



soccer
Pages 14-16



His Highness the Amir



His Highness the Crown Prince

Crown Prince praises Dr. Sartawi's medical breakthrough

Amir receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

Also on Sunday, His Highness the

Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday Dr. Muthanna Sartawi, who presented to His Highness, a brief on his achievement of the medical patent for the innovative method of stitching deep wounds.

His Highness the Crown Prince praised this medical achievement, which is a prominent addition to the world of medicine in general and surgery in particular.

Over KD 99 mln in expired checks found in MoH audit

KD 17 million in expat insurance unpaid to MoH

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The final accounts of the Ministry of Health show that the public institutions owe the ministry roughly 17 million dinars in the form of health insurance of their expatriate workers for fiscal 2023/2024, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The report says the Ministry of Health has not only failed to follow up the issue to urge these institutions to pay but violated the regulations of executing public

budget.

Also, the final account examination results for the fiscal year 2023/2024 conducted by the Ministry of Health revealed a significant issue -- several 'expired' checks and letters of guarantee totaling over 99 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Despite expiring between 2022 and 2023, the ministry failed to renew these checks and guarantees.

The Audit Bureau deemed this a "waste of public money" and a clear violation of the rules and procedures for closing accounts and preparing the final accounts of gov-

ernment institutions.

Most of the letters of guarantee were issued between 2017 and 2021. However, the explanatory memorandum provided by the Ministry of Health did not clarify the reasons for the lack of renewal for these guarantees or the steps taken to extend them, assuming their purpose remained valid.

The Audit Bureau emphasized the importance of renewing these letters in accordance with the established rules if their intended purpose has not yet expired.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait thwarts major KD 2.5 mln drug haul

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Officers from the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) thwarted an attempt by two Afghan nationals and an Iranian to smuggle approximately one million Lyrica capsules, half a million Captagon pills, and 308 kilograms of hashish, with a total value of around KD 2.5 million, in the country by sea. The suspects have been referred to the relevant authorities.

Through this operation, the DCGD officers, operating under the directives of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, and led by the Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Major General Hamed Al-Dawas, along with the Director of Combating Narcotics from DCGD Brigadier General Mohammed Qabazad, have delivered another significant blow to drug dealers.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the Drug Control General Department, affiliated with the Criminal Security Sector

Continued on Page 5



4

UN-Habitat and Canadian Embassy launch 'Urban Oct for Young Citizens and Families'



8

Isam Al-Sager ranks first in Kuwait & third in ME on Forbes' sustainability leaders list



8

Fitch Ratings upgrades Borgan Bank Turkey's IDR to 'BB-'



12

Filipino-Bahraini Shereen Ahmed champions mental health on global stage

NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs **Abdullah Al-Yahya** on Sunday discussed current happenings around the region and beyond with assistants from his ministry, including plans by the political leadership to keep national development on an upward trajectory. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: Iran's Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) announced on Saturday a ban on electronic communication devices, such as pagers and walkie-talkies, from airplane cabins and checked luggage.

To ensure flight safety, all electronic communication devices, except mobile phones, are prohibited in the aviation sector, the CAO said in a statement. (Xinhua)

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister **Abbas Araghchi** on Sunday denied allegations that his country has supplied ballistic missiles to Russia, emphasizing that Iran's military cooperation with Moscow predates the Ukraine conflict.

Araghchi's remarks came in response to a Reuters report on Friday, which cited a senior EU official claiming that the Iranian diplomat had informed EU foreign policy chief **Josep Borrell** in September that Iran had provided short-range rockets to Russia capable of reaching distances of up to 250 km. (Xinhua)

KABUL: A total of 25 Afghan inmates imprisoned in **Iraq** have been set free and returned to their homeland, **Afghanistan's** Ministry for Refugees and Repatriation said on Saturday.

According to the ministry's statement, the detainees were imprisoned in Iraq for not having legal documents for six months. After being released, they returned to Afghanistan via **Iran** through the Nimroz border. (Xinhua)

CAIRO: A locomotive crashed into the tail of the Cairo-bound passenger train Sunday in southern **Egypt**, killing at least one person and injuring multiple others, authorities said. It is the second train crash in a month in the North African country.

The collision occurred in the province of **Minya**, 270 kilometers (about 168 miles) south of Cairo, the railway authority said in a statement, and two railway carriages fell into an adjacent watercourse. (AP)

Airstrikes destroy century-old market in Lebanon

Kuwait denounces Israeli occupation's assault on UNIFIL

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait condemned Saturday the Israeli occupation forces attack on the UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In a press statement, the Ministry also dismissed the Israeli occupation assault as a flagrant violation of the international humanitarian law and the relevant UN resolutions, particularly UNSCR No. 1701.

It emphasized the need to ensure the safety of the

UN personnel and the protection of UN buildings.

The Ministry also wished speedy recovery for the injured, called for bringing the perpetrators to account.

It also reaffirmed the State of Kuwait's solidarity with Lebanon and called on the international community and the UN Security Council to take firm action for reaching a permanent ceasefire.

In Washington, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has expressed grave concern after Israeli occupation forces opened fire at the UN peace-

keeping forces in southern Lebanon, causing injuries among them.

Austin, in a phone call with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant, said he was worried about reports that Israeli occupation forces opened fire at UN Interim Force in Southern Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the killing of two Lebanese soldiers, the Pentagon said in a statement late Saturday.

Austin underlined importance of guaranteeing safety and security of UNIFIL and Lebanese army forces, as well as changing the military action to

the diplomatic path as soon as possible.

Austin also highlighted the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza Strip and the importance of addressing it.

