Department

to facilitate the swift replacement of the damaged fur-

Two schools in each educational zone will be desig-

Competitions will be organized among students to

awareness among secondary school students.

tax awareness among students.



Cash aid agreement signed

Kuwait, UNHCR unite for Afghan relief

Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, with key officials along with other leaders from the institu-

tion during a presentation.

Capital Governor inspects Saad Al-Abdullah Academy

The Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Abdullah Salem

Al-Ali, visited the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Secu-

prehensive field four of the academy, inspecting various facilities, including the academy's hospital.

He also visited the central market designated for employees of the Ministry of Interior, located within the

As part of the tour, student officers showcased a mili-

The visit concluded with a visual presentation high-

tary parade, demonstrating their training and discipline.

lighting the academy's specializations, achievements,

During his visit, Sheikh Abdullah conducted a com-

rity Sciences Tuesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

academy's premises.

within the community.

leaders from the institution

Representative of the UNHCR in the State of Kuwait, Nasreen Rabiaan, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Mercy Association, Yahya Al-Aqili, sign the agreement.

host communities, especially amid the deteriorating humanitarian conditions around the world and the scarcity of

For his part, Yahya Al-Aqili, Chairnan of the Board of Directors of the International Mercy Society, stated in a similar announcement that the strategic partnership between interna-

Empowering future financiers

Kuwait's schools embrace tax education

tional humanitarian and charitable institutions has become one of the most important pillars of humanitarian and charitable work, through which it is possible to reach various conflict areas amidst the challenges facing humanitarian efforts.

and various agreements made with official authorities in

the country, emphasizing the academy's role in enhanc-

of Interior to fostering a well-trained and efficient se-

curity workforce, vital for maintaining safety and order

He was received by key officials, including Major

General Fawaz Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Assis-

tant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Edu-

cation and Training Affairs, and Brigadier Ali Al-Wahib,

the Director General of the Academy, along with other

This visit underscores the commitment of the Ministry

ing security and law enforcement education in Kuwait.

Al-Aqili emphasized the need for joint work and coordination with various parties to develop the most vulnerable communities and highlighted the urgent need to empower charitable institutions by formulating joint programs and initiatives that benefit humanity as a whole.

It is noteworthy that the International Mercy Society is one of the Kuwaiti charitable institutions operating in the charitable and humanitarian field for more than 38 years. Established in 1982 as one of the charitable committees, it was declared an independent association by the Ministry of Social Affairs through Ministerial Resolution No. 100/A of 2018, with the aim of providing services to the needy inside and outside Kuwait through development, educational, and health projects caring for orphans and needy families, and providing urgent relief to those in

IMF talks aims to boost non-oil revenues

Kuwait commits to financial reform

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25, (KUNA): Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, and Acting Oil Minster Nora Al-Fassam explored on Wednesday with the mission chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Francisco Parodi, IMF's year-end report on Kuwait's economy.

Al-Fassam affirmed in a press statement Kuwait's commitment to financial growth and prosperity, citing it as one of the main economic priorities, stressing the importance of strengthening the national economy and diversifying non-oil revenues to attract foreign investments.

The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary of Ministry of Finance Aseel Al-Munifi and the Assistant Undersecretary for the General Budget Affairs Sector Saad Al-

Continued from Page 1

Al-Najem emphasized the preparedness of relevant authorities and measures taken to safeguard the country's strategic food stock throughout September. He reassured citizens and residents that the stock of essential food commodities

Kuwait confirms

is available and at optimal levels. He highlighted that the committee confirmed the safety and sufficiency of basic commodities, including rice, sugar, baby milk, powdered milk, liquid milk, corn oil, frozen chicken, wheat, corn, barley, and crude oil.

The committee reviewed the emergency plan for September and evaluated the storage capacity of Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company and its subsidiaries. Al-Najem noted that the company has successfully doubled its storage capacity and increased its strategic stock of food supplies, ensuring a surplus sufficient for an additional two months beyond private sector reserves. He also mentioned that additional batches of food supplies are expected to arrive

On another note, Al-Najem stated that the committee discussed precautionary measures for exceptional situations, such as setting fixed prices for certain consumer goods, regulating sales in central markets, and preventing the export of all food materials and commodities.

He affirmed the readiness of emergency teams to monitor the prices of goods and supply centers, and noted ongoing coordination with the Kuwait Supply Company warehouses and food distribution branches to ensure a smooth supply flow across all 92 branches.

The committee meeting was held in response to recent regional events, political crises, and military escalations, following directives from the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Khalifa Al-

Vital systems

Continued from Page 1

They added that they are working with government security agencies to restore the rest of the systems completely soon, and assured that they will continue to protect their data and provide essential high-quality health care.

OIC marks

Continued from Page 1

The UN also recognized Kuwait as a world humanitarian center.

His Highness the Amir delivered a speech calling for countering extremism and propagating humanitarian efforts during the event. It was also included as an official OIC document.

As proposed by Kuwait in the Makkah 1981 OIC summit, the headquarter for the Islamic Justice court is located in the State of Kuwait since 1987, another evident of the Gulf country's tremendous contribution to the organization.

Kuwait reiterates

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait's Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan and her highprofile accompanying delegation visited on Tuesday a number of Chinese firms and institutions. Speaking to KUNA, Al-Mashaan said she and her delegation paid a visit to the headquarters of the Chinese company tasked with carrying out and developing Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project and the fully-automated Port of Tianjin, one of China's latest facilities.

The minister further paid a visit to Chinese governmental laboratories specialized in artificial waves and soil treatment, as she was briefed on the latest global techniques and equipment

Al-Mashaan's delegation includes Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs Ambassador Samih Jawhar Hayat and Kuwait's Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem, among oth-

Kuwait vows

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Jarrah condemned the continued Israeli occupation's aggression on the Gaza Strip, which has claimed the lives of more than 41,000 Palestinians so far, the vast majority of whom are women and children.

He reiterated the State of Kuwait's

call to the Security Council to act immediately to end this aggression and stop the genocide committed against Palestinian people.

Sheikh Jarrah called for the enforcement of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which guarantees women protection during conflicts and wars.

He underscored the importance of implementing the two UN resolutions, submitted by the State of Kuwait during its membership in the Security Council, namely Resolution No. 2417 of 2018, which strongly condemned the use of starvation of civilians as a weapon in conflicts, as well as Resolution No. 2474 of 2019 on the fate of missing persons in armed conflicts.

14 held

Continued from Page 1

The Ministry emphasized such claims violate legislation and regulations regarding photography in healthcare facilities, as stipulated in Law No. 70 of 2020, which aims to protect the privacy and dignity of patients while ensuring the smooth operation of health services.

The Ministry clarified that the patient was asked to wait briefly for the report to be printed at his request, even though a copy was readily available in the patient's electronic file.

The total waiting time did not exceed 20 minutes for a non-urgent diagnostic procedure conducted the previous week.

The Ministry is committed to addressing false information and misleading claims that could undermine the integrity of the national health system and the dedicated efforts of its health-

No automatic

Continued from Page 1

Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, said in a statement after the meeting.

The Cabinet warned once more against the repercussion of increased escalation and danger in the region due to Israeli occupation continued aggression on the brotherly Palestinian people in the

besieged Gaza Strip.

It also cautioned against Israeli occu-

pation ignorance of international calls, and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, calling for taking a decisive step towards crimes committed against

innocents, Al-Mousherji said. In addition, the Cabinet extolled Kuwait's speech delivered by the 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 during the future summit at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

During the speech, His Highness the Crown Prince reiterated the necessity for all to comply with all international treaties, charters and laws, and avoid double standards.

His Highness the Crown Prince also condemned the genocide in Palestine that claimed more than 41,000 Palestinians, most of whom are women and children.

Being keen on maintaining the national identity, the Cabinet approved the draft decree amending the Amiri Decree No. 15 of 1959 regarding Kuwait's citi-

Under the draft, a foreigner who gets Kuwaiti nationality does not mean that his wife becomes a Kuwaiti, and a foreign woman who gets married to a Ku-

waiti man is not allowed to get Kuwaiti citizenship.

In addition, the aforementioned draft decree law allows withdrawing Kuwaiti nationality from a Kuwaiti who acquires it in some specific cases like fraud or forgery, and also if convicted by a final ruling in crimes of honor or trust, or crimes related to Allah, prophets or the Amir personality.

The Cabinet also endorsed the minutes of meeting of the Supreme Committee to Investigate the Kuwaiti Citizenship, which includes some cases of the withdrawal and loss of Kuwaiti citizenship by fraud or forgery, in line with the law No. 15 of 1959.

Hezbollah fires

Continued from Page 1

The missile set off air-raid sirens in Tel Aviv and across central Israel. There were no reports of casualties or damage. The military said it struck the site in southern Lebanon where the missile was launched.

The launch ratcheted up hostilities as the region appeared to be teetering toward another all-out war, even as Is-

Temporary road closure

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport announced a temporary closure for 24 hours of the entrance to the Third Ring Road from Cairo Street towards Road 30 with the entrance and exit of Al-Shaab, in order to complete the work of the surface asphalt layer starting from dawn, Friday, until dawn of the following Saturday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

> rael continues to battle Hamas in the Gaza Strip. A wave of Israeli strikes on Monday and Tuesday killed at least 560 people in Lebanon and forced

thousands to seek refuge. Fleeing families have flocked to Beirut and the coastal city of Sidon, sleeping in schools turned into shelters, as well as in cars, parks and along the beach. Some sought to leave the country, causing a traffic jam at the

border with Syria. The United Nations said more than 90,000 people have been displaced by five days of Israeli strikes on Lebanon. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Wednesday that a total of 200,00 people have been displaced in Lebanon since Hezbollah began firing rockets into northern Israel nearly a year ago, drawing

Israeli retaliation. Hezbollah said it fired a Qader 1 ballistic missile targeting the headquarters of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, which it blames for a recent string of targeted killings of its top commanders and for an attack last week in which explosives hidden in pagers and walkie-talkies killed dozens of people and wounded thousands, including many Hezbollah members.

World News Roundup

Europe

Czech govt in crisis

Greens leadership quits after defeats

BERLIN, Sept 25, (AP): The leaders of Germany's Greens, one of three parties in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's troubled coalition government, announced Wednesday that they will step down after the latest in a string of disappointing election results.

The environmentalist party's support declined sharply in the European Parliament election in June. This month, it fared poorly in three state elections in eastern Germany. Voters ejected it from two state legislatures, most recently in Brandenburg on Sunday.

Co-leader Omid Nouripour said in a hastily arranged statement to reporters that the result in Brandenburg "is evidence of our party's deepest crisis for a decade



party in new hands," he added. Nouripour and the party's

other co-leader, Ricarda Lang, took the helm of the party in early 2022 after predecessors Robert Habeck and Annalena Baerbock joined Scholz's government as vice chancellor and

"It is necessary and it is possible to overcome this crisis, he said. The party leadership has decided that "a new beginning is needed" and "it is time to put the destiny of this great

foreign minister respectively. The party has seen its popularity decline since, along with that of its coalition partners. The mainstream conservative opposition Union bloc leads national polls ahead of a national election expected next year, while the far-right Alternative for Germany is polling strongly.

The national government - an uneasy combination of Scholz's center-left Social Democrats with the Greens, who also lean left, and the pro-business Free Democrats - has angered Germans by bickering at length over poorly explained projects that sometimes raise fears of new costs

Tensions

Those included a plan drawn up by Habeck's economy and climate ministry to replace fossil-fuel heating systems with greener alternatives. There have been frequent tensions between the Greens, who were strong advocates of Germany's exit from nuclear power and have a relatively liberal approach to migration, and the Free Democrats, who saw their own support reduced to microscopic levels in this month's state elections. Meanwhile, Germany's economy is struggling to generate any growth.

The plan is for new party leaders to be elected at a previously scheduled party congress in mid-November, Nouripour said.

"New faces are needed to lead this party out of this crisis," Lang said. "You can imagine that this decision isn't easy, but we are taking it out of conviction.

Neither Nouripour nor Lang are part of Scholz's Cabinet. Their decision does not affect the Greens five Cabinet ministers.

In the European Parliament election, the Greens slumped to 11.9% of the vote from an exceptionally successful 20.5% five years earlier, losing ground among young voters in particular. In Germany's last national election in 2021, when Baerbock made the party's first run for the chancellery, the party won

Also:

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic's government was in crisis Tuesday after a junior party in the ruling coalition said it would leave the Cabinet over Prime Minister Petr Fiala's decision to fire the party leader.

Fiala said he would ask the president to dismiss Regional Development Minister Ivan Bartos by the end of the month. He said he had lost trust in Bartos's ability to deal with the problems linked to a new digital system for issuing building permits.

In the Czech Republic, the president appoints and dismisses the government ministers at the request of the prime minister.

President **Petr Pavel** who is currently in the United States said he would not act until he returned home and learned the details.

Tuesday's development came after a poor showing of Bartos's Pirates party in regional elections on Sat-

urday. As a result, Bartos resigned as the party's head. The main opposition group led by former populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis won the biggest share of votes, a boost ahead of next year's parliamentary

Besides Bartos, the Pirates have two more ministers in the government, including Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky, a vocal supporter of Ukraine's efforts to fight Russia's invasion. Fiala said he was happy with their work and was asking the Pirates to put $\bar{\text{f}}\text{orward}$ a new minister to replace Bartos.

But the Pirates said the dismissal was in breech of their coalition agreement and Bartos said they were not ready to nominate a replacement.

He told Czech public television Tuesday he assumed "it's the end" of his party in the government. Its departure from the coalition still has to be approved by an online referendum of the party members in the coming days.

KYIV, Ukraine: The victory plan that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will present to the White House this week asks the Biden administration to do something it has not achieved in the two and a half years since Russia invaded Ukraine: act quickly to support

While Western dawdling has amplified Ukraine's losses, some Ukrainian officials, diplomats and analysts fear Kyiv's aim to have the plan implemented before a new U.S. president takes office in January may be out of reach.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, reportedly briefed on the plan, said it "can work" but many privately question how.

The specifics of Zelenskyy's blueprint have been kept under wraps until it can be formally presented to President Joe Biden, but contours of the plan have emerged, including the need for fast action on decisions Western allies have been mulling since the fullscale invasion began in 2022.

It includes the security guarantee of NATO membership, according to Zelenskyy's chief of staff **Andrii Yermak** - a principal demand of Kyiv and **Moscow**'s key point of contention. Western allies, including the

U.S., have been skeptical about this option. Zelenskyy has said he will also seek permission to use long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russian territory, another red line for some of Ukraine's sup-



A sheriff's vehicle blocks a road closure at US Route 50 and Ohio State Route 128 in Whitewater Township near Cleves, Ohio, due to chemical leak from a railcar

Dangerous chemical leak spurs evacuation order in Ohio town

Students in school buildings and residents in neighboring homes were told to evacuate after a dangerous chemical began leaking from a railcar Tuesday near Cincinnati.

Aerial video showed firefighters spraying down the car, which was sitting upright on tracks between a highway and an asphalt plant.

Authorities said a pressure release valve on it

was leaking styrene, a toxic and flammable chemical that is used to make plastic and rubber. It can cause headaches, nausea and respiratory issues, and long-term exposure can lead to more serious health problems including organ damage.

Hamilton County's Emergency Management Agency advised anyone within a half-mile (about 800 meters) of the area near U.S. Route 50 and the Great

Miami River, west of Cincinnati, to leave immediately. Residents just outside the evacuation area were told to stay inside and keep their windows closed.

The area has a mix of businesses, homes and large swaths of undeveloped land. Three school buildings were evacuated and all after school events were canceled, said Lisa Whiteley, a spokesperson for the Three Rivers Local School District. (AP)



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers a speech during 2024 Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, Britain on Sept. 24. Starmer tried to shake off his image as a gloom-monger on Tuesday, telling voters exhausted by years of political and economic turmoil that better times are on the way - if they swallow his recipe of short-term

pain for long-term gain. (Xinhua)



America

Trump attacker charged: A man who authorities say staked out Donald Trump for 12 hours on his golf course in Florida and wrote of his desire to kill him was indicted Tuesday on an attempted assassination charge.

Ryan Wesley Routh had been initially charged with two federal firearms offenses. The upgraded charges contained in a fivecount indictment reflect the Justice Department's assessment that he methodically plotted to kill the Republican nominee, aiming a rifle through the shrubbery surrounding Trump's West Palm Beach golf course on an afternoon Trump was playing on it. Routh left behind a note in which he described his intention, prosecutors said.

Court records show the case has been assigned to Aileen Cannon, a Trump-appointed federal judge who generated intense scrutiny for her handling of a criminal case charging Trump with illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. She dismissed that case in July, a decision now being appealed by special counsel Jack Smith's team.

The attempted assassination indictment had been foreshadowed during a court hearing Monday in which prosecutors successfully argued for the 58-year-old Routh to remain behind bars as a flight risk and a threat to public safety.

They alleged that he had written of his plans to kill Trump in a handwritten note months before his Sept. 15 arrest in which he referred to his actions as a failed "assassination attempt on Donald Trump" and offered \$150,000 for anyone who could "finish the job." That note was in a box that Routh had apparently dropped off at the home of an unidentified witness months before his arrest. (AP)

Drug dealer held in killings: An ac-

Politics

California gov signs bills to bolster gun control

Biden to visit Africa in October, says WH

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (AP): US President Joe Biden will make his long-awaited visit to Africa when he travels to Germany and Angola in mid-October, the White House announced

Biden had promised during a summit of African leaders he hosted in Washington in late 2022 to visit Africa the following year. His visit was to be the capstone of an administration effort to shore up ties with the continent, partly to counter growing influence there from China, a US rival

Several Cabinet members and Vice President Kamala Harris, as well as first lady Jill Biden, visited African nations in 2023, but the year passed with-

out a visit from Biden. Now, with just a few months left in office after he ended his reelection campaign, Biden plans to travel to Berlin and Luanda, Angola, from Oct. 10-15, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre announced while Biden was in New York. He delivered his final address as president to the UN General Assembly earlier Tuesday.