UNIFIL has announced its forces came under Israeli occupation forces' attacks, injuring four peacekeepers.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on the central Gaza Strip killed a family of eight, Palestinian medical

Continued on Page 5



Hezbollah rescue workers search for victims amid the rubble of destroyed buildings at a commercial street that was hit Saturday night by Israeli airstrikes, in Nabatiyeh town, south Lebanon, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024. (AP)

IAEA nuclear safety drill tests Kuwait's emergency response

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Emergency Rapid Response Team from the Radiation Protection Department at the Ministry of Health, in coordination with the General Directorate of Civil Defense and the GCC Center for Emergency Management, participated in a mock exercise organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

At the invitation of the IAEA's Emergency Center, the exercise was held in the presence of leaders from the Ministry of Health and General Directorate of Civil Defense, along with several specialists and experts. It was aimed to test emergency response arrangements related to cross-border nuclear or radiological accidents.

The exercise assessed the capabilities of the relevant authorities and national personnel in handling such incidents within the context of international nuclear and radiological events. This type of exercise is

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to human rights

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): The Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah emphasized Kuwait's pivotal role in supporting initiatives that promote human rights and strengthening Gulf, regional, and international cooperation in this regard.

This came in her speech at the 50th Conference of the International Organization for Women Empowerment and Capacity Building (IWECBO), Empower, which commenced on Sunday under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sheikha Jawaher highlighted Kuwait's continued commitment to human rights in the conference with was being held at the Sabah Al-Salem University Conference Center, in collaboration with Kuwait Uni-

versity's College of Social Sciences and the IWECBO.



Sheikha Jawaher

Sheikha Jawaher highlighted Kuwait's central role in disseminating human rights culture and enhancing cooperation on the Gulf, regional, and international levels.

She noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' sponsorship of the conference reflects its ongoing dedication to promoting human rights principles and fostering constructive dialogue on how to advance these rights both locally and regionally.

She reiterated Kuwait's commitment to human rights culture and enhancing cooperation on the Gulf, regional, and international levels.

The conference addressed the key challenges to implementing human rights standards in the region, while highlighting local and regional initiatives to promote these rights, and gathered a distinguished group of experts, academics, and researchers from the GCC and Arab countries, along with representatives from civil society organizations and international human rights bodies.

Continued on Page 5

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:29 Asr 14:52
 Sunrise .. 05:47 Maghrib .. 17:21
 Zohr 11:34 Isha 18:37

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather

and humid with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-26 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station **Max Exp** **Min Rec**
 Kuwait City 37 22

Kuwait Airport	37	21
Abdaly	39	20
Bubyan	32	19
Jahra	39	24
Failaka Island	32	22
Salmiyah	31	28
Ahmadi	30	19
Jal Aliyah	37	22

Programs launched to hone skills of teens: Al-Ansari

Kuwait supports youth in quest for bright future

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA : The State of Kuwait attaches great importance to Kuwaiti youth as they are the foundation of a promising future.

Kuwait Public Authority for Youth is keen to identify the youth's aspirations, meet their needs, help them achieve their ambitions, and provide them with spaces and opportunities to present their ideas and initiatives.

The Youth Authority offers many training, development and volunteer activities and programs to qualify teens and young people in various fields and push them towards creative production, interest in the arts, and highlighting youth talents and creativity.



Al-Ansari

The Authority's spokeswoman, Asrar Al-Ansari, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the Authority organizes programs, projects, training courses and workshops throughout the year targeting young people and adolescents in its youth centers.

Al-Ansari stressed that the development projects and programs provided by the Authority come within the framework of the state's development plan. They are classified as programs of the national youth policy and include voluntary, craft, sports, technological, and scientific activities, leadership skills development, and the fields of arts, media, environment, and others.

She touched on the (Youth Valley) program, which offers workshops and courses in technological, programming and technical fields to provide Kuwaiti youth with knowledge and skills in the field of science, technology and scientific research. She also stated that the Authority launched the

"Kuwait Technical Entrepreneurship Complex" project in cooperation with Boeing Aviation Company, which aims to support young entrepreneurs in technical and technological fields through lectures and meetings scheduled to begin once construction is completed.

The Authority, out of its responsibility to support the culture of volunteering, established the (Volunteer Work Academy) as a contribution to supporting the state's efforts with young people working in the field of community work, and the (Youth Heritage Crafts Center) to develop the skills of young people and gain new experiences in the fields of making various traditional Kuwaiti crafts, she added.

Al-Ansari noted that the Public Authority for Youth also provided the "Emkan" online platform, which offers Kuwaiti youth more than 75 free development courses in 6 vital fields.



KUNA photo

Acting Deputy Director General for Aviation Safety, Air Transport and Civil Aviation Security, Acting Spokesman (Department) Abdullah Al-Rajhi.

Kuwait reiterates commitment to top safety in aviation sector

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13; The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has reiterated Kuwait's commitment to fostering international cooperation to uphold the highest safety standards in the aviation sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This statement was made by Abdullah Al-Rajhi, the Deputy Director-General for Aviation Safety, Air Transport, and Civil Aviation Security, who also serves as the acting spokesman for the administration.

He delivered this message during the opening of the sixth meeting of the Safety Enhancement Implementation Group and the National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators, taking place in Kuwait over the next two days.

Al-Rajhi emphasized that this meeting provides a "valuable opportunity" for member states to exchange knowledge and expertise, which is essential to our collective strategy for enhancing regional and international safety frameworks.

He stated that through collaborative efforts, they can effectively address current and future challenges in the aviation sector while ensuring the sustainability of improvements in performance and safety.

tor while ensuring the sustainability of improvements in performance and safety.

Al-Rajhi noted that the Safety Enhancement Implementation Group is a cornerstone in developing regional safety initiatives and plays a crucial role in executing the recommendations and outcomes from previous meetings.

The agenda for the meetings includes discussions on the latest developments in the implementation of national safety plans and programs of member states, as well as the challenges and opportunities these programs present for enhancing aviation safety.

Al-Rajhi expressed gratitude to the ICAO Regional Office and all participating nations for their relentless dedication to advancing aviation safety.

Notably, the meeting features representatives from several Arab countries, including Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Morocco. Additionally, participants include airlines, ground service providers at Kuwait International Airport, and representatives from ICAO.

Obesity, diabetes rates very high: Dr Al-Sarraf



KUNA photo

Representatives from Kuwait's Environment Public Authority at the meeting.

Kuwait participates in Jeddah meet

The 25th session of the Technical Committee of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environmental Affairs commenced in Jeddah on Sunday, with representatives from Kuwait's Environment Public Authority taking part.

This meeting, which will conclude on Tuesday, serves as a precursor to the 35th session of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, slated for next Thursday.

Under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia, the event is organized by the Saudi Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, in collaboration with the

Arab League. Participants will engage in discussions on a variety of pressing environmental issues affecting the Arab region, with the aim of formulating impactful recommendations. The agenda will cover environmental challenges and the exploration of nature-based solutions.

Among the topics to be addressed are the review of decisions implemented since the last session, the examination of international environmental agreements, and collaborative efforts among Arab nations regarding desertification, biodiversity, climate change, and wildlife preservation. (KUNA)

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Sabah Al-Ahmad Heart Center, in cooperation with Kuwait Heart Association, has launched the annual campaign aimed at raising public awareness about heart diseases and risk factors with the theme, "Healthy Heart for a Bright Future."

Chairman of the campaign, head of the Lipid Diseases Unit at the center and a member of the association Dr. Ahmed Jassim Al-Sarraf said the campaign sheds light on the risk factors for heart diseases, including high blood sugar, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol level and others.

He warned that heart disease and atherosclerosis are the main causes of death not only in Kuwait, but also globally. He cited statistics indicating that heart diseases and atherosclerosis, cause the death of about 4,000 citizens annually, hence, the importance of holding this campaign annually to raise awareness on the risk factors and how to avoid them.

He revealed that 50 percent of the Kuwaitis have high blood fats and that the country ranks first in the Arab world in terms of obesity and overweight rates, as statistics showed that 75 percent of the population are overweight.

He said some statistics state that the obesity rate in Kuwait is the highest in the world, while the diabetes rate has reached 25 percent.

He added the campaign includes a one-day conference with the participation of lecturers from Kuwait, other Gulf countries and the United Kingdom, as well as week-long events at the Avenues Mall to educate the public about the causes of heart diseases and atherosclerosis.

'Career Pathways' failure harms future of students

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Informed educational sources have revealed that the "Career Pathways Program in Secondary Education," a key initiative in the government's work program for the Ministry of Education, has come to a standstill. The program aimed to diversify educational outcomes to better serve the labor market's needs.

Sources confirmed to Al-Seyassah that the project has encountered significant challenges that have made its implementation complicated and unfeasible.

A major issue has been the lack of cooperation from some educational institutions, which insist on overseeing the implementation of field or practical education themselves. This insistence has led to repeated conflicts between these institutions and the Ministry of Education.

Statistics indicate that over 146,461 students in government schools and more than 68,000 students in private education have been unable to benefit from the program. This totals over 200,000 Grade 12 graduates in the last five years who have not acquired the necessary professional skills, negatively impacting their employment opportunities in the labor market.

The project manager has reportedly expressed regret for discontinuing the initiative due to frustration within the team and ongoing indecision regarding its implementation. The program has seen oversight from multiple ministers over the years, each oscillating between forming committees to study the program and canceling it without making decisive progress toward activation.

Despite numerous amendments to the project, those in charge have been unable to achieve tangible results. The primary stumbling block appears to be a lack of consensus among educational institutions on the project's implementation.

Experts have warned that the program may remain inactive unless cooperation between the Ministry and various educational institutions are reevaluated.

Nonetheless, those working in the educational field continue to emphasize the urgent need for the implementation of career pathways in secondary education.

MoE forwards bonus list

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: In line with the decision to disburse bonuses to employees assigned in adult education and training centers only if they register their attendance through the fingerprint system, the Ministry of Education sent the list of employees assigned in the Religious Education Department to the Information System Sector to upload the data in the fingerprint attendance devices.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the letter of Assistant Undersecretary of the Financial Sector Matrouk Al-Mutairi, stating that bonuses will be disbursed to employees assigned in adult education and training centers only if they have fingerprint attendance records, including those assigned in the Religious Education Department; hence, the need to register them in the fingerprint attendance system.

This is in compliance with the instruction of the Financial Sector, which asked all educational administrations to send the list of the concerned employees.

Other Voices

Ups and downs of 'doubt' role

By Ahmad alsarraf

It is said, and I believe it is true, that the most commonly used word in the world, in different languages and continents, is the word OK, and yet no one knows its origin or what it means, despite the many stories.

It is also said that the most important word in human history is "doubt," which played a decisive role in shaping modern civilization, because it was the engine behind critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and philosophical exploration.

Without asking, for example, what is the secret behind rainfall, where do rivers come from, why is there night and day, and millions of other questions that scientists sought to answer, the path to knowledge was investigative science, which seeks causes, thrives on doubt, questioning, testing hypotheses, and examining evidence.

There is no doubt that advancements in fields such as medicine, technology, and physics would have stagnated without the spirit of doubt that challenges established beliefs. Every significant scientific breakthrough, from Newton's laws of motion to Einstein's theory of relativity and the latest developments in genetics, has been fueled by questioning and skepticism regarding prior paradigms. Philosophers since ancient times have recognized doubt as a fundamental component in the pursuit of knowledge.