Biden will be the first US president to visit sub-Saharan Africa since 2015.

Newsom signs bills: California Gov Gavin Newsom signed several gun control measures Tuesday, including one that allows the court to consider stalking and animal cruelty as grounds to restrict access to firearms.

The state already has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. The new laws signed by Newsom will expand restrictions on who could own firearms, prevent the proliferation of 'ghost guns" and increase protections for domestic violence survivors.

"California won't wait until the next

cused drug dealer has been arrested in the

killings of two confidential police inform-

ants whose bodies were stashed in trash

bags and dumped in a northeastern Indiana

Former US president Trump tells women he 'will be your protector'

INDIANA, Pa., Sept 25, (AP): From former US resident Donald Trump enate candidate Moreno, male Republican candidates are struggling to speak to female voters, using language criticized as tone deaf and patronizing as they try to win support from women and speak to issues important to them.

On Monday night, Trump cast himself as a "protector" of women, saying in battleground Pennsylvania that he will save them from fear and loneliness and they will no longer have to think about abortion.

"You will no longer be abandoned, lonely or scared. You will no longer be in danger. ... You will no

school shooting or mass shooting to act," the Democratic governor said in a statement. "In the absence of congressional action, our state is once again leading the way by strengthening our nation-leading gun laws.'

Under the new laws, a judge can consider stalking, acts of animal cruelty or threats of violence as evidence for a gun violence restraining order. A person who has a misdemeanor charge dismissed because they were found to be mentally incompetent will also be prohibited from possessing a gun. Current laws only apply such restrictions to cases involving felony charges.

The 29-year-old man was expected to be

formally charged Wednesday with murder,

according to authorities.

longer have anxiety from all of the problems our country has today,' Trump said. "You will be protected."

and I will be your protector."

At a town hall event on Friday, Moreno bemoaned the fact that abortion has become the deciding issue for many suburban women, calling the notion "a little crazy, by the way, but especially for women that are like past 50. I'm thinking to myself, 'I don't really think that's an issue for you."

Former Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley responded with exasperation to Moreno in a social media post. "Are you trying to lose the election?" she asked. "Asking for a friend. #Tonedeaf #DonLemonVibes."

GOP advances charges: Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday advanced contempt of Congress charges against Secretary of State Antony Blinken following a contentious back-and-forth with the Cabinet secretary over an appearance to testify on the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The 26-25 party-line vote was just the latest friction point between the GOP and the State Department this Congress. Republicans have worked for the last 18 months to hold the Biden administration accountable for what they have called a "stunning failure of leadership" after Taliban forces seized

the Afghan capital in August 2021. He was arrested Monday in Richmond, Indiana, 73 miles (117 kilometers) east of

Indianapolis.

Johnson had been shot, while Dixon was strangled and suffocated. The pair recently led officers to a large drug bust in Richmond, according to police.

Police in Fort Wayne pulled the bodies

of Matthew Johnson and Christina Dixon,

both in their 40s, Friday afternoon from the

St. Mary's River. A coroner determined that

Minnesota woman gets 20 yrs: A Minnesota judge sentenced a woman to 20 years in prison Tuesday for her alleged role in the 2019 New Year's Eve killing of a

Minneapolis real estate agent. Elsa Segura pleaded guilty to kidnapping to commit great bodily harm or terrorize as part of an agreement with prosecutors in the case of the death of Monique Baugh, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office said.

Segura had been found guilty of murder and other counts in 2021, but the Minnesota Supreme Court overturned the conviction this year, citing faulty jury instructions. The plea deal means Segura will avoid a second

Prosecutors say Segura lured Baugh to a phony home showing in the Minneapolis suburb of Maple Grove, where she was kidnapped. Baugh was found, fatally shot, in a Minneapolis alley in the early hours of



In this image provided by the Office of the Ukrainian Presidency, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (left), is watched by Rich Hansen, the commander's representative for the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, while signing military ordnance in Scranton, Pa., on Sept 22. The victory plan that Zelenskyy will present to the White House this week asks the Biden administration to do something it has not achieved in the two and a half years since Russia invaded Ukraine: act quickly to support Kyiv's campaign. (AP)

Lat/Am

'Corrupt ministers quit'

Obrador's presidency ends with retirement

MEXICO CITY, Sept 25, (AP): Many Mexicans will feel a deep sense of loss when folksy, charismatic, nationalistic President Andrés Manuel López Obrador leaves office on Sept. 30 - and that's no surprise.

López Obrador himself has spent an inordinate amount of time talking about his own legacy - and his place in history - over his six-year term, something he brings up at almost every one of his marathonic daily 7 a.m. media briefings.

But what legacy will the rumpled, grinning López Obrador leave behind? It is perhaps the main question for a man who is obsessed with history, and one thing appears clear: he has changed the way politics is done in Mexico, perhaps for-

Unlike decades of reserved and distant presi-



dents, López Obrador has built a deep personal connection with many Mexicans. He has stripped the office of the thousands of presidential guards, limousines and walled compounds that once characterized it, saying "you can't have a rich government with poor people."

"He is a politician who evokes familiarity, he re-Obrador minds people of a father, an uncle, a grandfather," said Carlos Pérez Ricart,

a political analyst at Mexico's Center for Economic Research and Teaching. That's not a coincidence, either. López Obrador constantly praises the traditional family and says it has saved the

"He does feel nostalgia for some of the social structures of the 1970s in Mexico and nostalgia for the family," said Pérez Ricart.

Legacy

Will his legacy be like that of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose New Deal created lasting institutions like Social Security and home mortgage programs that resulted in an enormous, stable middle class?

The Mexican leader stakes his movement on cash social-benefit programs, he likes to compare himself to Roosevelt and many Mexicans think of him with the same fondness that the more patri-

cian FDR inspired in his day.

"I think he's going to be remembered as a president who started big changes, who thought about the people," said Armando López, 60, who works as a street cleaner.

Marina Fiesco, an office worker taking a break at a Mexico City park with her 11-year-old son, voiced similar feelings.
"I feel he does think about the people," said Fi-

esco. "It's not about left or right, a president has to look out for the people.'

Part of that connection is that he talks more, and fields more questions, than probably any other leader in the world.

In his six years in office, he has held about 1,400 televised morning briefings that last an average of 2 1/2 hours each. He tells jokes, talks about his favorite foods, lashes out at critical journalists, makes fun of the opposition and sometimes plays his favorite music videos. Most briefings end with him saying, "Let's go get breakfast."

He frequently says things that are not true. He claims Mexico doesn't produce fentanyl - the deadly synthetic opioid that kills about 70,000 Americans every year - even though his own officials have contradicted him. When homicides spiked this year - despite his claims to have achieved an 18% reduction - he simply ignored the figures.

Many Mexicans seem willing to tolerate the untruths, in part because López Obrador, 70, has mastered a key Mexican folk saying: "He who gets angry, loses." He brushes real contradictions and problems off with a chuckle, a stony refusal to discuss them, or his stock phrase, "I have other data."

Also:

MARQUELIA, Mexico: Hurricane John fell apart as quickly as it formed but left destruction along Mexico's southern Pacific coast Tuesday, including deadly mudslides and flooding that may linger

John was a Category 3 hurricane when it made landfall late Monday night near the town of **Punta** Maldonado, with winds of 120 mph (190 kph). It weakened to a tropical depression Tuesday with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 kph), the US National Hurricane Center said.

Mexican authorities discontinued all tropical storm warnings as the storm system dawdled along the coastal mountains and continued to weaken. It was 70 miles (115 kilometers) northwest of Acapulco and moving northwest at 3 mph (6 kph) at midday.

John blew tin roofs off houses, triggered mudslides and toppled scores of trees.

Two people died when the storm sent a mudslide crashing into their house on the remote mountain of Tlacoachistlahuaca (TLAH-kochis-tla-waka), further from the coast. Guerrero Gov. Evelyn Salgado said. A third death occurred in Malinaltepec when a landslide hit the home of a 70-year-old woman, according to **Guerrero** state

No deaths or injuries had been reported so far in the town of Marquelia, near where the hurricane made landfall, which Mayor Lincer Casiano Clemente attributed to his ability to warn residents of the storm's approach. But power was knocked out along large parts of the coast, and highways were blocked by fallen trees. The government said some 60,000 people remained without power.

LA PAZ, Bolivia: Former Bolivian President Evo

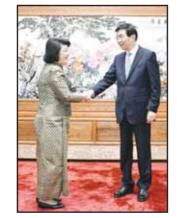
Morales on Tuesday toned down an ultimatum for current President Luis Arce to dismiss corrupt cabinet members in 24 hours or face mounting anti-government protests.

At a press conference held in the central city of Cochabamba, Morales said the demand did not aim to oust Arce but to "improve the management" of his government. "What we have clearly asked is for corrupt ministers to resign," he said.

Morales and his supporters marched from Caracollo in the western department of Oruro on Sept. 17, traveled 189 km to arrive at the center of La Paz on Monday, demanding Arce fire ineffectual or corrupt ministers within 24 hours or face more demonstrations.



Philippine military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr (left), greets US soldiers beside a HIMARS rocket launcher on display during the Asian Defense and Security Exhibition on Sept 25, in Manila, Philippines. Inset: Visitors look at weapons on display during the Asian Defense and Security Exhibition on Wednesday in Manila, Philippines. The weapons are LITENING 5, top, targeting pod and SPICE 1000, bottom, an autonomous stand-off guidance kit, both of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. (AP)



Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CP-PCC), meets with Cambodia's National Assembly President Khuon Sudary in Beijing, capital of China on Sept 24. (Xinhua)



Africa

Bashir taken to hospital: Sudan's former autocratic President Omar al-Bashir, who ruled for

30 years before he was toppled in a popular uprising and then jailed by the country's military rulers, has been transferred to a medical facility in northern Sudan, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Since war broke out in April last year between the Sudanese military and its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, the 80-year-old al-Bashir has been held at a military facility on the outskirts of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

His lawyer, Mohamed al-Hassan al-Amin, told The Associated Press that al-Bashir was transferred on Tuesday and would get proper care at a better-equipped hospital in the town of Merowe, about 330 kilometers (205 miles) north of Khartoum.

Al-Bashir's health had deteriorated recently, the lawyer said, adding that the former strongman suffers from age-related complica-

tions and high blood pressure. "He needs regular checks and follow-ups," al-Amin said over the phone, "but his condition is not critical." Al-Amin said that Sudan's former Defense Minister Abdel-Rahim Muhammad Hussein - who was also arrested soon after al-Bashir - was also transferred to the same facility. He suffers from heart-related prob-

lems, the lawyer said.

The office of Sudan's military spokesman declined to comment when contacted by the AP.

Al-Bashir ruled Sudan for three decades, despite wars and sanctions, before he was overthrown during a popular uprising in 2019. He is wanted by the International Criminal Court for genocide and other crimes committed during the conflict in Sudan's western Darfur region in the 2000s. (AP)

Burkina Faso foils attack: Burkina Faso's ruling junta said it thwarted an attempt to destabilize the African country "with the help of foreign powers.

A transitional government has been running the West African country after the military seized power in 2022, capitalizing on popular discontent with previous democratically elected governments over security issues. Growing attacks by extremists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have devastated Burkina Faso where thousands have been killed and more than 2 million people displaced while pushing tens of thousands to the brink of starvation.

The junta had set a goal to conduct an election in July to return Asia

US missile system to remain in Philippines

China test-fires missile into Pacific Ocean

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Sept 25, (Agencies): China test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, stirring security concerns in the region already tense over Beijing's territorial claims and rivalry with the US.

The ICBM carried a dummy warhead and fell into a designated area of the sea, the Defense Ministry said in a statement posted to social media.

The launch by the People's Liberation Army's Rocket Force was part of routine annual training, complied with international law and was not directed against any country or target, according to the state-

It is unclear how often China conducts tests over such a distance. In 1980, China launched an ICBM into the South Pacific.

A map published in Chinese newspapers at the time showed the target area as roughly a circle in the center of a ring formed by the Solomon Islands, Nauru, the Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu, western Samoa, Fiji and the New Hebrides.

The US and non-governmental organizations have said China has been building up its missile silos, but it's unclear how many missiles and nuclear warheads it has added to its arsenal.

Ambitions

The People's Liberation Army, which functions as the ruling Communist Party's military wing, runs China's space program, which has established an orbital station and has ambitions to set up a Moon base and land a spacecraft on Mars.

Rocketry has long been part of China's development into a major global power, spurring nationalism and growth that has made China the world's second-largest economy.

The US remains China's main global

rival, although Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and others have territorial disputes with Beijing that occasionally threaten to develop into military clashes.

China maintains a "no first use" of nuclear weapons policy, even as its desire for regional predominance grows.

Tests of China's intercontinental ballistic missiles into international waters are rare. Experts and a historical survey of China's program by the Washington-based Nuclear Threat Initiative suggest the last occurred in May 1980. That test saw China launch its DF-5 missile into the South Pacific.

China typically launches missiles toward its western deserts from its east coast, said James Acton, the co-director of the Nuclear Policy Program and a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The fact that China launched a test that splashed down in international waters was unusual, but mirrors testing that the United States does for its

the country to democratic rule, but

four months ago it extended its

transition term for five more years.

ter Mahamadou Sana said on na-

tional television Monday night that

"persons residing in Ivory Coast

have been involved in subversive

activities against our country.

Burkina Faso's Security Minis-

own ballistic missile fleet. "When they haven't done something

for 44 years and then they do it, that's significant," Acton told The Associated Press. "It's China's way of telling us, 'Like you, we're not ashamed we have nuclear weapons and we're going to behave like a great nuclear power. The launch came amid the ongoing United

Nations General Assembly in New York. China is one of five veto-holding permanent members of the U.N.'s Security Council and has sought to gain influence over its key departments involving human rights and that align with its authoritarian system.

A series of corruption arrests this year ensnared several leading officers in the Rocket Force, alongside the detentions of two previous defense ministers amid allegations of misconduct.

A test launch now could both provide assurances to China's population amid an economic downtown and a signal to the world that the party remains firmly in control and is determined to rise to global

'Missile system to stay in Manila': American and Filipino security officials have agreed to keep a US mid-range missile system in the northern Philippines indefinitely to boost deterrence despite China's expressions of alarm, two Philippine

officials said Wednesday. The US Army transported the Typhon missile system, a land-based weapon that can fire the Standard Missile-6 and the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, to the northern Philippines as part of combat exercises in April with Philippine troops and to test its deployability aboard an Air Force aircraft.

Tomahawk missiles can travel over 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers), which places China within their target range. Officials are considering keeping the missile system in the northern Philippines up to April next year, when US and Philippine forces are scheduled to hold their annual Balikatan - Tagalog for 'shoulder-to-shoulder" - large-scale combat exercises, he said.

The two officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive US missile deployment publicly. There was no immediate immediate comment from U.S. officials.

Chinese diplomats have repeatedly conveyed their alarm to the Philippine government, warning that the deployment of the missile system could destabilize the region.

A Philippine army spokesperson said earlier that the system was scheduled to be removed from the country by the end of this month. Philippine Defense Secretary

Sana claimed an elaborate three-

phased plot was devised by some

Burkina Faso civilians and service-

men living abroad who paid and

trained armed groups to conduct at-

tacks. He said the first phase of their

supposed plan was the jihadi attack

that killed at least 100 people in cen-

tral Burkina Faso last month. The

Gilberto Teodoro Jr. refused to confirm or deny the extension.

12 S'porean personnel hurt: Twelve military personnel have been injured when two Singaporean armored vehicles collided during a training exercise in Australia, officials said Wednesday.

The personnel "sustained non-serious injuries" when one Hunter Armored Fighting Vehicle "rear-ended another" Tuesday at Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area in Queensland state, a Singapore Defense Ministry statement said.

All 12 received medical care and had rejoined their unit by Wednesday, the Singapore Army said in a statement.

The army paused the exercise overnight "to remind drivers to maintain proper distance" between vehicles, the defense ministry statement said.

"Following the sharing of the incident, with emphasis on the need to maintain the safety distance, especially when driving in poor visibility, training has resumed, the army statement said. Eleven of the injured were flown in two helicopters on Tuesday to the Rockhampton Hospital for treatment, Queensland Ambulance Service said in a statement. The hospital said in a statement the last of the inj was discharged on Wednesday.

HK editors tell journalistic ideals: Writing to the Hong Kong court that convicted him of sedition, former Stand News

editor Patrick Lam said he regretted missing a chance to tell a police officer about independent journalism. Lam and his ex-colleague Chung Puikuen, both former top editors of the now-

shuttered Stand News, will learn their sentences Thursday after being found guilty last month in a landmark case widely seen as a barometer of media freedom in Hong Kong. They were the first journalists to be convicted of sedition since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. They face up to two years in prison and

a fine of 5,000 Hong Kong dollars (about

\$640) under a colonial-era sedition law

that has been increasingly used to crush dissent. Stand News was one of the last media outlets in the city that openly criticized the government as the authorities waged a crackdown on dissent following huge anti-

government protests in 2019. The online outlet, founded in 2014, emerged at a time when the city's news industry was already facing increased censorship and interference, according to Lam's mitigation letter, read out in court

by his lawyer Audrey Eu in August. second phase, he said, was planned

Kashmir votes in 2nd phase of poll

attacks on the presidential palace, a

military drone base, and an airport

and the last phase was attacks near the

Ivory Coast borders. Sana said the last

'Journos face security risks':

two phases were prevented. (AP)

SRINAGAR, India, Sept

25, (AP): Under elaborate security, residents in Indian-controlled Kashmir began casting votes Wednesday in the second phase of a staggered election for a local government, which for the first time in decades is not boycotted by separatists.