Doubt, in this context, signifies critical thinking -- a notion famously encapsulated by Descartes, the father of skepticism, who stated, "I think, therefore I am." This methodical doubt compels individuals to scrutinize their beliefs, reflect on the nature of reality, and approach the world with an open mind. Such intellectual humility is a defining characteristic of modern thought.

In today's era of information overload, accompanied by the widespread

dissemination of misinformation and falsehoods, doubt serves as a vital defense against manipulation. It empowers individuals to critically evaluate claims and narratives to sift through information to discern what is credible.

Skepticism plays a role in democracies, ensuring accountability and preventing tyranny. Democratic governments build doubt into their structures through checks and balances, ensuring that no branch or individual becomes too powerful. Democratic societies rely on public debate and a free press, in which doubts are raised, to keep them in check by challenging official narratives.

Modern civilization in the West has seen a shift toward secularism, partly due to the Enlightenment-era skepticism of religious authority, which led to the emergence of humanism and individual rights. Skepticism, in this context, was not intended to reject faith, but to promote freedom of belief and tolerance.

Skepticism has also been behind the social and political movements that have shaped modern civilization -- such as the struggle for civil rights.

Doubt has also played a role in economic and technological development, as entrepreneurs have succeeded by doubting the way things are done. For example, doubt that sales models are not perfect has led to the rise of e-commerce giants like Amazon.

Doubt also has a moral role. At the individual level, doubt promotes personal growth. This may create uncertainty or anxiety, but it also stimulates self-reflection and improvement. It also leads individuals to hone their skills, seek education, or make life changes that contribute to personal development.

In conclusion, doubt is a powerful motivator for growth, learning, and progress, but it is not always beneficial. It can also have potential downsides when taken to extremes. Excessive doubt leads to hesitation and inaction. This hinders progress. It erodes trust in individuals, institutions, relationships, and even in oneself, such as doubts about climate change, vaccines, biometrics, and more.

□ □ □

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



alsarraf



File photo of a gruesome accident somewhere in Kuwait.

Call for strict laws to deter violators

'Wearing seat belts, avoiding zig zag driving help avert accidents'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Director of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department Dr. Ahmad Al-Shatti affirmed the importance of researching and evaluating the factors contributing to traffic accidents in order to develop an effective preventative strategy.

In an interview with the daily, he highlighted that routine data analysis is essential for identifying problem areas and implementing proactive measures.

Dr. Al-Shatti shared recommendations from the EMS department' third-quarter report for 2024, which highlighted the need for a comprehensive strategy to reduce traffic accidents and enhance community awareness.

According to the report, approximately 7,774 road accidents were handled during the first nine months of this year, with 454 cases of arrivals and departures at Kuwait's ports. Among these, 59 cases required medical evacuation in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

From January 1 to September 30, 2024, a total of 121,852 cases were handled by the EMS department. This included approximately 803 cases transported by air ambulance, and 100,370 cases by ground ambulance. In addition, 28 mock exercises were conducted to ensure preparedness.

During the same period, there were about 96,970 requests for assistance, of which approximately 69,722 were transferred to hospitals and medical centers, and about 30,648 were reported as non-urgent cases.

Dr. Al-Shatti praised the promptness of emergency response teams, highlighting a

reduction in response time from an average of 8.5 minutes in 2023 to 7.8 minutes in 2024, which is a decrease of 0.7 minutes.

He said that this improvement in response time highlights the effectiveness of medical teams and the importance of investing in technology and training to enhance response times and overall performance.

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Shatti called for the implementation of a number of regulations aimed at preventing traffic accidents.

He explained that ongoing education can significantly reduce accident rates. These include strengthening awareness campaigns about the dangers of irresponsible driving, urging the use of seat belts, and encouraging adherence to traffic laws.

Dr. Al-Shatti stressed the importance of following traffic laws, indicating that there are severe penalties for violations such as speeding and driving under the influence.

He affirmed that effective law enforcement can deter risky behavior among drivers.

Dr. Al-Shatti highlighted the need for infrastructure development, asserting that safe and well-maintained roads, along with functional traffic signals, play a huge role in reducing accidents.

He emphasized the importance of utilizing modern technological tools, such as surveillance cameras and smart navigation systems, to improve road safety.

Dr. Al-Shatti urged the public to use applications that provide real-time traffic and accident information, promote safe driving practices, and avoid distractions, such as using a phone while driving, or driving when fatigued.

He stressed the necessity for relevant authorities to study and analyze past accidents to understand their causes and develop strategies for prevention. Such measures can empower drivers to respond more effectively to accidents and ultimately save lives.

In addition, Dr. Al-Shatti highlighted the importance of community training and offering First Aid courses for both drivers and passengers.



Dr Al-Shatti

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

‘Need to cleanse with equal vigor corruption-tainted files’

“I WAS taken aback when I came across a headline in Al-Rai newspaper regarding the contentious issue of Kuwaiti wives, which it described as ‘a crack in the backbone,’” columnist and former Deputy Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) **Iqbal Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

“The article provided a thorough and precise review of the situation, examining each case individually. Alarmingly, it revealed instances where the time frame for obtaining citizenship had been drastically shortened to less than five days after marriage -- rather than from the declaration of intent made before a notary public.

“The methods of fraud are numerous, but the objective remains singular: to gain financial assistance, money, and all the benefits associated with Kuwaiti citizenship.

“As Al-Rai pointed out, citing its sources, this issue has not undergone any reform or adequate scrutiny in recent years. It is considered one of the most complex matters that demand meticulous investigation.

“Traditionally, a foreign wife of a Kuwaiti citizen does not receive Kuwaiti citizenship until she declares her intent, followed by a waiting period of up to five years.

“However, upon delving into the documents, it became evident that there are glaring violations and exceptions concerning the naturalization of some wives, circumventing the established time frame after marriage.

“In extreme cases, a woman married to a Kuwaiti citizen might divorce him, then remarry someone of her original nationality, only to see her children from the second marriage obtain Kuwaiti citizenship, based on her initial marriage.

“I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Supreme Committee for Citizenship Investigation for its diligent efforts in uncovering cases of forgery and exploitation that have plagued citizenship files in various forms. Their work has shed light on these violations, which have previously gone unchecked.

“Despite the scandals, transgressions, and the erosion of rights associated with the citizenship file, no one in past years dared to address it. Although the matter was raised in one of the recent National Assembly sessions, it ultimately failed to gain approval for an investigation into the forgery of citizenship, resulting in the issue being shelved once again, allowing the problems to fester year after year.

“Yet, the reopening of this file required immense courage, determination, and boldness—qualities we witnessed in the presence of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Defense.

“We hope that the cleansing of all files tainted by corruption will persist with equal vigor and resolve until the foundations are as purified as possible. After all, sustainable development and improvement projects can only thrive on solid ground, regardless of how deeply corruption has entrenched itself in their name and authority.”

“Unfortunately, the good always goes with the bad in public affairs, because there are many marriages between Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaiti women, which are built on sound foundations and for sound purposes and good intentions ... far from profiteering, taking advantage and malicious intentions.”



Iqbal Al-Ahmed

movement or ideology.

“Emotional Manipulation -- The media often stirs emotions like fear, anger, or pride to drive people toward specific actions or to support certain policies without requiring deep critical thought.

“Repetition: Repeating a message over and over makes it sink into the subconscious mind, eventually becoming accepted as fact without question. This is one of the most effective techniques in political media.

“Using Influencers -- Influential figures, such as religious leaders or political analysts, are often used to deliver messages, either directly or indirectly. Their opinions are trusted, and they are targeted for their ability to sway the masses. These influencers may be lured by fame or pressured into supporting certain narratives.

“Manipulating Statistics and Imagery -- Selectively using data, statistics, and fabricated visuals can paint a picture far removed from reality, further distorting the truth.

“Creating Enemies -- Political media creates an “enemy,” whether internal or external, that the public is urged to fight. This tactic distracts from the real issues by exploiting political, social, and sectarian divisions.

“The Israeli and Western media have masterfully used these techniques to direct the Arab citizen’s mindset, igniting sectarian tensions and poisoning social cohesion with racism and classism. Through these methods, they have fostered division and doubt, deeply influencing Arab societies.

“In the next part of this exploration, I will delve further into the tactics used by the Zionist entity’s media to create an environment that subtly and overtly garners support for Israel among the Arab populace.”

“We are witnessing a vital moment in the long-standing Zionist-Arab-Islamic conflict that directly impacts the Arab world, particularly the Gulf region. Are we merely spectators, waiting passively while destruction and recklessness unfold around us?” columnist, Constitutional Expert **Dr Mohammed Al-Moqatei** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

“Can we afford to rely on the reassurances and statements of others as our lands and people face potential collapse like fragile pottery? These are pressing questions not just for the leaders of today, but for future generations as well.

“The situation is dire, with an alarming rush toward war, primarily driven by the Zionist entity. This rush is not born of strength, but of desperation -- akin to the last, reckless attempts of a drowning person willing to drag everyone down with them.

“Behind this impulsiveness lies an expansionist agenda. If the Zionist regime succeeds in destabilizing certain countries, it will extend its influence and dominance, intoxicated by victories achieved with Western, particularly American, backing.

“This expansionist adventurism, driven by political ambitions and the desire for electoral gains, pays no heed to the devastation it could unleash on the entire region.

“It is imperative that Arab and Islamic nations wake up, recognize the imminent danger, and prepare for what might come. The grand plan, often referred to as the “New Middle East,” aims to reshape the region, with the ultimate goal being the destruction or subjugation of our countries.

“The objectives are clear: rearranging and dividing the region to dominate it entirely. The Zionist entity, desperate for survival, is the executor of this plan. Behind it stands America, seeking to impose its influence, with some European nations acting as enablers. Even Iran’s potential role, whether as an ally or a rival in this plan, remains a subject of speculation, but the days to come may provide clarity.

“Arab and Islamic nations can no longer afford to be complacent. The flames of war are already licking at the borders, their skies, and their people. It is as though these nations believe they are somehow insulated from the chaos, but this could not be further from the truth.

“The call for security and self-defense is urgent, not only for individual nations but for the entire Arab and Islamic world.

“Lebanon is already reeling from the destruction of war. Palestine remains shackled under occupation, and Gaza continues to resist despite ongoing massacres, starvation, and displacement.

“The destruction of Gaza is not merely a consequence of war; it is part of a systematic plan to erase its existence. This is not just a war on territories; it is a war on the identity, religion, honor, and future of our people.

“Now is the time for unity and strategic thinking, backed by decisive action on the ground. Arab nations must abandon their internal conflicts and disputes, recognizing that our very existence is at stake.

“We are not commodities to be bought, sold, and discarded when no longer useful. The hour has come for us to defend our people, our land, and our future.

“Failure to act decisively will leave us vulnerable to an attack from which we may never recover. History is full of lessons, and the current events unfolding around us are a stark reminder that without proactive defense, regret will come too late. The time for strategic transformation is now, before the storm fully descends upon us.”