Ît's the first vote since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government scrapped the Muslim-majority region's semi-autonomy in 2019. "Our first and foremost issue is restoration of (the region's) semiautonomy and statehood.

Local journalists in the Sahel region of Africa are facing increased security risks, a media freedom group said Tuesday, as extremist attacks and military coups have shaken the region in recent years.

At least two community radio journalists were killed and two kidnapped by armed groups in Mali and Chad since November last year, Reporters Without Borders said in a statement calling for the protection of local journalists. "These crimes illustrate once

again the deteriorating security context in which journalists in the Sahel are working," Anne Bocandé, the organization's editorial director, said. "They are still present in these territories, to which no other information professional has access any more," she added.

Three nations in the Sahel, an arid swath of land south of the Sahara, have been wracked by coups in recent years. Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso are now ruled by military leaders who took power by force, pledging to provide more security to citizens.

But the security situation in the Sahel has worsened since the juntas took power, analysts say, with a record number of attacks and a record number of civilians killed both by Islamic militants and government forces. (AP)



Supporters of President Luis Arce gather in Plaza Murillo square near the presidential palace after former President Evo Morales held a rally to protest Arce's government, in La Paz, Bolivia on Sept 23. Former Bolivian President Evo Morales on Sept 24 toned down an ultimatum for Arce to dismiss corrupt cabinet members in 24 hours or face mounting anti-government protests.

oil soars

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 64 cents to USD 76.21 per barrel on Tuesday as opposed to USD 75.57 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

At the global level, the price of the Brent crude went up by USD 1.27 to USD 75.17 per barrel, the same occurred to the West Texas Intermediate, which went up by USD 1.19 to USD 71.56 pb. (KUNA)

KSE 100

SAUDI

DUBAI

EGYPT

PAKISTAN

Gold prices surged to an all-time high today, driven by robust demand fueled by expectations of continued interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve, monetary stimulus measures from China, and escalating tensions in the

The spot gold rose by 0.2 percent to \$2,633.25 an ounce, having peaked at \$2,639.95 earlier in the trading session; meanwhile, US gold futures also increased by 0.2 percent, reaching \$2,657.90 an ounce.

The surge in gold prices follows the Federal Reserve's recent decision to cut interest rates by 50 basis points, with Chicago Fed President Austin Goolsbee indicating further cuts could be on the horizon over the

Giovanni Staunovo, an analyst at UBS, commented, "Gold prices are rising on the possibility of another 50 basis point cut at the next Fed meeting, coupled with the actions taken by China. The risk of a price correction re-

mains, but it may be limited."

Tuesday, the People's Bank of China announced extensive monetary stimulus and property market support measures to revive its economy, which is currently under significant pressure and at risk of missing its growth target for the year. Lower interest rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding gold, making it more attractive

Market attention is now turning to upcoming comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and the US PCE data set to be released later this week. Ricardo Evangelista, chief analyst at ActiveTrades, noted that gold could continue to rise if the data reinforces expectations of monetary easing.

Year-to-date, gold prices have increased by 27 percent, largely due to heightened demand for safe-haven assets amid escalating conflict in the Middle East.

Other precious metals also saw gains today, with silver rising by 0.7 percent to \$30.87 per ounce, platinum climbing 1.5 percent to \$970.17 per ounce, and palladium increasing by 1.8 percent to \$1,060.25 per ounce.

Market Movements

Change Closing pts +75.30 12,343.72 - DFMGI 4,488.69 +27.23 EGX 30 +379.54

31,250.64

82,266.31

- Nikkei 225 PHILIPPINES - PSEi

25-09-2024

Middle East, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Change Closing pts -70.33 37,870.26 7.362.62

Business

gold prices hit record high amid global tensions & Fed rate cuts

Burgan field production dips, modern technologies needed

Al-Harami advocates partnerships with intl oil firms

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, 25: Prominent oil expert Kamel Al-Harami in a recent interview with the Al-Seyassah newspaper has shed light on the urgent need to rejuvenate Kuwait's iconic Burgan Field, the second largest oil field in the world.

With reserves estimated at 70 billion barrels, Al-Harami said, the Burgan has long been a cornerstone of Kuwait's oil production. However, in recent years, the field's output has significantly declined, slipping from providing 70 percent of the Kuwait Oil Company's production to less than 60 percent.

Al-Harami attributed this downturn to the inevitable effects of time and aging, likening the field to a person growing old and requiring extra care in the form of "vitamins.

He emphasized the necessity of implementing modern, advanced technologies to restore Burgan's former production levels. The field, which began production in 1946, is now showing signs of wear, and without intervention, its output will continue to fall. Al-Harami urged the Kuwait Pe-

Renewables drive growth, but oil to dominate energy market

OPEC predicts 24% global energy demand growth by 2050

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 25, (Xinhua): Global energy demand will grow 24 percent by 2050, with oil dominating world markets in need of 120.1 million barrels per day, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Tuesday.

Coinciding with Rio Oil & Gas. the largest oil and natural gas fair in Latin America, which runs through Thursday in Rio de Janeiro, OPEC released its annual World Oil Outlook, for the first time outside its headquar-

troleum Corporation to act swiftly,

partnering with major international oil

companies to introduce the necessary

He warned that if no action is taken,

Kuwait's ability to produce the tar-

geted 3 million barrels of oil per day

could be jeopardized. As one of the

country's most important resources,

revitalizing Burgan Field is key to sus-

taining Kuwait's position in the global

Al-Harami highlighted the urgent

need for KPC to collaborate with inter-

national oil companies to revitalize the

Burgan Field, one of the world's top

10 oil reserves. Al-Harami pointed out

that other Gulf countries, such as the

technologies.

oil market.

The organization, which brings together most of the world's largest oil producers, said it sees no signs of a peak in fossil fuel consumption despite a global race for renewable energy. On the contrary, it predicted that by 2050 oil will account for a record share of the world's energy matrix.

"The release of our outlook here is a very clear sign of Brazil's importance to the world of energy, not just for oil, but for global energy," said OPEC Sec-

UAE, have successfully partnered with foreign companies to enhance produc-

Although some efforts are under-

way, he emphasized that international

firms possess the rapid solutions re-

quired to address the field's declining

absence of the National Assembly of-

fers a unique window of opportunity.

In the past, members of parliament

obstructed the entry of foreign compa-

nies, but now KPC can expedite these

partnerships to drive an "oil industrial

achieving the corporation's produc-

This, he believes, is essential for

renaissance" in Kuwait.

Al-Harami noted that the temporary

tion, and Kuwait must follow suit.

retary General Haitham Al Ghais.

Renewable energy will account for 60 percent of global demand growth, but oil consumption is expected to exceed 120 million barrels per day in 2050, up 17 million barrels from the current consumption level, the report

According to OPEC, oil and gas will account for more than half of the energy matrix by 2050, with oil representing 29.3 percent, the biggest share

tion targets. However, the recurring changes in leadership, particularly the rotation of KPC's CEO every four vears, have hindered long-term strategic planning.

An informed source also told Al-Seyassah that Ahmed Al-Eidan, CEO of Kuwait Oil Company, has emphasized the need to boost production capacity, especially in the Burgan Field, which previously produced 2.4 million barrels per day.

Al-Eidan's focus includes increasing drilling operations and expanding oil exploration, as part of a broader strategy to reach the country's ambitious goal of producing 4 million barrels of crude oil by 2035.

General market index gains 0.16%

Boursa Kuwait indices surge amid robust trading activity

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: In a positive turn for investors, the Boursa Kuwait indices rose at the end of the third session Tuesday, marking a favorable midweek performance, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The General Market Index gained 0.16 percent, or 11.75 points, closing at 7168.70 points. Although liquidity saw a slight decline, settling at 64.4 million dinars, trading activity remained robust, with a total of 385.2 million shares exchanged across 21,430 trans-

The Premier Market Index also experienced gains, climbing 0.17 percent (12.95 points) to reach 7749.60 points.

However, this index remained less liquid compared to the Main Market, with liquidity at just 28.7 million dinars and 90.1 million shares traded in 7864 transactions.

Of the 34 shares traded in the Premier Market, 19 saw gains, while 10 experienced losses, and 5 remained unchanged.

The Main Market Index followed suit, increasing by 0.15 percent (9.39 points) to close at 6283.11 points. This segment exhibited greater liquidity, equal to the previous day's 35.7 million dinars, with 295 million shares traded through 13,566 transactions. Among the 93 shares in this market, 44 gained, 40 lost, and only 9 remained

The trading commenced with a healthy liquidity of around 2 million dinars, but soon shifted towards profittaking, particularly in small and medium speculative stocks.

This led to notable declines in shares such as Inovest, MENA, and Unicap. Initially, the indicators dipped into the red zone until a resurgence in buying activity on new shares revitalized the market.

One standout performer was the Al-Safa share, which surged by 11.5 percent and attracted impressive liquidity of over 3.5 million dinars. In contrast, pressure persisted on MENA and Inovest shares, typically leaders in speculative trading.

However, the Eva shares also posted gains, and Unicap rebounded with a percent increase. Arzan and United shares experienced notable trading activity, rising by 2.3 percent as United shares attracted 1.6 million dinars in trading volume.

In the real estate sector, shares of Kuwait Real Estate and Manazel saw positive movement, with Bayt shares soaring by 7 percent amid significant trades of 750,000 dinars; Agility shares faced pressure, declining by 2 percent, alongside smaller decreases in Boubyan and Cables shares.

Among the leading companies, the National Bank share demonstrated resilience, achieving a modest gain of 0.5 percent.

As the session concluded, the overall sentiment was positive, with the market closing in the green, albeit with limited increases for most shares, except for the noteworthy performances of Safat and Al-Bayt.

Meanwhile, the performance of GCC markets showed mixed results; while Abu Dhabi, Oman, and Bahrain saw slight declines, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Dubai, and Oatar indices rose bolstered by rising oil prices exceeding \$75 per barrel for Brent crude.

Participants in the program

'Al Nokhba' program aims to enhance leadership skills at ABK

ABK launches innovative talent development program 'Al Nokhba'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) proudly announces the launch of its innovative talent development program, 'Al Nokhba,' a one-year transformative journey designed to nurture the next generation of strategic leaders. This program aims to equip Kuwaiti middle management professionals from various divisions and backgrounds with the essential skills and knowledge to excel in their current roles and prepare them for future leadership opportunities within the bankBank.

Aligned with ABK's human capital strategy, Al Nokhba is tailored to enhance the contributions of middle managers, strengthening their impact on the bank's long-term success. "Middle managers play a crucial role as they link strategy development and implementation through their teams, turning organizational plans into daily operations, driving business success," said Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK. "Their leadership and planning contribute to the bank's Bank's excellence, leading to higher levels of overall

Afrah Al Arbash

■ We are investing in the development of our middle managers, empowering them to lead with confidence, adaptability, and strategic foresight.



Afrah Al Arbash speaking during the program launch.

success for the organization."

The Al Nokhba curriculum is crafted to address current industry trends and align with ABK's strategic goals, focusing on crucial areas, such as leadership, strategic thinking, communication, and financial risk management. Participants will delve into pressing topics like ESG, digital transformation, and financial technology, gaining the tools needed to navigate today's complex corporate landscape.

In addition to traditional leadership skills, Al Nokhba emphasizes the importance of innovation, problemsolving, emotional intelligence, and change management. The program's dynamic structure - comprising workshops, interactive sessions, and realworld case studies - will provide middle managers with practical insights into team dynamics, fostering effective collaboration and strategic execution.

The program also aims to improve participants' ability to understand team dynamics, enhance planning and execution skills, and influence corporate culture positively. Managers will learn how to harness the strengths of their teams, encouraging collaboration and the consideration of diverse perspectives for mutual benefit.

"Through Al Nokhba, we are investing in the development of our middle managers, empowering them to lead with confidence, adaptability, and strategic foresight," Al Arbash added. "We are committed to cultivating skilled leaders who can drive ABK's success in an everchanging business environment.

With its comprehensive approach, Al Nokhba is set to forge a new generation of leaders capable of meeting the complexities of modern business challenges head-on, ensuring ABK remains at the forefront of the industry.

Survey open until Nov 25

CMA launches first phase of 'Fintech' regulatory review

ital Markets Authority (CMA) has officially launched the first phase of its evaluation of the regulatory framework for financial technology (Fintech) services, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative focuses on financial technologies, which encompasses services like securities-based crowdfunding and

automated investment advisors. The primary objective of this phase is to conduct a thorough review of the regulatory framework, particularly regarding the applica-

tion process for practicing Fintech

CMA.

To encourage broad participation, the Authority has invited all individuals, institutions, and entities subject to its regulations, as well as any stakeholders interested in the Fintech sector, to engage in

This two-month survey will be open from Sept 25 to Nov 25, 2024, and aims to gather opinions and suggestions that will aid in enhancing and refining the regulatory framework for financial technology services in Kuwait.

Ethereum faces outflows

Cryptocurrencies rally amid 'US monetary' easing hopes

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: In yesterday's trading session, most cryptocurrencies experienced gains, buoyed by expectations of monetary easing in the United States, reports Al-Jarida daily

Bitcoin rose by 0.49 percent, reaching \$63,680.09, while Ripple saw a modest increase of 0.46 percent, trading at 58.87 cents.

However, Ethereum faced a decline, slipping 0.81 percent to \$2,654.93, primarily due to significant outflows from its exchange-traded funds (ETFs) on Wall Street.

Data from the SoSoValue platform revealed that Ethereum funds traded on US exchanges experienced net outflows of \$79 million on Monday, marking the highest rate of exits since July 29, 2024.

This trend suggests a waning investor appetite for holding financial products linked to the second-largest cryptocurrency by market capitalization.

In a related development, authorities in Dagestan, a southern region of the Russian Federation, are calling for stricter regulations against electricityintensive Bitcoin mining operations that have taken to underground facili-

Dagestan's Prime Minister, Abdulmuslim Abdulmuslimov, emphasized the need for Russian authorities to clamp down on illegal cryptocurrency mining, particularly after a recent fire at a substation attributed to high electricity consumption by these opera-

The Dagestan regional government has released images showing investigators inspecting an underground mining facility, equipped with numerous fans to cool the computers used in

Türkiye introduces tech visa to attract foreign entrepreneurs

ANKARA, Sept 25, (Xinhua): Türkiye has launched a new tech visa program to attract foreign entrepreneurs, aiming to boost its economy and innovation

Industry and Technology Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacir announced the initiative earlier this week, offering expedited work permits for up to three years for foreign nationals starting businesses in the country. The program includes tax benefits, mentoring, healthcare coverage and access to innovation centers.

Government officials say the goal is to enhance local workforce capabilities and diversify the innovation ecosystem. The move comes as part of a broader strategy to address brain drain concerns, with thousands of highly educated Turks, particularly doctors and engineers, leaving for opportunities in Europe in recent years due to the country's economic woes.

Accepted entrepreneurs will receive six months of consultancy on legal, financial, and technical aspects of their businesses. Kacir said the program aims to "transform Türkiye into an epicenter of global attraction." In 2023, Türkiye ranked 12th in Europe for startup investments, with Istanbul placing sixth among European cities.

Istanbul entrepreneur Murat Belen told Xinhua that foreign entrepreneurs with expertise in new technologies are welcome, as research and development in Türkiye lag behind advanced countries, adding that he has observed that people from Eastern Europe and Asian countries "are showing increased interest in establishing startups in Türkiye.

The tech visa complements the Digital Nomad

Visa introduced in April, allowing foreigners to live and work temporarily while serving international clients. Ankara-based entrepreneur Tekin Kahraman highlighted Türkiye's strengths in sectors including defense, aviation, space and fintech. The government aims to foster 100,000 tech-driven

startups by 2030, with at least 100 reaching a valuation of 1 billion U.S. dollars or more. Currently, six startups in Türkiye meet that criterion. Kahraman suggested foreign entrepreneurs may find opportunities to collaborate with local professionals in Türkiye, which has Europe's youngest population despite an aging trend. 'It may be a mutually beneficial opportunity for

both sides to exchange knowledge in a country where patent applications for innovative technologies are reportedly on the rise," he said.

transport expo highlights smart, green solutions

The 2024 International Trade Fair for Transport Technology, known as InnoTrans, kicked off on Tuesday with a focus on the future of mobility. This year's event highlights smart transport solutions and low-carbon rail innovations pow-

ered by electricity and hydrogen.
The four-day exhibition has drawn over 2,900 exhibitors from 59 countries and regions. They will showcase the latest products and impossible processes 200 occurrence. innovations across 200,000 square meters of exhibition space and

3.500 meters of tracks, covering five segments: railway technology, railway infrastructure, public transport, interiors and tunnel construction.

InnoTrans 2024 will showcase 226 world premieres, featuring groundbreaking advancements in electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles that are pushing the boundaries of energy efficiency and sustainability, Messe Berlin, the event's organizer, told Xinhua.

Innovations in autonomous rail technology, Al-driven solutions,

and smart infrastructure systems using IoT and big data will also be

in the spotlight, it added.

Around 200 Chinese companies are participating in the biennial event. The CRRC Corporation Limited, one of the world's largest vehicle manufacturers, unveiled two of its latest high-tech products: a hydrogen train capable of running up to 200 km per hour and a nextgeneration autonomous rail rapid transit vehicle, both featuring green and smart innovations. (Xinhua)

Germany recovery hinges on ECB's rate cuts

As much as the restrictiveness of the European Central Bank (ECB) added to the hardships of Germany's economy, the future rate cuts of the central bank will play a crucial role in providing an impetus, a report published by a German research institute on Tuesday indicated.

Things are not looking up for the European Union's (EU) largest economy, which has been characterized by stagnation during the past few years and a moderate recovery is only expected sometime

next year, said the report by Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK).