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes**

Jahra securitymen seize 800,000 Saudi riyals from bedoun

Court convicts Al-Harees in industrial plot scandal

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Court of Ministers has confirmed that Mubarak Al-Harees, the first defendant in Case No. 2024/1, exploited his parliamentary and ministerial positions to make illicit gains wealth, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Harees used his influence to secure two industrial plots, which he later sold for 780,000 Kuwaiti dinars. The court determined that this unjustified increase in wealth, alongside the reduction of his financial obligations, was a direct result of abusing his position.

In its ruling last week, the court rejected Al-Harees’ defense that he concealed his official status by using a second defendant to contract with a company.

Evidence, including testimony from the company’s representative, proved that the firm was aware of his hidden role. The investigation officer’s findings, which the court deemed credible and thorough, further supported this

conclusion.

Al-Harees’ actions were facilitated by his positions as both a member of the National Assembly and a government minister, allowing him to influence the allocation and sale of industrial plots.

In one suspicious transaction, Al-Harees opposed a parliamentary interrogation into alleged violations at the Public Authority for Industry, only to sign a lucrative contract for the usufruct of Plot 11E just a week later.

The court also found that Al-Harees obtained industrial plots in the Al-Jahra expansion area at significantly reduced rates, benefiting from the subleasing permissions granted by the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

800K Saudi riyals seized: The Jahra security forces have arrested an unidentified bedoun and seized from him a substantial sum of money, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The arrest took place in the suburb of Kabb area, and the plainclothes policemen reported found in his possession 800,000 Saudi riyals, raising suspicions about the source and intended use of the money.

The operation was part of the continued efforts by public security forces to maintain law and order and combat illegal activities. Following the arrest, the suspect and the confiscated money were immediately referred to the competent authorities for further investigation to determine the origin of the money and any potential links to criminal activities.

This operation highlights the vigilance of the Jahra Security Directorate in addressing illegal activities and maintaining security under the clear guidance of senior public security officials. The authorities have reiterated their commitment to upholding the law and taking swift action against anyone involved in suspicious or unlawful acts.

Mol nabs 2 MoCI employees for accepting KD 50,000 bribe

Several people arrested in Hawally security campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): **The Ministry of Interior, working with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has arrested two employees working at the trade department, the MoI announced on Saturday.**

They are accused of using their positions for personal gain by taking bribes to ignore some commercial violations.

The ministry’s press statement revealed that the two individuals were caught in the act of accepting a 50,000 Kuwaiti dinars bribe from the other person, as part of an agreement with him to pay the pair a total of 200,000 Kuwaiti dinars.

They have been referred to the competent authorities for legal action.

Encroachments to be tackled: The Kuwait Municipality has reaffirmed its commitment to addressing illegal encroachments on state property, particularly in the southern areas of the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The specialized task force dedicated to removing violations and unauthorized structures is actively continuing its efforts, ensuring that no transgressions go unnoticed or unaddressed.

The team operates by closely monitoring any encroachments on public lands, swiftly acting to remove violations without exceptions.

Their work includes the direct demolition and clearance of unauthorized buildings, structures, or land modifications that infringe upon state property. This initiative is part of the municipality’s broader strategy to preserve public resources and maintain the integrity of state-owned lands.

Kuwait Municipality emphasized that the campaign to remove these encroachments is ongoing and will persist until all violations are eradicated. It is committed to enforcing laws uniformly, with no tolerance for those attempting to seize or misuse public property.

The municipality also reiterated its call for citizens and residents to respect public lands and avoid illegal constructions, as violators will face strict penalties.

Security campaign held: The Ministry of Interior said the Special Task Force Division carried out a surprise security campaign in the Hawalli Governorate Saturday evening, which resulted in the arrest of 5 persons, including 2 on charges of possessing suspected narcotic substances, two wanted persons, a resident violating the residency law and impounded three

168 bottles of local liquor seized

Court upholds imprisonment of Al-Juwaihel

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Court of Cassation has rejected the petition to suspend the implementation of the ruling to imprison Mohammad Al-Juwaihel -- a citizen -- for two years and four months for insulting Ajman Tribe; and set a session for next Sunday to pronounce the sentence while affirming the continuation of his imprisonment.

Al-Juwaihel may face charges of undermining national unity in the case of insulting tribes and violating the National Unity Law.

The Criminal Court had earlier stressed that it will not be lenient with anyone who undermines national unity, and threatens peace and community security.

It indicated that the provisions of the National Unity Law and the penalties stipulated therein must be imposed on anyone who deliberately attacks the components of society, spreads hatred, incites sedition and promotes hateful or racist ideas.

It pointed out that protecting national unity requires concerted efforts and true national alignment to stand as an impregnable barrier against anyone who deliberately spreads the seeds of sedition and hostility among the components of society.



Al-Juwaihel

Duo held for local brew: The Public Security Sector, based on directives from the Assistant Undersecretary of the sector Major General Hamad Al-Munaifi, continued its security campaigns to apprehend wanted individuals and offenders.

Patrol officers successfully arrested six individuals in possession of alcoholic and narcotic substances.

According to the Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior, as part of its ongoing efforts to maintain security and apprehend violators across all governorates, the Public Security Sector arrested these six individuals in five separate cases. They were found with around 168 bottles of locally-manufactured liquor and substances believed to be narcotics.

In addition, drug paraphernalia, a sensitive weighing scale, and various sums of money were confiscated. The arrested individuals and the seized items have been referred to the relevant authorities for necessary legal action.

This effort reflects the Ministry of Interior’s ongoing commitment to combat all forms of crime and ensure the highest levels of security for citizens and residents.

The ministry urges everyone to cooperate with security personnel and report any suspicious activities by calling the emergency No. 112 or the hotline No. 1884141 of the Drug Control General Department.

In addition, Jahra security personnel, led by the Assistant Director of Jahra Security Directorate Brigadier Hussein Dashti successfully arrested a Bedoun resident in Kabb in possession of approximately 800,000 Saudi riyals and currencies of other countries. The suspect has been referred with the seized funds to the relevant authorities for further action.

vehicles for various reasons, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Young girl's death being probed: The Investigation Department of Criminal Security Sector in the Hawalli Governorate is investigating the tragic death of a young woman in Rumaithiya who allegedly fell from the roof of the house early yesterday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a security source the Ministry’s operations room received a report on the inci-

No casualties in apartment fire

2,089 traffic citations issued and several people arrested

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Ministry of Interior has announced that in continuation of the extensive security campaigns to arrest criminals and those who violated the laws of the country; a comprehensive security and traffic campaign was carried out in Jahra Governorate recently under the direct supervision of First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a recent press statement, the ministry confirmed that the General Traffic Department (GTD), Rescue Police General Department, Public Security Sector, Special Security Forces General Department and policewomen participated in the campaign.

It revealed that the campaign resulted in the issuance of 2,089 traffic violation citations, arrest of nine individuals who failed to present a valid proof of identification, arrest of 14 individuals who violated the Residency and Labor laws, impounding of 19 vehicles wanted by law as they were reported to have been used in committing crimes, arrest of nine individuals who were reported absconding, confiscation of one vehicle, arrest of 12 people for whom arrest warrants were issued, arrest of six people involved in drug related cases, arrest of four people found to be in an abnormal condition, referral of one individual wanted by law to the Sentence Enforcement General Department, and referral of four youths to the Juvenile Investigation Department.

The ministry stressed that these campaigns are part of ongoing efforts to maintain peace and order throughout the country, indicating it is keen on arresting those who violated the laws of the country and those wanted by law for committing various crimes in order to guarantee public security and safety.

Apartment blaze tackled: Saturday afternoon, the Kuwait Fire Force swiftly responded to a fire that broke out in an apartment in the Salmiya and put out a blaze without causing any injuries, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The daily added, quick response by firemen prevented the fire from causing significant structural damage and safeguarding nearby residents.

The residents of the building were evacuated as a safety measure before the firemen put out the fire.

WEDDINGS, UPTO 140

AUDITORIUM

BUFFET

ANNIVERSARY

BIRTHDAY

KIDS CELEBRATION

WE ARE BUDGET-FRIENDLY

MUGHAL MAHAL

FAHAHEEL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175

Mr. Jack: 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com

info@mughalmahal.com

Kuwait expands UK study options

New academic programs approved

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: In a significant move aimed at broadening educational prospects for Kuwaiti students, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Acting Minister of Education, Dr. Nader Al-Jalal, has issued two decisions regarding the addition of new academic programs and degrees to the list of approved higher education institutions in the United Kingdom for undergraduate and post-graduate studies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These decisions expand the range of study options available to Kuwaiti students looking to pursue their education abroad. The first decision, part of Ministerial Resolution No. 40/2020 issued on February 17, 2020, outlines the following academic programs and degrees that are now approved for Kuwaiti students: University College London (UCL) Civil Engineering (M, D) – Master’s and Doctorate degrees in Civil Engineering are now recognized and St. George’s University, University of London – Physiotherapy (B.Sc) – Bachelor’s degree in Physiotherapy is now included in the approved list. This decision emphasizes the need for students enrolled in these

programs to adhere to the traditional education system, requiring regular in-person attendance during the school week. The programs must also have graduated their first cohort before being eligible for approval. Additionally, all academic degrees must meet the Ministry of Higher Education’s requirements for recognition and validity. The decision is effective immediately, and any conflicting provisions in previous regulations are hereby canceled. In the second decision, two additional academic programs and degrees have been approved for students wishing to study in the UK under the same Ministerial Resolution: University of Birmingham -- Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering (B.Sc) – Bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering University of Edinburgh -- Biomedical Engineering (D) – Doctorate degree in Biomedical Engineering Similar to the first decision, the second one requires these programs to adhere to a traditional, in-person education system with regular attendance. These programs must have also graduated their first batch of students before being considered. Additionally, they must comply with all enrollment and study regulations set by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education. Both decisions are now in effect and will be published in the Official Gazette, ensuring that students are informed and can plan their educational pathways accordingly. These measures further support Kuwait’s commitment to enhancing the quality of education for its citizens studying abroad.



Dr. Al-Jalal



Photos from the event.

‘Come Plant With Us’ initiative

UN-Habitat and Canadian Embassy launch ‘Urban Oct for Young Citizens and Families’

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: In celebration of the Canadian Thanksgiving 2024 and Urban October 2024, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Embassy of Canada in Kuwait launched the ‘Urban October for Young Citizens and Families’, initiative featuring the engaging children’s event ‘Come Plant With Us’!