Germany's economic output dropped slightly by 0.1 percent in the second quarter after a gain of 0.2 percent in the first quarter. Looking ahead, the institute expects the economy to remain stagnant for 2024. Although a "significant, broad-based and persistent" decline in the economic output has not been an immediate concern, the German economy continues to be weak, said the monthly report

released by the German central bank, Bundesbank, last week.

Comparing the gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter this year with the second quarter of 2019, IMK concluded that the GDP now is only 0.4 percent higher, which means the economy

"has hardly grown for five years."

The past five years saw one of the most drastic price hikes in the euro area, which largely owed to energy price increases since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine. (Xinhua)

'Finding the right AI tools helps save on personnel costs'

Most small businesses using a software tool that is enabled by Al

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): As the use of artificial intelligence expands, more small firms say they're harnessing AI to help their businesses.

In a survey by The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Teneo, nearly every small business - 98% - said they are utilizing a tool that is enabled by AI. Forty percent said they're using generative AI tools like chatbots and image creation, nearly double from last year's sur-

Small business owners say finding the right AI tools helps them save on personnel costs and frees up time. But they also stress that human oversight is still a necessity.

"AI allows small businesses - who many times do not have the staff or resources of their competitors - to punch above their weight," said Jordan Crenshaw, senior vice president of the U.S. Chamber's Technology Engagement Center. "It's encouraging to see small businesses embrace technology and express optimism for the future as these platforms serve as a catalyst for innovation and resilience.'

Randy Speckman, who owns San Diego-based web design agency Randy Speckman Design with seven staffers, found the right AI tool for his business by trial and error. He tried a few tools that didn't provide high enough quality copy before settling on tools including Conversion. ai and Copy.ai to generate blog posts, email newsletters and social media content.

The tools save Speckman's staff a lot of time while allowing for a consistent volume of higher quality content. The improvement in production means he hasn't had to hire more

"The only downside is needing to

review and tweak the AI's initial drafts," Speckman said.

The survey also found that 91% of small businesses using AI say it will help their business grow in the future. Seventy-seven percent of small business owners said they plan to adopt emerging technologies, including AI and metaverse.

Amanda Reineke owns Notice Ninja, a digital compliance company that helps tax professionals automate their incoming tax notices in Phoenix, Arizona, with 15 employees. Her company built an AI-powered platform that scans and captures data from tax notices, then automatically routes each notice to the right department and person to handle it.

"When implemented thoughtfully by domain experts, (AI) can drive major efficiencies," she said. "AI won't replace human work, but will augment and lift it."

The survey found more businesses are using technology platforms in general. Forty-seven percent of business owners surveyed said they use four or more technology platforms up from 39% last year - and more than a quarter said they use six or more technology platforms.

Jan Watermann, owner of marketing agency Waterman Consulting in St. Petersburg, Florida, uses AI tools such as Jasper AI and SurferSEO.

"Jasper helps us quickly generate blog posts, ad copy, and other written content, while SurferSEO ensures it's optimized for search engines," Watermann said.

Watermann says that for all its promise, AI still needs human oversight. "It's great for efficiency but still requires human creativity and strategy to get the best results," he

\$7 bln in fees charged

DOJ files antitrust lawsuit against VISA

harmful."

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): The U.S. Justice Department has filed an antitrust lawsuit against Visa, alleging that the financial services behemoth uses its size and dominance to stifle competition in the debit card market, costing consumers and businesses billions of dol-

The complaint filed Tuesday says San Francisco-based Visa penalizes merchants and banks who don't use Visa's own payment processing technology to process debit transactions, even though alternatives exist. Visa earns an incremental fee from every transaction processed on its network.

According to the DOJ's complaint, 60% of debit transactions in the United States run on Visa's debit network, allowing it to charge over \$7 billion in fees each year for

processing those transactions. "We allege that Visa has unlawfully amassed the power to extract fees that far exceed what it could charge in a competitive market," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in a statement. "Merchants and banks pass along those costs to consumers, either by raising prices or reducing quality or service. As a result, Visa's unlawful conduct affects not just the price of one thing but the price of nearly everything.'

Expanding

In a statement, Julie Rottenberg, Visa's general counsel, said the lawsuit doesn't take into account the "ever expanding universe of companies offering new ways to

pay for goods and services."
"Today's lawsuit ignores the reality that Visa is just one of many competitors in a debit space that is growing, with entrants who are thriving," Rottenberg said. She added the lawsuit is "meritless" and the company will defend itself "vigorously."

The Biden administration has aggressively gone after U.S. companies that it says act like middlemen, such as Ticketmaster parent Live Nation and the real estate software company RealPage, accusing them of burdening Americans with nonsensical fees and anticompetitive behavior. The administration has also brought charges of monopolistic behavior against technology giants such as Apple and Google.

"In some of the Justice Department's antitrust enforcement actions, the harm caused by the alleged illegal conduct is more visible: higher prices for air travel, for concert tickets, for smartphones," Garland said during a news conference in Washington on Tuesday.

"The harmful effects of Visa's alleged anticompetitive conduct is

less visible, but they are no less

According to the DOJ complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, Visa leverages the vast number of transactions on its network to impose volume commitments on merchants and their banks, as well as on financial institutions that issue debit cards. That makes it difficult for merchants to use alternatives, such as lower-cost or smaller payment processors, instead of Visa's payment processing technology, without incurring what DOJ described as "disloyalty penalties" from Visa.

The DOJ said Visa also stifled competition by paying to enter into partnership agreements with potential competitors.

In 2020, the DOJ sued to block the company's \$5.3 billion purchase of financial technology startup Plaid, calling it a monopolistic takeover of a potential competitor to Visa's ubiquitous payments network. That acquisition was eventually later called off.

Visa previously disclosed the Justice Department was investigating the company in 2021, saying in a regulatory filing it was cooperating with a DOJ investigation into its debit practices.

Since the pandemic, more consumers globally have been shopping online for goods and services, which has translated into more revenue for Visa in the form of fees. Even traditionally cash-heavy businesses like bars, barbers and coffee shops have started accepting credit or debit cards as a form of payment, often via smartphones.

KBW analyst Sanjay Sahrani said in a note to investors that he estimates that U.S. debit revenue is likely at most about 10% of Visa

"Some subset of that may be lost if there is a financial impact," he said. Visa's "U.S. consumer payments business is the slowest growing piece of the aggregate business, and to the extent its contribution is affected, it is likely to have a very limited impact on revenue growth.

He added the lawsuit could stretch out for years if it isn't settled and goes to trial.

Visa processed \$3.325 trillion in transactions on its network during the quarter ended June 30, up 7.4% from a year earlier. U.S. payments grew by 5.1%, which is faster than U.S. economic growth.

Visa shares fell \$15.85, or 5.5%. to close at \$272.94 on Tuesday.

American consumers feeling less confident in September

Concerns about jobs take center stage

WASHINGTON, Sept 25, (AP): American consumers are feeling less confident this month as concerns about jobs rose significantly.

The Conference Board, a business research group, said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell to 98.7 in September, from 105.6 in August. It was the biggest month-to-month decline since August of 2021.

The survey was conducted before the Federal Reserve announced a bigger-than-expected half-point interest rate cut last week.

The consumer confidence index measures both Americans' assessment of current economic conditions and their outlook for the next six

The measure of Americans' shortterm expectations for income, business and the job market fell to 81.7 from 86.3 in July. A reading under 80 can signal a potential recession in the near future.

"Consumers" assessments of current business conditions turned negative while views of the current labor market situation softened further," said Dana Peterson, the Conference Board's chief economist. Consumers were also more pessimistic about future labor market conditions, Peterson

The labor market has been loosening lately, with jobs numbers declining in recent

Employers added a modest 142,000 jobs in August, up from an even weaker 89,000 in July. The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.2% from 4.3%, which had been the highest level in nearly three years. Hiring in June and July was revised sharply down by a combined 86,000. July's job gain was the smallest



A shopper passes by a Christmas tree costing \$600 on display in a Costco warehouse Sept. 12, 2024, in Thornton, Colo. (AP)

since the pandemic.

On top of the tepid jobs numbers from July and August, the government reported earlier this month that the U.S. economy added 818,000 fewer jobs from April 2023 through March this year than were originally The revised total added to evidence that the job market has been steadily slowing.

The labor market data - along with receding inflation - played a significant part in the Federal Reserve's decision to cut its benchmark borrowing rate by 50 basis points, double the usual amount.

The rate cut, the Fed's first in more than four years, reflected its new focus on bolstering a softening

The central bank's action lowered its key rate to roughly 4.8%, down from a two-decade high of 5.3% where it had stood for 14 months as it struggled to curb the worst inflation streak in four decades. Inflation has tumbled from a peak of 9.1% in mid-2022 to a three-year low of 2.5% in August, not far above the Fed's 2% target.

Fed policymakers also signaled that they expect to cut their key rate by an additional half-point in their final two meetings this year, and they envision four more rate cuts in 2025 and two in 2026.

The Conference Board reported uesday that consumers current conditions fell to 124.3 in September from 134.3 last month.

Consumer spending accounts for nearly 70% of U.S. economic activity and is closely watched by economists for signs how the American consumer is feeling.

The Conversation

Millions of Americans alarmed at development

Why home insurance 'rates' are rising so fast across the US - climate change plays big role

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

By Andrew J. Hoffman University of Michigan

Tillions of Americans have been Lwatching with growing alarm as their homeowners insurance premiums rise and their coverage shrinks. Nationwide, premiums rose 34% between 2017 and 2023, and they continued to rise in 2024 across much of the country.

To add insult to injury, those rates go even higher if you make a claim - as much as 25% if you claim a total loss of your home.

Why is this happening?

There are a few reasons, but a common thread: Climate change is fueling more severe weather, and insurers are responding to rising damage claims. The losses are exacerbated by more frequent extreme weather disasters striking densely populated areas, rising construction costs and homeowners experiencing damage that was once more rare.

Parts of the U.S. have been seeing larger and more damaging hail, higher storm surges, massive and widespread wildfires, and heat waves that kink metal and buckle asphalt. In Houston, what used to be a 100-year disaster, such as Hurricane Harvey in 2017, is now a 1-in-23-years event, estimates by risk assessors at First Street Foundation suggest. In addition, more people are moving into coastal and wildland areas at risk from storms and wildfires.

Just a decade ago, few insurance companies had a comprehensive strategy for addressing climate risk as a core business issue. Today, insurance companies have no choice but to factor climate change into their policy models.

There's a saying that to get someone to pay attention to climate change, put a price on it. Rising insurance costs are doing just that.

Increasing global temperatures lead to more extreme weather, and that means insurance companies have had to make higher payouts. In turn, they have been raising their prices and changing their coverage in order to remain solvent. That raises the costs for homeowners and for everyone else.

The importance of insurance to the economy cannot be understated. You generally cannot get a mortgage or even drive a car, build an office building or enter into contracts without insurance to protect against the inherent risks. Because insurance is so tightly woven into economies, state agencies review insurance companies' proposals to increase premiums or reduce coverage.

The insurance companies are not making political statements with the increases. They are looking at the numbers, calculating risk and pricing it accordingly. And the numbers are concerning. Insurance companies use data from

past disasters and complex models to calculate expected future payouts. Then they price their policies to cover those expected costs. In doing so, they have to balance three concerns: keeping rates low enough to remain competitive, setting rates high enough to cover payouts and not running afoul of insurance regulators. But climate change is disrupting

those risk models. As global temperatures rise, driven by greenhouse gases from fossil fuel use and other human activities, past is no longer prologue: What happened over the past 10 to 20 years is less predictive of what will happen in the next 10 to 20 years.

The number of billion-dollar disas-

ters in the U.S. each year offers a clear example. The average rose from 3.3 per year in the 1980s to 18.3 per year in the 10-year period ending in 2024, with all years adjusted for inflation.

With that more than fivefold increase in billion-dollar disasters came rising insurance costs in the Southeast because of hurricanes and extreme rainfall, in the West because of wildfires. and in the Midwest because of wind. hail and flood damage.

Hurricanes tend to be the most damaging single events. They caused more than US\$692 billion in property damage in the U.S. between 2014 and 2023. But severe hail and windstorms, including tornadoes, are also costly; together, those on the billion-dollar disaster list did more than \$246 billion in property damage over the same

As insurance companies adjust to the uncertainty, they may run a loss in one segment, such as homeowners insurance, but recoup their losses in other segments, such as auto or commercial insurance. But that cannot be sustained over the long term, and companies can be caught by unexpected events. California's unprecedented wildfires in 2017 and 2018 wiped out nearly 25 years' worth of profits for insurance companies in that state.

To balance their risk, insurance companies often turn to reinsurance companies; in effect, insurance companies that insure insurance companies. But reinsurers have also been raising their prices to cover their costs. Property reinsurance alone increased by 35% in 2023. Insurers are passing those costs to their policyholders.

Not only are homeowners insurance premiums going up, coverage is shrinking. In some cases, insurers are reducing or dropping coverage for items such as metal trim, doors and roof repair, increasing deductibles for risks such as hail and fire damage, or refusing to pay full replacement costs for things such as older roofs.

Some insurances companies are simply withdrawing from markets altogether, canceling existing policies or refusing to write new ones when risks become too uncertain or regulators do not approve their rate increases to cover costs. In recent years. State Farm and Allstate pulled back from California's homeowner market, and Farmers, Progressive and AAA pulled back from the Florida market, which is seeing some of the highest in-

surance rates in the country State-run "insurers of last resort," which can provide coverage for people who can't get coverage from private companies, are struggling too. Taxpayers in states such as California and Florida have been forced to bail out their state insurers. And the National Flood Insurance Program has raised its premiums, leading 10 states to sue to

About 7.4% of U.S. homeowners have given up on insurance altogether, leaving an estimated \$1.6 trillion in property value at risk, including in high-risk states such as Florida.

According to NOAA data, 2023 was the hottest year on record "by far." And 2024 could be even hotter. This general warming trend and the rise in extreme weather is expected to continue until greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are abated.

In the face of such worrying analyses, U.S. homeowners insurance will continue to get more expensive and cover less. And yet, Jacques de Vaucleroy, chairman of the board of reinsurance giant Swiss Re, believes U.S. insurance is still priced too low to fully cover the risk from climate change. (AP)

What's On







Group picture during the Apple convention.

As part of its comprehensive strategy aimed at investing in its talent and human capital

KIB hosts Apple's 'It's GlowTime' event presented by its employee

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it recently organized a special event at its headquarters to live-stream Apple's annual product launch reveal, dubbed "It's GlowTime" this year. Presented by KIB's Senior Manager of Social Media and Digital Marketing, Nawaf AlSuwayed, known on social media as @elzeer, the event aimed to gather Apple fans and tech enthusiasts from around Kuwait to learn about the latest updates and features of the new Apple smart devices and accessories. This initiative aligns with the Bank's comprehensive strategy to invest in its human talent and create a positive environment that fosters both professional and personal growth.

Commenting on the event, Marwa Marafie, Manager of Marketing and Corporate Communications at KIB, said: "Every year, our colleague, Nawaf AlSuwayed, invites Apple fans and tech enthusiasts alike to tune into the live streaming of the tech giant's highly anticipated product launch event. This year, we encouraged AlSuwayed to host the special gathering at KIB's HQ for the first time, reflecting the Bank's commitment to supporting its employees and creating a culture where they are encouraged to pursue their passions and interests.

She added: "As a 'Bank for Life', KIB firmly believes that employees are the most valuable asset and will continue to support and encourage them to reach their fullest potential at the workplace and beyond.

The event attracted a significant turnout of Apple enthusiasts and users, including the Bank's employees and guests. It offered an interactive atmosphere for attendees who gathered to watch the live broadcast of the event from the United States

tiative demonstrates KIB's ongoing commitment to supporting its employees' endeavors and contributing to their growth, success, and development. The Bank also strives to make a positive impact on their professional and personal journeys while fostering a dynamic work environment that encourages creativity and further achievements

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial



KIB's Nawaf AlSuwayed.



Picture during the Apple convention.

Boursa Kuwait offers educational presentation to Class 12 students

FAIPS-DPS students visit Boursa Kuwait for educational experience

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Commerce Department of FAIPS – DPS conducted an educational visit to Boursa Kuwait, the official stock exchange of Kuwait on 12th September 2024. This excursion was attended by students from Class 12, including those specializing in Commerce, Humanities, and Economics. The trip's primary purpose was to offer these students an invaluable opportunity to gain practical insights into the operational dynamics of the financial markets. By engaging with the real-world environment of a major stock exchange, the students aimed to enhance their understanding of financial transactions, market behavior, and economic principles in action.

The trip began with an informative presentation detailing the history and evolution of Boursa Kuwait. Boursa Kuwait was officially inaugurated in September 1984, though its stock exchange operations commenced in 1986. The market experienced a significant interruption due to a financial crisis, which led to a three-year halt in trading. This period of inactivity caused the number of listed companies to decline from 54 to 28.

As of the present day, Boursa Kuwait encompasses approximately 170 companies. A notable development occurred



FAIPS students explore the dynamics of premier and main markets.

acquired 44% of the shares. This was followed by a substantial shift in ownership in September 2019, when Kuwaiti citizens secured 50% of the shares. This evolving structure reflects Boursa Kuwait's ongoing adaptation and growth within the financial sector. Following the presentation, the stu-

dents were introduced to the stock market's organizational framework and its essential components. They observed the live exchange rates displayed in the main hall, which feature two main segments: the Premier Market and the Main Market. The Premier Market, which includes 30 leading companies, is known for its higher level of international investment. On the other hand, the Main Market consists of a greater number of companies and attracts more local investors. Central electronic boards display real-time data for both market segments and the overall stock exchange. Trading activities are managed through broker firms, which are conveniently located within the same hall to facilitate smooth trading processes

The students were afforded a valuable opportunity to receive comprehensive guidance on embarking on trading and investment. They engaged with Boursa Academy, a virtual platform offering simulated trading with virtual currency to help users understand market dynamics and prepare for real-world investments. This experience was highly regarded, and the students expressed their deep appreciation to the FAIPS fraternity for their persistent support and enthusiastic involvement in Commerce-focused educational projects.

The trip concluded with a highly memorable and enlightening experience that made a significant impression on the students. The unique insights and exposure gained during the visit have left an enduring mark, promising to influence their perspectives on the financial world for years ahead.

20 customers win KD 1,500 each

Kuwait Finance House reveals winners of the 'AlRabeh' draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each for the 36th and 37th weeks The winners of KD 1,500 are:Mastourah Al-Otaibi, Elias Mazy-

oun, Raed Al-Maimouni, Badreyah Al-Sabah, Mohammad Shamieh, Hussain Al-Qattan, Ahmed Al-Ashker, AlAnoud Al-Hajri, Naser Al-Othman, Abdulraheem Al-Awadhi, Fouzeyah Al-Baghli, Faten Malallah, Osama Abuhateb, Naila Faruki, Anjery al-Anjery, Meshari Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Al-Rasheedi, Ah-mad Abduladheem, Feda Al-Gharabali, Rashed Al-Mutairi.

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

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

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the high-

est quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary ac-

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

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology



The campaign visual

Uplifting messages on morality and faith at Secrat program

IMA conducts public program on Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH)

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: "In the Messenger of Allah" (PBUH) you have an excellent example to follow. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the ultimate role model for those who fear God and seek success in both religious and worldly matters" were the opening remarks quoted by one of the main speakers Mr. Nisar Ahmed from Holy Quran while addressing in a Public Program on Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) at Masjid Yousuf Al-Adsani in Kuwait City on 19th September 2024, organized by Indian Muslim Association (IMA) drawing a huge gathering of Urdu Speaking community in Kuwait successfully.

The Event aimed to deepen the understanding of the life and character of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), marked the conclusion of IMA's ongoing Seerah Campaign, and featured insightful lectures and poetry recitation on the exemplary life of the Prophet.

Nisar Ahmed, a Renowned Speaker & Khatib in Kuwait was the Main Speaker of the Evening. While addressing the audience on the topic 'In Messenger of Allah (PBUH) you have an excellent example to follow' presented Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the ultimate role model for those who fear God and seek success in both religious and worldly matters. He added, Prophet (PBUH)'s exemplary character, trustworthiness and leadership earned him recognition, even by non-Muslim scholars like Michael H. Hart, who ranked him as the most influential person in history. Known as "Al-Sadiq" (the truthful) and "Al-Ameen" (the trustworthy), the Prophet (PBUH) exemplified integrity, compassion and dedication to social work, as praised by those around him. He concluded







Photos during the program.

emphasizing His (PBUH)'s profound character and accomplishments continue to inspire millions as the best ex-

ample of human greatness and virtue. Mohammed Umar Falahi, IMA President & Second Speaker of the Evening addressed the audience on the Topic 'I was only sent to perfect good morals'. He emphasized the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) about living a life rooted in faith, good character and kindness. He referred key Hadiths(the sayings of the prophet Muhammad PBUH) that highlight the importance of treating neighbors well, honoring guests and speaking good or remaining silent. He added Prophet (PBUH) taught that true faith involves loving for others what one loves for oneself and that good character is fundamental to Islam. Criticizing modern tendencies towards selfishness and harshness, he urged Muslims to embody the Prophet's exemplary character, as success in this life and the Hereafter lies in following his teachings. Finally, he called for self-reflection, especially in a pluralistic society, and urges Muslims to promote unity, brotherhood and good deeds.

Several Distinguished graced the Event with their presence that included Mr Abdul Lateef Al Munaify & Mr Emaad Al Sinan from Jamiat-ulIslah and Mr Muzammil Malik, a well-known Indian Businessman in Kuwait - who thanked IMA Kuwait for organizing such an impactful event for the awareness in community.

A highlight of the event was a beautiful rendition of Naat (poetry in praise of the Prophet), performed by Br Munawwar Hussain in his very melodious voice, which deeply moved the

Marley Brothers upholds father's legacy with tour

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25, (AP): Bob Marley's musical legacy of harmony and peace has hit the road with his sons bringing their late father's timeless message to life in a multi-city tour.

The reggae giant's footsteps are being filled by his five sons - Ziggy, Stephen, Julian, Ky-Mani and Damian - during the Marley Brothers: The Legacy Tour. It's the first time the siblings have performed together on tour in two decades.

Marley's sons are honoring his work, performing about 30 of their father's songs including massive hits like "No Woman, No Cry," "Could You Be Loved," "Is This Love" and "Three Little Birds." The 22-date tour kicked off in Vancouver and will conclude in early Octo-

"This was very important," Ziggy said about the tour while his brothers Stephen and Julian sat beside him after a recent rehearsal in Los Angeles. The multi-Grammy winner said it was important for them to collectively find time in their busy schedules and pay homage to their father - who would have turned 80 in February 2025

"When the opportunity arise, we can come get together, cherish and appreciate it," he continued. "That's the big part of it - just being able to do this together. Time is moving.'

The Marley Brothers have their own reggae sounds but found a way to blend it all together. They've performed together since childhood including a Red Rocks performance in Colorado last year. Two or three have hit the stage in other shows, like when Damian and Stephen performed at the Hollywood Bowl last month.

Julian said years of collaboration have fostered a deep musical synergy between his siblings - a natural extension of their shared lineage. "His message goes beyond barriers. It breaks down barriers," Julian

said. "No matter which country you go to, the people need the same message. That's why this is so everlasting. Never ending. That is the reason we are here and doing this mission.'

Marley rose from the gritty Kingston, Jamaica, slum of Trench Town to reach superstar status in the 1970s with hits such as "Get Up, Stand Up" and "I Shot the Sheriff." His lyrics promoting social justice and African unity made him a global icon before he died from cancer in 1981 at age 36.

But Marley's legacy has lived on through several projects including an immersive exhibit in New York and his biopic "Bob Marley: One Love," which debuted No. 1 at the box office in February

On Sunday, the brothers were presented a proclamation that declared Sept. 22 as "Marley Brothers Day" in the Queens borough of New York. His sons have upheld their father's heritage while forging their own successful paths including Julian - who won his first-ever Grammy in

Ziggy and Stephen have each won eight Grammys; Damian has tak-

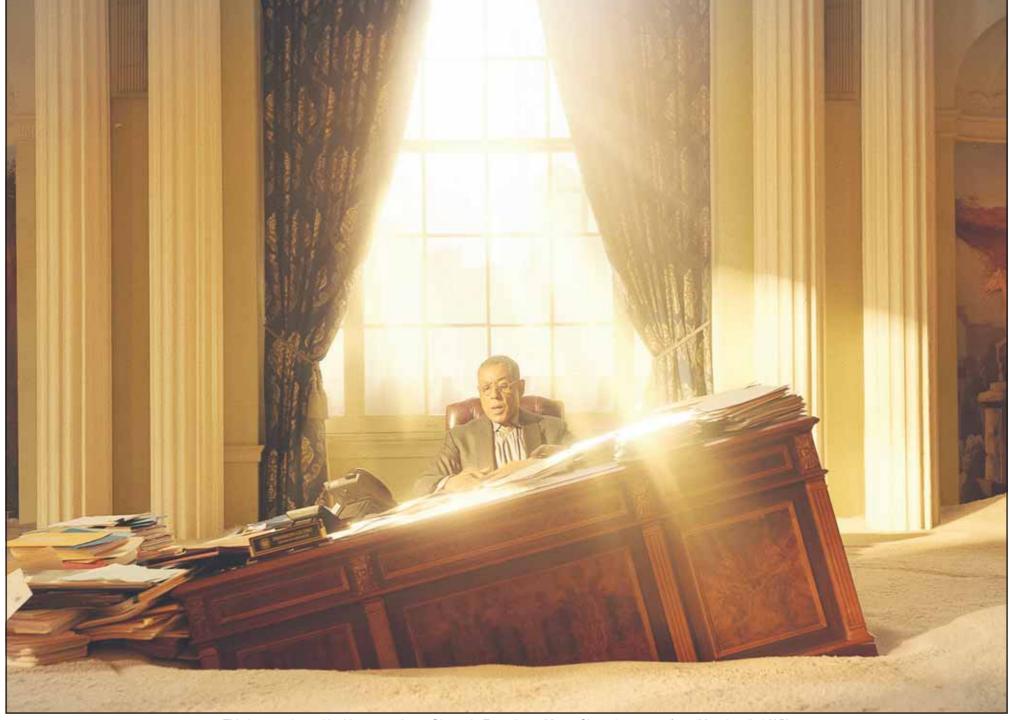
en home five trophies and Ky-Mani has received a nomination. Along with the tour, Stephen said they are looking to work on a new album together and push their father's message of positivity forward. He

said it'll take some time but they aspire to get it "done in the near future." "The message in the music is what it's really all about," said Stephen, who curated the tour's setlist. "For me, that message is so necessary now. Our father is one of those powerful ones that got this message across. That's why we're here.'

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Remember the first time you heard "Million Dollar Baby"? The rap record feels like it came out of nowhere - as so many TikTok smashes do - but continues to endure, moving from hit song of the spring to hit song of the summer to hit song of the fall and beyond. But now, fans of Tommy Richman will get to dive deeper into his musical abilities when he releases the full-length "Coyote," on Friday, Sept. 27. Little is known about the 11-track release, but the lead singles "Whitney," a disco-funk electro-detour, and "Thought You Were the One" - a hook-heavy R&B ballad - suggest range.

Variety



This image released by Lionsgate shows Giancarlo Esposito as Mayor Cicero in a scene from 'Megalopolis.' (AP)

Film

Master filmmaker conveys sincere message in new film

Coppola's 'Megalopolis' is from the heart

raped her and recorded it on video at his New York recording studio TORONTO, Sept 25, (AP): Francis Ford Coppola bein 2001. The lawsuit filed in federal

LOS ANGELES: Another woman sued Sean "Diddy" Combs on

Tuesday, alleging that the music mogul and his head of security

court in New York, the latest of

several similar suits against

was unsealed

Combs, comes a week after he

was was arrested and a federal sex

trafficking indictment against him

Thalia Graves alleges that when

she was 25 and dating an executive

who worked for Combs in the sum-

Sherman lured her to a meeting at

mer of 2001, Combs and **Joseph**

Bad Boy Recording Studios. She

"likely laced with a drug."

According to the lawsuit,

Graves lost consciousness and

awoke to find herself bound inside

Combs' office and lounge at the

studio. The two men raped her,

slapped her, slammed her head

against a pool table and ignored

lawsuit alleges.

in the years since.

read from a statement.

her screams and cries for help, the

At a news conference in Los

Gloria Allred, Graves said she

has suffered from "flashbacks,

others to form healthy relation-

ships or even feel safe in my own

skin," Graves said, crying as she

reaches into your very core of who

you are and leaves emotional scars

Combs remains jailed without

charges alleging that he ran a vast

She said it is "a pain that

that may never fully heal.'

bail in New York on federal

network that facilitated sexual

and those close to him. He pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex

crimes and committed shocking acts of violence, using blackmail and other tactics to protect Combs

trafficking. His attorney said he is

innocent and will fight to clear his

name. His representatives did not

immediately respond to an email

seeking comment on the latest

lawsuit. There was no immedi-

ate indication from the lawsuit

or from Combs' representatives

whether Sherman had a separate

Angeles with one of her attorneys,

nightmares and intrusive thoughts'

"It has been hard for me to trust

said they picked her up in an SUV

and during the ride gave her a drink

lieves he can stop time. It's not just a quality of the protagonist of Coppola's new film "Megalopolis," a visionary architect named Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver) who, by barking "Time, stop!" can temporarily freeze the world for a moment before restoring it with a snap of his fingers. And Coppola isn't referring to his ability to manipulate time in the editing suite. He means it literally.

"We've all had moments in our lives where we approach something you can call bliss," Coppola says. There are times when you have to leave, have work, whatever it is. And you just say, 'Well, I don't care. I'm going to just stop time.' I remember once actually thinking I would do that.'

Time is much on Coppola's mind. He's 85 now. Eleanor, his wife of 61 years, died in April. "Megalopolis," which is dedicated to her, is his first movie in 13 years. He's been pondering it for more than four decades. The film begins, fittingly, with the image of a clock.

"It's funny, you live your life going from being a young person to being an older person. You're looking in that direction," Coppola said in a recent interview at a Toronto hotel before the North American premiere of "Megalopolis." "But to understand it, you have to look in the other direction. You have to look at it from the point of view of the older looking at the younger, which you're receding from."

"I'm sort of thinking of my life in reverse," Coppola

You have by now probably heard a few things about "Megalopolis." Maybe you know that Coppola financed the \$120 million budget himself, using his lucrative wine empire to realize a long-held vision of Roman epic set in a modern New York. You might be familiar with the film's clamorous reception from critics at the Cannes Film Festival in May, some of whom saw a grand folly, others a wild ambition to admire.

"Megalopolis," a movie Coppola first began mulling in the aftermath of "Apocalypse Now" in the late 1970s, has been a subject of intrigue, anticipation, gossip, a lawsuit and sheer disbelief for years.

What you might not have heard about "Megalopo-

lis," though, is that it's an extraordinarily sincere message from a master filmmaker nearing the end of his life. Giancarlo Esposito, who first sat for a reading of the script 37 years ago with Laurence Fishburne and Billy Crudup, calls it "some deep, deep dream of consciousness" from Coppola.

At a time when many are consumed by bitterly partisan politics and climate change anxiety, Coppola has spent every opportunity this year pleading that we are "one human family." His movie, a delirious dream of the future, is an unwieldy but heartfelt fable about the boundlessness of human potential. As implausible as optimism may seem in 2024, it's Coppola's cri de coeur - one that he connects less to his perspective as an elder statesman than he does to his abiding, childlike sense of possibility.

"I realized that the genius of human invention usually happened when we were playing with our kids. It's in the act of play that we're so creative," Coppola says. "The cave paintings, you see hands but there are big hands and little hands.

Symbolic

"Megalopolis" will be released by Lionsgate in theaters Friday, including many IMAX screens, culminating what has been arguably Coppola's biggest gamble - which is saying something for the filmmaker who plunked down his own millions to shoot "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines jungle and plunged his production company, Zoetrope, into bankruptcy to make 1982's "One From the Heart." That title has remained symbolic of Coppola, an eminently personal filmmaker, regardless of the success of "The Godfather," who has often done his best work far out on a limb.

"On our first day of shooting, at one point in the day he said to everybody, 'We're not being brave enough,' Driver recalled in Cannes. "That, for me, was what I hooked on for the rest of the shoot.

In the film, Driver's Cesar is at odds with a backwardlooking mayor, Franklyn Cicero (Esposito), but falls for his daughter, Julia (Nathalie Emmanuel). Cesar's powers as a time-stopper and an architect are derived from a substance called Megalon that could alter the fate of

show's curator described Tuesday

The large blue and white

the metropolis dubbed New Rome. A lot is thrown into the mix, including Aubrey Plaza's TV personality Wow Platinum and Shia LaBeouf's Clodio Pulcher. Coppola spent years assembling a scrap book of inspirations for the film, though you could wonder if Cesar isn't ulti-

mately derived from himself. "I thought about Francis but I wasn't thinking I'm going to do a version of Francis," said Driver. "All movies, I kind of feel, are their directors in a sense.

Esposito was surprised to find the script hadn't changed much over the years. Every morning, he would receive a text from Coppola with a different ancient story. On set, Coppola favored theater games, improvisation and going with instinct.

"He takes his time. What we're used to in this modern age is immediate answers and having to know the answer," Esposito says. "And I don't think Francis needs to know the answer. I think the question for him

is sometimes more important. Reports of disorder on the set led to Driver making a statement that, to the contrary, it was one of the best shooting experiences of his career. Later, just before the film was to premiere in Cannes, a report alleged Coppola behaved inappropriately with extras. Variety later posted a story with a video shot by a crew member showing Coppola, in a nightclub scene, walking through a dancing crowd and then stopping to apparently lean in to several women to hug them, kiss them on the cheek or whisper to them.

Earlier this month, Coppola sued Variety, claiming its report was false and libelous. The trade publication said it stood by its reporters.

Asked about the reports in Toronto, Coppola said "I don't even want to (discuss it). It's a waste of time." Later in the interview, he separately noted: "I'm very respectful of women, I always have been. My mother, she always taught me: 'Francis, if you ever make a pass at a girl, that means you disrespect her.' So I never did."

None of the major studios or streaming services ("Another word for home video," Coppola says) sought to acquire "Megalopolis" after Cannes. He also first showcased it to executives and friends in Los Angeles before the festival, but found little interest.

attorney who could comment on the allegations. (AP)

ROME: A man smashed a sculpture by Chinese artist and activist Ai Weiwei during the private opening of his exhibition in the northern Italian city of Bologna, in an act of vandalism that the





rated at Bologna's Palazzo Fava on Saturday. Italian media reported that local police arrested a 57-year-old Czech man, who said he was an

as a "reckless and senseless act." important works of art in the past. It is still unclear how the man "Porcelain Cube" was part of the gained access to Friday's invitationexhibition "Who am I?" inauguonly event, but the museum confirmed that the exhibition opened to

the public as planned on Saturday. According to the artist's wishes, the work's fragments were covered with a cloth and removed.

artist. He was known for targeting

They will be replaced by a lifesized print and a label explaining what happened

Ai shared CCTV footage of the attack on his Instagram account, which showed the man hanging around the work before moving suddenly behind it and pushing it so that it smashed on the gallery



People & Places

Gaming

Studios use NPCs

Can Al truly make video games more immersive?

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25, (AP): For decades, video games have relied on scripted, stilted interactions with non-player characters to help shepherd gamers in their journeys. But as artificial intelligence technology improves, game studios are experimenting with generative AI to help build environments, assist game writers in crafting NPC dialogue and lend video games the improvisational spontaneity once reserved for table-top



ers help run a magical furstore niture assist customers in hopes of earn-

"Retail

ing a five-star review. As a salesperson - and wizard - they can pick up and examine items or tell the system what they'd like to do with a product, such as deconstruct chairs for parts or tear a page from a book to write a note to a shopper.

A player's interactions with the shop and NPCs around them - from gameplay mechanics to content and dialogue creation - are fueled by AI rather than a predetermined script to create more options for chatting and

using objects in the shop.
"We believe generative AI can unlock a new kind of gameplay where the world is more responsive and more able to meet players at their creativity and the things that they come up with and the stories they want to tell inside a fantasy setting that we create for them," said Michael Yichao, cofounder of Jam & Tea Studios, which created "Retail Mage.

Choices

The typical NPC experience often leaves something to be desired. Prescripted interactions with someone meant to pass along a quest typically come with a handful of chatting options that lead to the same conclusion: players get the information they need and continue on. Game developers and AI companies say that by using generative AI tech, they aim to create a richer experience that allows for more nuanced relationships with the people and

worlds that designers build. Generative AI could also provide more opportunities for players to go off-script and create their own stories if designers can craft environments that feel more alive and can react to players' choices in real-time.

Tech companies continue to de-

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electronically control the cooling fan operation, the

engine output may not meet certain specifications at

velop AI for games, even as developers debate how, and whether, they'll use AI in their products. Nvidia created its ACE technologies to bring so-called "digital humans" to life with generative AI. Inworld AI provides developers with a platform for generative NPC behavior and dialogue. Gaming company Ubisoft said last year that it uses Ghostwriter, an in-house AI tool, to help write some NPC dialogue without replacing the video game writer.

A report released by the Game Developers Conference in January found that nearly half of developers surveyed said generative AI tools are currently being used in their workplace, with 31% saying they personally use those tools. Developers at indie studios were most likely to use generative AI, with 37% reporting use the tech.

Creators

Still, roughly four out of five developers said they worry about the ethical use of AI. Carl Kwoh, Jam & Tea's CEO, said AI should be used responsibly alongside creators to elevate stories - not to replace

"That's always been the goal: How can we use this tool to create an experience that makes players more connected to each other?" said Kwoh, who is also one of the company's founders. "They can tell stories that they couldn't tell

Using AI to provide NPCs with endless things to say is "definitely a perk," Yichao said, but "content without meaning is just endless noise." That's why Jam & Tea uses AI - through Google's Gemma 2 and their own servers in Amazon to give NPCs the ability to do more than respond, he said. They can look for objects as they're shopping or respond to other NPCs to add "more life and reactivity than a typically

scripted encounter. "I've watched players turn our shopping experience into a bit of a dating sim as they flirt with customers and then NPCs come up with very realistic responses," he said. "It's been really fun to see the game react dynamically to what players bring to the table.

Demonstrating a conversation with a NPC in the game "Mecha BREAK," in which players battle war machines, Ike Nnole said that Nvidia has made its Al "humans respond faster than they previously could by using small language models. Using Nvidia's AI, players can interact with the mechanic, Martel, by asking her to do things like customize the color of a mech machine.





Models wear creations as part of the Christian Dior Spring/Summer 2025 collection presented Tuesday, Sept. 24, in Paris. (AP)

Fashion

Chiuri celebrates female empowerment

Dior's sporty chic shines in Paris

PARIS, Sept 25, (AP): Maria Grazia Chiuri's Dior collection took a sporty turn, blending athletic prowess with an urban menace on Tuesday. The Paris show's stripped-down designs evoked a '60s sci-fi aesthetic, reminiscent of Star Trek, but with an edge-daring, asymmetrical shapes paired with knee-high

boots that flirted with danger. As a live archer launched arrows into a target mid-show, VIPs such as Natalie Portman and French First Lady Brigitte Macron erupted in applause, heightening the collec-

tion's drama. Here are some highlights of ready-to-wear shows for spring 2025, including a starry Saint Laurent:

Chiuri's intent was clear from the start: a nod to the power and autonomy of the female form. With a clear reference to Christian Dior's iconic Amazone dress from the early 1950s, Chiuri reinterpreted the silhouette with sleek, athletic lines. It echoed the spirit of the recent Paris Olympics, as models walked in skin-tight black tops with geometric cut-outs, circular cutaway patterns, and lace-up boot sneakers. There was a dynamic tension between freedom of movement and structured control - a recurring theme in Chiuri's work, which often explores the balance between

comfort and couture. Dualities were evident in the collection's black-and-white palette, a nod to the iconic Miss Dior logo, stretched to graphic extremes. The monochrome bombers - some accented with bright red details - projected a combatready urban vibe, while an all-white tuxedo with dangerously sharp fastenings evoked a touch of Hannibal Lecter menace.

Metallic accents, from shimmering embroidery to butterfly motifs, punctuated the otherwise severe palette, adding a touch of delicacy to the sharpness of the designs. Lightweight evening dresses in jersey, enhanced with shiny embellishments, underscored Chiuri's ongoing quest to marry elegance with ease an ethos that has defined her tenure at Dior.

Yet, for all its urban grit, the show wasn't without its moments of softer, playful contrast. Breton-striped swimwear offered a surprising, and ultimately incongruous, interlude in an otherwise aggressive, urban lineup. This attempt to balance Dior's classic femininity with a gritty, youth-oriented aesthetic felt sometimes forced. The contrast between the house's refined heritage and the try-hard urban appeal at times seemed as if the collection were straining to capture a younger audience at the expense of its core identity.

Chiuri's latest offering, much like her past work, refuses to adhere to a singular theme. Asymmetry, athleticism, and autonomy were at this collection's heart.

One of the most notable moments of Dior's show came from a live performance by an artist called SAGG Napoli, who incorporates archery into her work. Positioned in a sealed tunnel at the center of the runway, the artist with rippling shoulder muscles used a high-tech bow to shoot arrows, symbolizing the harmony between body and mind. This performance was a nod to the themes of strength and athleticism that have been central to Chiuri's collection, inspired in part by the Paris 2024 Olympics.

The display of skill and precision was met with applause from the audience, including VIPs such as Aya Nakamura, Jennifer Garner, and Rosamund Pike.

Performance

Natalie Portman, when asked by the Associated Press if she felt like an Amazon, said, "I am a very small person so I'm the opposite, but the spirit, is alive and well.'

Chiuri's decision to include the performance highlighted her ongoing focus on the intersection of fashion, sport, and gender

The phrase "May the building of a strong mind and a strong body be the greatest work I have ever made" appeared on the set, reinforcing the message of strength and empowerment throughout the show.

A-listers Gwyneth Paltrow and Rami Malek added a touch of after-dark star power to a moody Saint Laurent show on the Left Bank on Tuesday night. Anthony Vaccarello, continuing his well-known explorations of exaggerated proportions, took his penchant for oversize to bold new heights with shoulders so wide they felt architectural.

The collection felt introspective, with its preppy glasses, 70s-inspired shades, and razorsharp suits channeling the late, great Yves Saint Laurent himself. The silk foulard motifs or slinky gowns, combined with statement goldplaited earrings, exuded a tactile elegance reminiscent of Vaccarello's earlier, more refined collections, while subtly referencing the house's historic obsession with opulence.

The designer's trademark minimalism was present, especially in the stripped-back, controlled silhouettes of the opening looks. As with prior collections, his reliance on precise tailoring and quiet luxury gave the show a de-liberate, restrained feel -though it leaned too heavily on safety. Critics of past seasons who noted his tendency toward oversimplification would find echoes of that here, as the opening half of the show.

Yet, as has often been the case with Vaccarello, the collection's true brilliance emerged in its latter part. Taking more risks, he introduced rich, sumptuous textures - velvet, lace, and gleaming metallics - in a palette of deep golds, blues and reds. These more luxurious elements, combined with bold ruffled collars and sunray pleats, provided a striking contrast. This final burst of creativity echoed his 70s-era historical references while feeling fresh and contemporary.

Kunihiko Morinaga's Anrealage never fails to surprise, and this Tuesday's collection was no exception. The show opened with a visually striking parachute design, inflating to create a whimsical fusion of Elizabethan elegance and Haribo-inspired playfulness. These inflated silhouettes immediately set the tone for a collection that danced between past and future, while geometric space-age metal adornments served as bold hairpieces - deepening the anachronism with echoes of historic coiffure.

Morinaga, known for his technological prowess and futurism, blended traditional couture with avant-garde experimentation. A circular puffer jacket-distorted in shapecalled to mind the outlandish creations of Viktor & Rolf couture, pushing the limits of wearable fashion. As the show progressed, vibrant clown-like silhouettes in vivid, candycolored hues crescendoed.

Variety

LOUISVILLE, Ky.: Tom Watson, a hall of fame broadcast reporter whose long career of covering breaking news included decades as a broadcast editor for The Associated Press in Kentucky, has died. He was 85.

Watson's baritone voice and sharp wit were fixtures in the AP's Louisville bureau, where he wrote broadcast reports and cultivated strong connections with reporters at radio and TV stations spanning the state. His coverage ranged from compiling weather-related school closings to filing urgent reports on big, breaking stories in his home state, maintaining a calm demeanor regardless of

Watson died Saturday at Baptist Health in Louisville, according to Hall-Taylor Funeral Home in his hometown of Taylorsville, 34 miles (55 kilometers) southeast of Louisville No cause of death was given. Watson was the "consummate radio newsman

of his era," said retired AP Kentucky bureau chief Ed Staats, who worked with Watson for years. (AP)

LONDON: A large concrete sculpture of a brace-





let referencing the excesses of former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos and a collection of portraits focusing on Black men and women are among the eclectic artwork shortlisted for the prestigious Turner Prize.
Four artists - **Pio Abad**, **Claudette Johnson**,

Jasleen Kaur and Delaine Le Bas - were shortlisted for the 25,000-pound (\$33,000) visual arts prize, which was established in 1984 and is awarded annually to a British contemporary

The artworks are on public display at the Tate Britain museum in London from Wednesday, and the winner will be announced on Dec. 3.

Abad, who grew up in the Philippines, used sculptures and intricate drawings of British museum artifacts to reflect on colonial and overlooked histories. His striking 3-meter concrete bracelet, titled "Kiss the Hand You Cannot Bite," critiques Marcos's notoriously lavish lifestyle. (AP)

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48) of no. (27/2015)

issuing the excutive bylaws of law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection

Study links early antibiotic use to increased aggressive behaviors

Myopia affects one-third of children, to surpass 740m by 2050

LONDON, Sept 25, (Xinhua): Childhood myopia affects approximately one-third of children and adolescents globally, and its incidence is expected to exceed 740 million cases worldwide by

2050, according to a recent study.

Led by researchers from the School of Public Health at China's Sun Yat-Sen University, the study was published in the latest edition of the British Journal

of Ophthalmology.
It analyzed 276 studies involving more than 5 million children and adolescents from 50 countries across all six continents, and found a gradual increase in pooled prevalence of myopia, or shortsightedness.

According to the study, the global prevalence of myopia increased from about 24 percent in 1990 to over 35 percent in 2023. Additionally, this prevalence is expected to rise further, surpassing 36 percent in 2040 and 39 percent

It connected such a trend with the decrease in outdoor activities and the increase in screen time.

The study noted a higher prevalence of myopia in certain groups, including females, adolescents, high school students, and individuals residing in East Asia or urban areas.

It explained that sex differences in prevalence are related to the fact that the growth and development of girls occur earlier than that of boys, including the development of puberty, which is also more rapid in girls.

It also found that, among countries with available data, the myopia prevalence was highest in Japan at about 85 percent and lowest in Paraguay at 0.84 percent.

Also:

FINLAND: A new study by Finnish re-

life exposure to antibiotics and increased aggression later in life, researchers said in a statement on Wednesday.

The research, published in the journal Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, found that mice exposed to antibiotics during critical developmental stages exhibited more aggressive behavior. The study also identified changes in the brain and gut microbiome associated with this ag-

The researchers believe that these findings could have important implications for understanding and treating aggression-related disorders. They suggest that early-life antibiotic use may disrupt the balance of gut bacteria, which in turn can affect brain development and behavior.

The study's authors hope that their findings will lead to further research and the development of new strategies to prevent or treat aggression.

Women, seniors more prone to dizziness, vertigo: Dr. Al-Ali

South Darfur are experiencing one

of the "worst" health emergencies in

the world, humanitarian organization

Doctors Without Borders said Tues-

day, one of the consequences of the

violence that has engulfed the country

Doctors Without Borders, also

known as MSF, said in its latest report

that 114 maternal deaths occurred dur-

ing the period from January to mid-

More than 50% of maternal deaths

happened in medical settings, with

sepsis being the most common cause

of death in MSF-supported facilities.

Between January and June, 48 new-

borns died from sepsis at two MSF-

backed medical facilities, the organi-

Malnutrition among children in

South Darfur also exceeded emergen-

cy thresholds, the group said, adding

that demands for medical attention "far

Sudan has been engulfed by vio-

lence since April of last year, when

tensions between leaders of the Suda-

nese military and the paramilitary Rap-

id Support Forces erupted into intense

fighting and spread across the country,

including to Darfur. The amount of

critical aid reaching South Darfur rose

slightly in June, when the UN World

Food Program delivered life-saving

In August, 30,000 children under

are acutely malnourished and 8.1%

who are severely and acutely malnour-

food and nutrition to some families.

exceed what MSF can respond to."

since April 2023.

August 2024.

zation said.

Expert explains causes and treatments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: In a detailed report on the relationship between the ear and dizziness, Dr. Tamim Al-Ali, an ENT (ear, nose, throat) consultant and expert in hearing and balance, said dizziness, vertigo and imbalance account for 20 percent to 30 percent of patient visits to doctors and emergency departments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Women, he said, are three times more likely to experience these symptoms than men, and the prevalence of such issues increases significantly among the elderly, often leading to falls and impact-

ing their psychological well-being.

Dr. Al-Ali explained that dizziness and vertigo are common sensations most people experience at some point in their lives. He clarified that dizziness is generally associated with feelings of weakness and faintness, while vertigo gives the sensation that one's surroundings are spinning. Both conditions signal potential malfunctions within the body's

Balance

He further elaborated on the essential components of balance, which include the nerves, eyes, and ears. The inner ear, particularly its balance system comprised of the vestibule and three semicircular canals, plays a key role in main-

taining stability.
With medical advancements, treatments for these conditions have improved, and surgical intervention has become increasingly rare, offering patients

As dizziness and balance disorders continue to affect a large portion of the population, ongoing research and treatment innovations are crucial for improving quality of life.

Dr. Al-Ali highlighted benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), also known as "ear crystals," as the most common cause of ear-related vertigo, affecting 30-40 percent of balance clinic patients, particularly those aged 50-70. He explained that BPPV occurs when

crystals in the ear enter the semicircular canals, causing dizziness upon head movement. Treatments for BPPV are primarily non-invasive, involving exercises that return the displaced crystals to their proper position. Other causes of dizziness discussed

by Dr. Al-Ali include eighth nerve tumors, immune ear diseases, and vestibular concussion due to head injuries. He also addressed migraine-induced dizziness, more frequent among women, and dizziness related to low blood pressure,

ished, MSF said Tuesday. CAIRO, Sept 25, (AP): Mothers and children in the Sudanese region of

South Darfur's health crisis

Sepsis, malnutrition stalk

new mothers and babies

"This is a crisis unlike any other I have seen in my career - multiple health emergencies happening simultaneously with almost no international response from the UN and others," said Dr. Gillian Burkhardt, MSF sexual and reproductive health activity manager, in Nyala, South Darfur. "Newborn babies, pregnant women, and new mothers are dying in shocking numbers. So many deaths are due to preventable conditions, as almost everything has broken down.'

Deaths

The situation was particularly dire for women at Nyala Teaching Hospital and Kas Rural Hospital, where MSF reported 46 maternal deaths between January and August. In those two hospitals, 78% of maternal deaths happened within the first 24 hours after admission.

Women would often arrive at hospitals in critical condition due to high transportation costs and a shortage in functioning medical facilities, said MSF. The women were forced to give birth in unsterilized environments due to the lack of much-needed medical resources that could prevent infections.

"A pregnant patient from a rural area waited two days to collect the money needed to get care," said Maria Fix, MSF medical team leader in South Darfur. 'When she traveled to a health cen-

ter, they had no drugs so she went back home. After three days, her condition deteriorated, but again she had to wait five hours for transportation. She was already in a coma when she reached us. She died from a preventable infection.'

the age of two were screened for malnutrition, including nearly 33% who

anemia, and neurological or psychological conditions.

In conditions like vestibular neuropathy and Meniere's disease, patients experience prolonged dizziness, nausea, and

Vestibular neuropathy is often linked

to prior infections like colds or fevers, while Meniere's disease remains a chronic, inner-ear disorder of unknown origin. Treatments for these conditions typically start with medications, followed by rehabilitation exercises designed to restore balance.

Brett Favre's diagnosis insights

Key facts about Parkinson's disease

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): More than a decade after retiring from football, Brett Favre says he has Parkinson's disease.

Favre told a congressional hearing Tuesday that he had been recently diagnosed. There are nearly 90,000 new Parkinson's cases each year in the US, according to the Parkinson's Foundation.

Here are some questions and answers about the disease:

Parkinson's is a neurologic disease that robs people of control over their movements. It typically starts with tremors, and is characterized by slow movement, a shuffling gait, stiff limbs, balance problems and slurred speech.

About 1 million Americans are living with Parkinson's, and 10 million people worldwide, the foundation estimates. It usually appears after age 60, although sometimes it can develop before age 50.

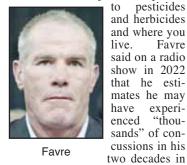
The exact cause isn't known but Parkinson's develops when cells that produce one of the brain's chemical messengers, called dopamine, begin to deteriorate and die. Dopamine transports signals to parts of the brain that control movement. Parkinson's symptoms appear after enough dopamineproducing cells die that there's too little of this neurotransmitter in the

According to the foundation, most experts believe genetic and environmental factors are behind the disease. Dozens of gene mutations linked to Parkinson's have been discovered and genetics account for 10 to 15% of all Parkinson's, the group says. Other factors suspected of increasing the risk include head injuries, exposure

Favre

experi-

"tĥou-



the NFL.

There is no cure but there are treatments, including medications that affect dopamine levels and a surgically implanted tremor-blocking device. Patients also can benefit from physical and occupational therapy.

Symptoms worsen over time, usu-

Prince Harry raises alarm

Youth face epidemic of online anxiety, isolation

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (AP): Prince Harry said today's youth is in the midst of an "epidemic" of anxiety, depression and social isolation due to negative experiences online, as he brought his campaign to help children and their parents navigate cyberspace to this week's Clinton Global Initiative.

'The se platforms designed to create addiction," Harry said in remarks Tuesday New York City. "Young

Harry

people are kept there by mindless, endless, numbing scrolling - being forcefed content that no child should ever be exposed to. This is not free will.

Beyond supporting parents and youth throughout this advocacy, The Duke of Sussex stressed the need for corporate accountability. He asked why leaders of powerful social media companies are still held to the "lowest ethical standards" - and called on shareholders to demand tangible change.

"Parenting doesn't end with the birth of a child. Neither does founding a company," Harry said. "We have a duty and a responsibility to see our creations

Harry's contribution to this year's CGI annual meeting was part of the "What's Working" theme, in a panel that included former President Bill Clinton,

Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton and World Central Kitchen founder Jose Andres.

The Archewell Foundation, which Harry founded with his wife, Meghan Markle, to carry out their philanthropic work recently launched an initiative supporting parents whose children have suffered or died due to online harms. Harry highlighted the work of that initiative, called The Parents Network, in his speech Tuesday.

Safety (cross head)

The foundation has also partnered with the World Health Organization and others to end violence against children, an issue he and Meghan outlined during a recent trip to Colombia. Harry on Tuesday pointed to the inaugural Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, which is set to take place in Bogotá this November. He said that this meeting could result in the first global agreement for prioritizing child safety and protection online.

His CGI address was part of a string of appearances for Harry in New York at the growing number of humanitarian and philanthropic events that run alongside the United Nations General Assembly Week.

On Monday, he appeared at an event for The HALO Trust, where he discussed how the work of the landmine clearing charity was influential on his late mother, Princess Diana. "The HALO Trust's work in Angola meant a great deal to my mother," he said. "Carrying on her legacy is a responsibility that I take seriously. And I think we all know how much she would want us to finish this particular job.

ally slowly. The severity of symptoms, and how quickly they progress, varies widely between patients. In advanced cases, people may be unable to walk or care for themselves. They also can suffer from depression, as well as memory and thinking problems.

While Parkinson's itself isn't considered fatal, people can die from complications of the disease, including lung problems as muscle weakness impedes the ability to cough and to swallow.

Stations to support global research

China develops 'space-ground info ports'

BEIJING, Sept 25, (Xinhua): Searching for dark matter and black holes; taking high-definition images of the Earth; monitoring fires, earthquakes and mudslides, these are just a few tasks supported by the data from some 50 Chinese scientific and Earth observation satellites currently in orbit.

Day and night, huge volumes of data pours into China's satellite ground stations, which serve as spaceground information ports.

In recent years, Ĉhina's rapid development of the space industry has significantly increased demand for satellite data reception. According to Li Tong, deputy director of the China

Remote Sensing Satellite Ground Station and senior engineer at the Aerospace Information Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China's remote sensing satellite ground stations play an important role in advancing scientific research and supporting industrial applications.

Over three decades, China has built an operational system of remote sensing satellite ground stations. Headquartered in Beijing, this network includes five ground stations in Miyun in suburban Beijing; Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region; Sanya on south

China's island province of Hainan; Lijiang in southwest China's Yunnan Province; and Mohe, China's northernmost city.

Currently, the system boasts 38 large-diameter data receiving antennas and multiple high-speed fiber-optic data transmission links, enabling real-time data reception across the totality of China's territory, said Li.

These ground stations support data reception for all civil land observation and space science satellites. Since 1986, they have managed data for more than 70 domestic and international satellite missions, amassing over 600 terabytes of historical data.



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Brook hits century

England keeps series alive, ends Australia's 14-match winning streak

England, Sept 25, (AP): England captain Harry Brook struck his first one-day international century before his team clinched a 46-run win by the DLS method to

keep alive the series against Australia. Chasing 305 to win the third ODI, England was 254-4 - with Brook unbeaten on 110 - when heavy rain arrived in the day-nighter at Chester-le-Street. The teams didn't get back on the field and England was well ahead of the run-rate.

Australia, which had cruised to dominant wins at Southampton and Leeds in this five-match series, saw its lead trimmed to 2-1 and its 14-match winning run in ODIs come to an end. During that streak, the team won the Cricket World Cup in India last year.

Coming to the crease with England in trouble on 11-2, Brook took on Australia's seam attack by hitting 13 fours and two sixes in a 94-ball knock to easily surpass his previous ODI-best score

The series continues on Friday with the fourth ODI at Lord's.

Playing without explosive opener Travis Head (rested) and star spinner Adam Zampa (ill), Australia was put into bat and needed a strong finish - mainly thanks to Alex Carey's unbeaten 77 and No. 8 batter Aaron Hardie's 44 off 26 - to post 304-7 off its 50 overs.

CRICKET

Steve Smith hit a patient 60 off 82 balls, after the tourists' innings was slowed by losing Cameron Green (42) and Marnus Labuschagne (0) in space of five balls just past the halfway mark.

It looked a tough chase for a youthful England team that had been outclassed so far this series and things started badly when Mitchell Starc dismissed Phil Salt (for an eight-ball duck) and Ben Duckett (8) in the same over - Australia's third.

Pakistan retains Masood as captain for home test series

ISLAMABAD, Sept 25, (AP): Pakistan has retained Shan Masood as its captain for next month's three-test home series against England and recalled left-arm spinner Noman Ali.

Bowling all-rounder Aamer Jamal has recovered from a back injury and was named in a 15-member squad announced by the Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday. Noman will be the second specialist spin option for Paki-

Brook, once again standing in as captain for the injured Jos Buttler, embraced the pressure of the occasion and went on the attack pretty much from the start of his innings

His third-wicket stand of 156 with Will Jacks (84 off 82 balls) swung the stan along with Abrar Ahmed. Masood's place as captain was

under the scanner after Bangladesh routed Pakistan 2-0 for Masood's fifth straight test defeat since he was elevated to test skipper last year.

Pakistan was forced to leave out fast bowler Khurram Shahzad, who couldn't recover from a left side strain sustained during the second test against Bangladesh.

momentum England's way and the team maintained it when the big-hitting Liam Livingstone came in at No. 6 and immediately smashed two sixes.

Brook used the uppercut to great effect to deal with some short-pitched bowling from the Australians and hit

The selectors left out fast bowler Mohammad Ali and middle-order batter Kamran Ghulam, who were both part of Pakistan's squad during the

CRICKET

Bangladesh series.

Multan will host back-to-back test matches in between Oct. 7-19 while

a straight drive for four to get to 99.

Off the next ball, he opened the face

and edged for another four to reach his

century, prompting him to remove his

Brook's second fifty came off just

helmet and look to the sky.

33 deliveries.

the third and final test will be played at Rawalpindi from Oct. 24. Pakistan squad will have a pre-series training camp at Multan, starting on Oct. 1.

Squad: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel, Aamer Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Noman, Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

England's push for victory was then held up by the rain that arrived in the 38th over. It got heavier and heavier, with the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern formula showing that the hosts were well in front of the run-rate.

Aces close out Storm, make sixth consecutive semifinal appearance



Ionescu scores 36 points as Liberty advances

LAS VEGAS, Sept 25, (AP): Kelsey Plum scored 29 points, A'ja Wilson had 24 points and 13 rebounds, and the Las Vegas Aces closed out the Seattle Storm 83-76 to advance to the semifinals of the WNBA playoffs for the sixth consecutive sea-

Las Vegas, which has won 11 straight home games in the playoffs, swept the best-ofthree series to set up a rematch of the 2023 WNBA Finals against top-seeded New York starting Sunday. The Aces are trying to become the first team to win three titles in a row since Houston won four straight from 1997-2000 in the league's first four seasons.

BASKETBALL

Wilson set a WNBA record by recording 20-plus points and at least 10 rebounds in 13 career playoff games, passing Tamika Catchings and Candace Parker. The WNBA MVP, who missed her first six shots in Game 1, went 5 of 7 from the field in the first quarter and finished

After Seattle took its first lead of the game with 7:58 left in the fourth quarter, the Aces scored the next seven points for a 71-65 lead on Jackie Young's fast-break layup.

The Storm had a chance to get within 78-74 with 2:22 left but Ezi Magbegor missed both free throws. Chelsea Gray answered at the other end with a jumper from the freethrow line for an eight-point lead. Tiffany Hayes sealed it with a layup in traffic with 46 seconds to play.

Gray had 12 points and nine assists for Las Vegas. Plum, who was held to only two points in Game 1, finished 11 of 15 from the field.

Gabby Williams scored 20 points and Nneka Ogwumike had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Seattle. Magbegor, who missed Game 1 due

Xinyu, Shuai shine in China Open first round

BEIJING, Sept 25, (Xinhua): China's Wang Xinyu and Zhang Shuai both secured victories to advance to the next round, while Wang Qiang's campaign ended in the first round of 2024 China Open here on Wednes-

Wang Xinyu delivered a commanding performance against Japan's Mai Hontama, winning decisively 6-1 and 6-3. "I am very happy to be back at the China Open and feel the warm support from everyone. This year, I hope to participate in the Asian season at 100%," said Wang.

Wildcard entrant Zhang Shuai ended her 24-match losing streak by defeating American player Mccarteny Kessler in a nail-biting contest, finishing on 7-6(5) and 7-6(1).

"It means a lot to close my losing streak in front of such an enthusiastic crowd. Thank you to every friend here who provided me with immense energy to help me win this match,"

Zhang said after the game. Zhang spoke candidly about her struggles, stating she wasn't particularly discouraged by her previous losses. "Last year, my physical condition wasn't great. Coming back to the court after six months of recovery, I focused primarily on training and playing doubles. During the North American season, I faced tough opponents in singles, and while I lost, I could see my improve-

ment," the 35-year-old said. "The China Open feels like home to me. I'm very grateful for the wild-

card that allowed me to compete here. I'll work hard to climb back up the rankings," Zhang added.

Another Chinese player Wang Qiang faced a disappointing turn as she was upset by Alycia Parks from the United States with scores of 1-6, 6-4, and 6-2, failing to advance.

Former Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin of the United States cruised past Ana Bogdan of Romania with a 7-5, 6-2 victory. Former top-ranked Naomi Osaka of Japan defeated Lucia Bronzetti of Italy 6-3, 6-2 to progress to the next round.
"It felt really good. I was really

happy I was able to play well. I think this court really suits my game. I hope I'm able to play a couple more matches," Osaka said.

to a concussion, added 14 points, Skylar Diggins-Smith scored 13 and Jewell Loyd was held to nine points on 3-of-11 shooting. Seattle was 6 of 12 from 3-point range in the first half before finishing 8 of

Las Vegas made nine straight shots in the first quarter to build an early double-digit lead. Wilson completed a three-point play and Gray sank a 3-pointer on the next possession as Las Vegas opened the game on a 15-4 run. Plum and Grav each added a 3-pointer on backto-back possessions to extend it to

Wilson, Plum and Gray combined to score all of Las Vegas' 28 first-quarter points.

Seattle went on a 9-0 run in the second quarter to get within 39-38 as Las Vegas went more than four minutes without making a field goal. But the Aces closed the half on a 6-0 run, capped by Wilson's two free throws with 2.8 seconds



New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu (20) drives past Atlanta Dream forward Naz Hillmon during the first half of a first-round WNBA basketball playoff game in New York. (AP)

Liberty 91, Dream 82

In New York, the New York Liberty have been focused on bringing the first championship to the franchise after falling just short last year. They moved one step closer to that goal as Sabrina Ionescu tied a franchise playoff record with 36 points to help the Liberty beat the Atlanta Dream and advance to the semifinals of the WNBA playoffs.

Jonquel Jones added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the top-seeded Liberty, who swept the best-ofthree series and will face Las Vegas in the next round that begins Sunday in New York. The Aces beat the Liberty in the WNBA Finals last

The Liberty took a one-point lead into the fourth quarter and the teams went back and forth before a layup by Courtney Vandersloot made it 75-72 with 5:41 left and started a 12-2 run. Breanna Stewart followed later in the spurt by swooping in for an offensive tip-in. It was her first points since the second quarter. Leonie Fiebich, who scored 21 points in the opening game, then had a three-point play to extend the advantage to 82-74 with 4:11 left. She then hit a 3-pointer on the next possession to give New York a double-digit advantage for the first time

Corinthians progresses

River reaches Copa last four

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 25, (Xinhua): Argentina's River Plate advanced to the Copa Libertadores semifinals on Tuesday with a 1-0 home victory over Chilean side Colo-Colo.

Facundo Colidio gave the hosts the lead in the 16th minute by volleying home from inside the six-yard box after a superb one-touch pass from Santiago Simon.

The result at Estadio Monumental followed a 1-1 draw in last week's first leg in Santiago.

"The Copa Libertadores is special, our biggest objective," River Plate manager Marcelo Gallardo told a post-match news conference.

SOCCER

"Our priority was always to try to progress far as possible in this competition. Today we took a big step toward our goal and we hope to continue in this fashion." River Plate is aiming to win the Copa Libertadores - South America's premier club competition - for a fifth time.

Corinthians scored three secondhalf goals to cruise into the Copa Sudamericana semifinals with a 3-0 home win over Brazilian rivals For-

Angel Romero struck just before the hour in the second-leg clash before goals from Igor Coronaldo and Pedro Henrique put the result beyond doubt.



Esteban Pavez of Chile's Colo Colo, left, and Marcos Acuna of Argentina's River Plate struggle for the ball during a Copa Libertadores quarterfinal second leg soccer match at Monumental stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

The final scoreline at Corinthians Arena gave the Sao Paulo outfit a 5-0

win on aggregate. "We have to stay calm and humble because there is still so much more to play for," Corinthians manager Ramon Diaz said. "I want to see our team celebrate but we still have a lot of work to both in this competition and the Brazilian Serie A." Despite Corinthians' impressive Copa Sudamericana form, they are 17th in Brazil's 20-team top flight standings

and remain in a battle to avoid rel-

egation to Brazilian football's sec-

'I have no regrets'

Varane announces retirement

COMO, Italy, Sept 25, (AP): Former France and Real Madrid center back Raphael Varane announced his retirement on Wednesday, ending a career that included a World Cup title

and a big haul of club trophies. The 31-year-old Varane signed with promoted Serie A club Como in July but injured his knee during his only appearance with the club - an Italian Cup match against Sampdoria last month.

"In my career I have taken on many challenges, rose to occasion after occasion, almost all of it was supposed to be impossible," Varane wrote on Instagram. "Reflecting on these moments, it is with immense pride and a feeling of fulfillment that I am announcing my retirement from the game that we all love.'

Varane was arguably the tournament's standout defender when France won the 2018 World Cup in Russia, where he scored the most important of his five international goals with a header against Uruguay in the quarterfinals.

An elegant, ball-playing defender with excellent positional sense thanks to his quick reading of the game, Varane formed a solid center back pairing with Samuel Umtiti in that tournament.

He also helped Madrid to four Champions League titles and three Spanish league trophies.

He moved to Manchester United in 2021 but was restricted to 95 appearances in his three seasons in England - mainly because of injuries. Varane began his career at Lens.

"From Lens to Madrid to Manchester, and playing for our national team. I have defended every badge with everything I have, and loved every minute of the journey," Varane said. "I have no regrets, I wouldn't change a thing. I have won more than I could have even dreamed of."

Varane had already retired from France's national team, a few months after the World Cup final defeat to Argentina in 2022. During that match, his 93rd for Les Bleus after making his debut in 2013, he fell to the ground exhausted deep into extra time.

Varane said he would remain at Como: "Just without using my boots and shin pads. Something I am looking forward to sharing more about

Como got its first Serie A victory in more than 21 years when coach Cesc Fabregas' team won 3-2 at Atalanta on Tuesday.



In this file photo, Manchester United's Raphael Varane celebrates on the full time during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Aston Villa at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

Test debut for spinner Peiris

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Sept 25, (AP): Sri Lankan off-spinner Nishan Peiris will make his test debut in Galle on Thursday in the second and final test against New Zealand. The 27-year-old Peiris replaces dropped off-spinner Ramesh Mendis

Although Peiris was part of Sri Lanka's touring squad to Bangladesh earlier this year, he did not feature in any matches. His inclusion in the national team comes on the back of notable performances in domestic cricket.

Sri Lanka made two changes overall from its 63-run win in the first test, also held in Galle, with all-rounder Milan Rathnayake coming in for fast bowler Lahiru Kumara. New Zealand head coach Gary Stead saw lots of positives from the opening defeat.

Stead said the team was "confident of bouncing back, knowing that valuable points in the World Test Championship are at stake.'

Following defeat in the first test, New Zealand slipped from third to fourth in the WTC rankings. A win in the second test would allow the Kiwis to reclaim third spot.

Lanka: Karunaratne, Pathum Nissanka, Dinesh Chandimal, Mathews, Kamindu Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva (captain), Kusal Mendis, Milan Rathnayake, Prabath Jayasuriya, Asitha Fernando, Nishan Peiris.

Registration is now open for Kuwait's only internationally accredited race

Gulf Bank Marathon reaches milestone 10th year, set to begin on Nov 30



Najla Aleisa and Ahmad Al-Huzami during the signing of the partnership

Najla Aleisa

■ The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon is an annual call to action, inspiring us to adopt healthier lifestyles in the face of growing rates of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease in Kuwait.

Ahmad Al-Huzami

■ We value the opportunity to partner with Gulf Bank in delivering this esteemed sports and social occasion.



Distinguished participation of people with disabilities in the previous edition.



An open invitation for everyone to participate in a special sports day.

'Rodri has a ligament injury'

Coach says Neymar not ready for imminent return to Al-Hilal

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 25, (AP): Neymar is not ready for an imminent return to play for Al-Hilal, the head coach of the Saudi Arabian club has announced.

SOCCER

The Brazilian star signed for the Riyadh team in August 2023 but played just five games when he underwent surgery after rupturing his meniscus and anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left knee while on international duty in October.

After Neymar, 32, returned to training in July, speculation grew that he was close to a return but coach Jorge Jesus dampened expectations in a post-match media con-

"Neymar is an important player for Al-Hilal and the league in general," Jesus, who led Al-Hilal to a 19th league title in May, said on Tuesday. "I can't, however, specify a date as to when he will return but we will look at the situation in Janu-

Neymar will be able to be registered by Al-Hilal in January for the second half of the Saudi Pro League (SPL) season.

With SPL teams allowed to register a maximum of eight foreign players over the age of 21, Neymar's place in the roster for the first half of the league campaign was taken by Marcos Leonardo, signed from Benfica earlier in September.

Upon return to fitness Neymar, whose two-year contract ends next August, is eligible, however, to appear in Al-Hilal's ongoing AFC Champions League Elite campaign as the continental competition has no restrictions on the number of foreign players allowed.

Manchester City midfielder Rodri has ligament damage in his right knee, the club said Wednesday without giving a time frame for his potential absence.

The Spain international, who is among the favorites to win this year's Ballon d'Or award for the best player in the world, limped off after 20 minutes of the 2-2 draw against Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday.

City confirmed in a statement that Rodri "suffered a ligament injury." He traveled to Spain on Monday to seek specialist consultation on the problem.

"Assessment remains ongoing to ascertain the full extent of the injury and expected prognosis," the English

champions said. City manager Pep Guardiola said Tuesday he expects to be without Rodri for a "long time."

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Gulf Bank reaffirms its commitment to promoting sustainability within the community and encouraging widespread participation in sports through its continued collaboration with Suffix Event Management Company. Together, they are sponsoring the 10th edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, scheduled for November 30, 2024.

Mrs. Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) at Gulf Bank, stated, "This year marks a decade of our partnership with Suffix Event Management Company in sponsoring the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, which has established itself as Kuwait's most significant sports and social event, and remains the only marathon in the country with international accreditation.'

She added, "We are eagerly preparing for another successful edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. This event transcends being a mere race; it serves as an invitation to incorporate exercise and walking into our daily routines. In light of the rising rates of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease in our local community, it is imperative to prioritize physical activity and embrace healthier lifestyles.'

Mrs. Aleisa also emphasized Gulf Bank's role as the title sponsor of the marathon, underscoring the Bank's unwavering dedication to sustainability through social, economic, and environmental initiatives aimed at fostering positive change.

She highlighted that the marathon stands as both a social and athletic event, uniting individuals and families from diverse backgrounds—an objective that aligns with Gulf Bank's broader mission in all its initiatives.

Mr. Ahmad Al-Huzami, CEO of Suffix Event Management, expressed his pride in this enduring partnership, noting, "We are pleased to work alongside Gulf Bank to organize this outstanding sports and social event, which continues to gain popularity and participation each year, both locally and regionally.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon draws thousands of athletes and running enthusiasts from all around the world, set against a lively atmosphere and a scenic route featuring iconic landmarks such as the Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakiya, and Gulf Bank's historical Headquarters, among others.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon offers four categories to cater to participants of all abilities: a 5K walk or run, a 10K run, a half marathon (21K), and a full marathon (42K). Entry is open to participants aged 11 and above for the 5K, 16 and above for the 10K, and 18 and above for the half marathon. Runners, both beginners and professionals, can register for the event by visiting the official website at www.gulfbank642marathon.com

As part of its mission to be Kuwait's leading Bank, Gulf Bank is dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace that delivers exceptional customer service while contributing to sustainable community development. With an expansive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to manage their banking needs conveniently and efficiently.

Aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its focus on fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is actively engaged in driving comprehensive sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The Bank remains committed to implementing strategically selected sustainability programs both internally and externally to advance these objectives.



An archive photo from the previous edition of the marathon.



A group photo of the Gulf Bank and Suffix Event Management, with Najla Aleisa and Ahmad Al-Huzami in the

City 'wins' in League Cup after feisty Arsenal match

Nkunku hits hat trick for Chelsea

LONDON, Sept 25, (AP): Playing just two days after a feisty Premier League match against Arsenal, Manchester City fielded a heavily rotated team and still had too much for second-tier Watford in the **English League Cup.**

City won 2-1 thanks to firsthalf goals by Jeremy Doku and Matheus Nunes at Etihad Stadium as the third round continued Tuesday with fellow top-flight teams Chelsea, Aston Villa and Leicester also advancing.

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Chelsea thrashed fourth-division Barrow 5-0, with Christopher Nkunku scoring a hat trick and celebrating by inflating a blue balloon and holding it between his lips. Villa won 2-1 at third-tier Wycombe and Leicester triumphed 3-0 in a penalty shootout after a 0-0 draw at fourth-tier Walsall

The last 32 of the competition is being spread over two midweeks to accommodate the expanded Champions League and Europa League. Manchester United and Tottenham were among those to advance last week, while Liverpool and Arsenal play their games on Wednesday.

City manager Pep Guardiola won the League Cup four straight years with City from 2018, but said he isn't going to take it seriously this season and will use the matches to give rhythm to some fringe players.

"We are not going to waste energy on this competition, for sure,"

Doku was one of just two Man City players - along with Kyle Walker - to start both the dramatic 2-2 draw with Arsenal on Sunday and against Watford. The Belgium winger put his team ahead in the fifth minute by shooting home from just inside the area after City

seized on a misplaced back-pass. Nunes added the second in 38th with a low, left-footed shot for the Portugal midfielder's first goal since joining from Wolverhampton in the offseason on 2023.

Tom Ince - the son of former



Wycombe Wanderers' Wheeler, left, and Aston Villa's Ian Maatsen battle for the ball during the Carabao Cup third round match at Adams Park in Wycombe, England. (AP)

England midfielder Paul Ince scored for Watford in the 86th.

Chelsea also rotated its lineup, making 11 changes from the team that started the 3-0 win at West

Nkunku scored the opening two goals by the 15th minute and rounded off the scoring in the 75th. In between was an own-goal and a tap-in by Pedro Neto for his first goal for Chelsea.

Colombia forward Jhon Durán continued his brilliant start to the season for Villa by scoring the team's second goal - from the penalty spot in the 85th - to add to Emi Buendia's opener in the 55th.

The 20-year-old Durán has netted four times in five league matches so far this season, all off the bench.

Wycombe's consolation came in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

Walsall was unable to complete an upset over Leicester after taking its Premier League opponent to spot kicks at home.

Leicester converted all three of its penalties, while Walsall failed with its first three attempts to bring the shootout to its earliest possible conclusion.

Ibrahim returns to training

Al-Enezi set to rejoin Qadsiya

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: Sultan Al-Enezi is on the verge of rejoining his former club, Qadsiya, following the termination of his contract with Al-Arabi last week.

Negotiations between Sultan and Oadsiva are underway, and if all goes smoothly, he will don the yel-

SOCCER

low jersey again in January when the winter transfer window opens.

Sultan made the move to Al-Arabi three seasons ago and renewed his contract with the club for another three years last season. However, after halting training last summer, he announced the unilateral termination of his contract with Al-Arabi last week. He subsequently joined Dhofar after obtaining his international transfer card, taking advantage of delays in Al-Arabi's payment of his financial dues.

Al-Arabi has imposed a significant financial penalty on Sultan due to accumulated fines, which he has leveraged to approach FIFA and secure his international card.

In response to Al-Arabi's recent statement warning against his transfer, Sultan asserted the integrity of his position. He expressed surprise at the club's letter to the Omani Federation, questioning why Al-Arabi hasn't taken the matter to FIFA instead of trying to obstruct his contract with Dhofar.

Sultan also mentioned that a member of Al-Arabi's Board attempted to persuade Dhofar's management against finalizing his transfer, aiming to damage his reputation through unfounded actions.

Addressing Al-Arabi's fans, he stated, "My contractual relationship with the club has ended, and I hold great respect for you. The fans of the Green Castle have always been the true motivation for the team's success, but this is a time for professionalism. My departure came after much patience and unreciprocated efforts.

He concluded with gratitude to Dhofar Club, affirming, "I will



Al-Qadsiya defender Khaled Ibra-

honor your trust and will always appreciate your role in facilitating this transfer. Thank you."

Meanwhile, Al-Qadsiya defender Khaled Ibrahim returned to training with his team two days ago after missing recent matches, including the last two rounds of the Zain Premier League against Al-Salmiya and Kazma.

It remains uncertain if Ibrahim will participate in the upcoming match against Al-Tadamon in the sixth round of the league, as the final decision rests with the technical staff.

The international defender had halted training with Al-Qadsiya following his return from national duty with Al-Azraq, amid reports of a disagreement over certain "contractual clauses" with the club's management.

Ibrahim's return to training is driven by several factors, including the need to maintain his fitness, as Kuwait's national team is preparing for two critical World Cup qualifying matches for the 2026 tournament in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Kuwait will face Oman and Palestine on October 10 and 15 in the third and fourth rounds. Additionally, Ibrahim seeks to support his team, which currently sits in sixth place with only 4 points after five rounds. Despite attempts by mediators to resolve the dispute between Ibrahim and the club, no agreement has been reached.



England's Harry Brook celebrates 100 runs during the third day international match at the Seat Unique Riverside, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, England. (AP)
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SOCIES

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Kuwait dominates Asian Championship

Shooting team increases gold haul to five

ASTANA, Sept (KUNA): The Kuwaiti shooting team secured two additional gold medals at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Kazakhstan, dominating the Double Trap event and increasing their overall tally to five gold and two silver medals.

In an interview with KUNA, President of the Kuwait Shooting

SHOOTING

Federation and Secretary General of the Asian Shooting Confederation, Duaij Al-Otaibi, praised the remarkable achievement. He highlighted Ahmad Al-Afasi's victory in the individual competition and the team's first-place finish, which included Al-Afasi, Nasser Al-Muqallad, and Talal Al-Turki.

Al-Otaibi commended the athletes for their outstanding performance, calling their success a source of pride for Kuwait. He attributed the victories to the federation's ongoing support, including extensive training camps and resources, as well as the crucial backing of the Public Authority for



Kuwaiti shooters display their medals on the podium as officials look on.

KUNA photo



sawi (Al-Salmiya) pose for the camera.

Mbappé extends scoring streak

Real survives Alaves fightback

MADRID, Sept 25, (AP): Kylian Mbappé extended his scoring streak with his sixth goal in five matches as Real Madrid defeated Alaves 3-2 in the Spanish league.

Mbappé's seventh goal since joining Madrid was a beauty, with the France forward starting a give-and-go with Jude Bellingham with a heal flick and then picking up the pass inside the area and using a nifty move to clear a defender before finding the net in the 40th minute at the Santiago Bernabeu

Lucas Vázquez and Rodrygo also scored for Madrid, which extended its unbeaten run in the league to 39 matches - with 29 wins and 10 draws going back to last season. Alaves made a late charge by scoring with Carlos Benavídez in the 85th and Kike García in the 86th but couldn't find the equalizer despite

chances in the final minutes. "We played a great match for 80 minutes, but we suffered more than we should have in the end," Vázquez said.

Mbappé now has seven goals in nine matches with Madrid in all competitions. He has five goals in the Spanish league, one behind leading scorer Robert Lewandowski of Barcelona.

The France star who signed as a free agent after leaving Paris Saint-Germain, also had a goal disallowed for offside in the 22nd. He was substituted by Arda Güler in the 80th.

Vázquez had put Madrid ahead one minute into the match with a shot from inside the area after a nice run by Vinícius Júnior through the left side of the area. Rodrygo added to the lead after a long run in the 48th.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti, in his 300th match with the club, used most of his regular starters and did not immediately rotate his squad despite a congested schedule.

Vázquez started as a right back in place of regular starter Dani Carvajal, who was rested with fitness issues.

Teenage Brazil forward Endrick replaced Rodrygo in the 69th, his earliest appearance off the bench, and a couple of minutes later struck the post from

Madrid complained about vellow cards to Vinícius, Federico Valverde and substitute Luka Modric for protesting in a match in which Madrid's players were often subjected to tough

Madrid's next match is the city derby against Atletico Madrid at Atletico's Metropolitano stadium.

Sevilla midfielder Saúl Ñíguez was carried off the field on a stretcher with

SOCCER

an apparent leg injury early in the second half of Sevilla's 2-1 home win over Valladolid.

Chidera Ejuke scored the winner in the 85th minute for Sevilla's second victory in its past three league matches. Valladolid's only win this season came in its league opener against Espanyol.

Valencia followed up its first win of the season - 2-0 at Girona - with a 0-0 draw against Osasuna.

Osasuna had won two of its last three matches.



Real Madrid's Lucas Vazquez, left, duels for the ball with Alaves' Adbe Rebbach during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Alaves at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

Al-Qadsiya faces Al-Gharafa for bronze

Kuwaiti handball makes history as Kuwait Club and AI-Salmiya battle for Arab Clubs Championship title

By Khaled Al-Enezi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The 39th Arab Handball Clubs Championship concludes with the highly anticipated Kuwaiti "derby" between the defending champion Kuwait Club and Al-Salmiya at 8:15 pm at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex

Earlier in the evening, at 6:15 pm, Al-Qadsiya will face Qatar's Al-

HANDBALL

Gharafa in the third-place match.

Two additional matches will take place at 2:00 pm, Iraq's Al-Karkh will play Qatar's Al-Ahly for seventh and eighth place, followed by Egypt's Al- Ahli Bank against Iraq's Al-Hashd at 4:00 pm for fifth and sixth place. Meanwhile, Maliha from the UAE secured ninth place, with Yemen's Al-Qoton finishing

This final is unique as it marks the first time two Kuwaiti teams, led by coaches Haitham Al-Rashidi (Kuwait Club) and Yaqoub Al-Moussawi (Al-Salmiya), have reached the championship's final. Al-Moussawi, at 29 years old, is the youngest coach to lead a team to the final in the Arab Championships. The qualification of three Kuwaiti teams to the semi-finals, and two reaching the final, highlights the remarkable progress of Kuwaiti handball at the club level. Kuwait Club, the reigning champion, aim to retain its title, having defeated Egypt's Zamalek 31-30 in last year's final. Kuwait



Kuwait Club Chairman Khaled Al-Ghanim celebrates with players.

Kuwait's women's team suffers first loss

Club has been dominant locally and internationally, winning the Asian Championship in July 2022 and the Gulf Clubs Championship in March

Tunisian Esperance holds the most titles with seven championships, followed by Egypt's Al-Ahly with five. Tunisia's Etoile du Sahel and Algeria's Mouloudia each have three titles, while Al-Khaleej, Al-Nour (Saudi Arabia), Naft Wahran (Algeria), and the African Club (Tunisia) each have two titles. A variety of other clubs from Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Qatar, Bahrain, and the UAE have won the championship once.

Meanwhile, Al-Salmiya is aiming for its first-ever Arab Champi-

Kuwait Club Chairman Khaled Al-Ghanim congratulated Kuwait's sports community and the handball family on the historic achievement of having three Kuwaiti teams reaches the semi-finals. He expressed gratitude to the Kuwait Handball Federation for its efforts in organizing the championship and supporting local clubs, both domestically and abroad.

Al-Ghanim emphasized that the most important outcome is ensuring the "Arab Cup" remains in Kuwait, regardless of which team wins the final, and wished all participants success.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 25: The Asian and African qualifiers for the "Doha 2024" World Cup continued in Kuwait, showcasing intense competition in both the men's and women's



A Kuwaiti player returns a shot during singles game

categories.

In the men's matches, Egypt triumphed over Kuwait 2-1, while Saudi Arabia secured a commanding 3-0 victory against Thailand. The UAE

PADEL

also defeated Bahrain with a similar 3-0 score. Iran edged past Japan 2-1, Oman overcame China with the same 2-1 score, and Australia dominated Senegal, winning 3-0.

On the women's side, Kuwait suffered its first loss, falling to Japan 0-3. Oman defeated the UAE 2-1, Egypt overcame Iran, and the Philippines beat Thailand, both with 2-1 scores. Australia completed a clean sweep against Senegal with a 3-0 victory.

Polish goalkeeper Szczesny in advanced talks with Barcelona

WARSAW, Sept 25, (Xinhua): Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny remains in advanced talks with FC Barcelona as the Catalan club started to search for a replacement for injured Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

The German goalkeeper had to leave the pitch at the end of the first half of Barca's 5-1 win away to Villarreal on Sunday night. Later the club informed in the official statement that the player "has a complete rupture of the patella tendon in his right knee." FC Barcelona is urgently looking for a replacement with Inaki Pena as their first choice in goal for the foreseeable future and B-team goalkeeper Ander Astralaga as back-up.

According to the Spanish media, the number one target is Szczesny. In August, the 34-year-old terminated his contract with Juventus and announced his retirement from professional foot-

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