The Urban October serves as a global platform for communities to engage in discussions about the challenges and opportunities arising from rapid urban changes. The partnership between the Canadian Embassy and UN-Habitat aims to inspire individuals, communities, and governments across all ages and levels to participate in activities that address climate change and improve urban environments. Urban October kicks off with World Habitat Day on October 2 and concludes with World Cities Day on October 31. Timed perfectly with the onset of the agricultural season in Kuwait, this initiative brings together the volunteer development team, the residents of Shamiya, and the Canadian community in Kuwait. The event is designed to educate and inspire youth and their families through interactive activities, emphasizing the importance of climate action and the development of sustainable, inclusive cities. This initiative closely aligns with the theme of the UN-Habitat’s 2023 Habitat Assembly: ‘Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future’, as well as Canada’s commitments to climate action. The day promises a blend of fun and educational experiences, offering various enrichment and engagement activities for children and their families, including: Sustainable Scavenger Hunt -- An interactive quest that provides children with an educational tour of Shamiya Reserve, focusing on sustainability and urban planning Green Thumb Project -- Guided planting activities designed to engage children in understanding the crucial role of green spaces in urban landscapes, alongside upcycling reusable materials Our New Planet — Art & Craft Corner — A creative space where children can express themselves using upcycled materials, fostering creativity and environmental awareness Community Narratives — A storytime session for children featuring books that inspire discussions about community-building and environmental stewardship. This unique collaboration seeks to provide enriching activities that spark the imaginations of young citizens and their families, laying the groundwork for sustainable and inclusive urban futures. The Canadian Embassy expresses pride in being guests of the volunteer development team at “Shamiya Reserve” for the third consecutive year. This dedicated team, affiliated with the Public Authority for Youth, is committed to greening and recycling efforts and is recognized as a role model for embodying the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Kuwait. Celebrating Canadian Thanksgiving, which occurs every October, this event reflects the values of gratitude, kindness, and environmental stewardship. The Canadian Embassy extends its thanks to the Volunteer Development Team of “Shamiya Reserve” for providing this special opportunity for the Canadian community and friends of Canada to come together, celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving, and contribute to the care of our environment.

Bylaws updated

Juvenile expert criteria revised

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah issued a ministerial decision to amend Paragraph B of Article One of Ministerial Resolution No. 94A/2016 on the conditions and regulations for appointing experts in the Juvenile Court. The decision states that the paragraph shall be amended to be as follows: “The appointee must have experience and knowledge in the field of social work for not less than five years.” Al-Huwailah issued another decision to amend the bylaws of Balad Al-Khair Association by adding a clause stipulating “support and implementation of projects in and outside Kuwait” to Article Two of the bylaws.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

Housing progress

PAHW hits 42K services in Sept

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Omar Al-Ruwaih, Deputy Director General of the Public Relations and Development Sector and official spokesperson for the Public Authority for Housing Care, announced that the PAHW has delivered 42,217 services to citizens in September. This includes electronic services offered through the Sahel ‘Hukoomi’ application and the institution’s website, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Ruwaih noted that the total number of allocation requests for the South Saad Al-Abdullah project reached 4,512, all from registered applicants as of June 2007. Regarding the progress of existing housing projects, Al-Ruwaih reported that the actual completion rate for the South Sabah Al-Ahmad project stands at 30.92%, while the main roads contract for the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project is currently at 7.43%.

For the East Sabah Al-Ahmad project, which encompasses the construction of 1,184 homes, Al-Ruwaih detailed that the completion rate reached 96.97 percent for the first contract and 89.02 percent for the second contract by the end of last month. He also disclosed that a total of 32,157 ‘To Whom It May Concern’ certificates for building permits had been issued to citizens by the end of last month. This includes 27,520 certificates for Mutlaa plots; 3,238 for South Abdullah Al-Mubarak and 1,399 for Khaitan plots. Al-Ruwaih emphasized that the institution is actively working on completing 122 government buildings across six residential areas, including 68 in Al-Mutlaa Residential City, 31 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, 7 in East Sabah Al-Ahmad, and one in the Southern Khaitan Project. Regarding recent contracts, Al-Ruwaih stated that the institution signed three construction contracts last month. The first is an infrastructure contract for four suburbs in South Sabah Al-Ahmad City, covering 6,568 residential plots. The second contract involves the implementation of 10 main transformer stations for the same suburbs, while the third contract is for establishing and completing a youth center in Sector E of Sabah Al-Ahmad City. Additionally, Al-Ruwaih announced that the PAHW has issued four construction tenders. The first tender is for implementing three air quality monitoring stations in Jaber Al-Ahmad City, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and the Al-Qairawan area, alongside three contracts for infrastructure development within the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project.



Al-Ruwaih

Psoriasis awareness campaign launched

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The medical awareness campaign titled “Maras”, organized by the Kuwait Dermatologists Association to raise awareness about psoriasis, launched at Farwaniya Hospital in the presence of Director of Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi and Head of the Medical Authority Dr. Ahmed Al-Dosari, reports Al-Jarida daily. The Secretary-General of the Kuwait Dermatologists Association and Head of the Dermatology Department at Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Abeer Al-Badali stated that the campaign aims to educate the public about psoriasis, including its symptoms, causes, and misconceptions, as well as highlight the latest treatments available at the Ministry of Health. The campaign will take place at various locations throughout the month of October, including Capital Mall, Kuwait University, and the KUNA Agency building, with the goal of reaching a broad segment of the community.



October

Room Promotion





One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana
for 2 persons with inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 76.230
Now **BHD 49.550 Net**

One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet
for 4 persons inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 170.247 Net
Now **BHD 110.661 Net**



Bahrain CPR holders are entitled to a 35% discount
on room rates throughout the week

Promo period from 1st October to 31st October 2024

Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

Key discussions on AI, cybersecurity and exploring strategies to combat misinformation

Kuwait joins Arab League’s 21st session on digital media



Delegation of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information participating in the 21st session of the Arab Committee for Electronic Media.



21st session of the Arab Electronic Media Committee.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): The 21st session of the Arab Committee for Electronic Media kicked off on Sunday at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League with Kuwaiti participation.

Assistant Secretary-General for Media and Communication at the Arab League, Ambassador Ahmed Khattabi, said in his opening speech that this session, chaired by the UAE and attended by representatives of Arab media agencies involved in electronic media, is part of following up and implementing the decision issued by the 54th regular session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers in Bahrain.

Khattabi pointed out that this decision included an invitation to the UAE to design and launch a website for the Arab Committee for Electronic Media by the end of 2024, along with the organization of training courses for candidates from member states.

He explained that the website will adhere to the principles and controls outlined in the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council of Arab Information Ministers, aimed at enhancing Arab media presence in the digital space, upholding the spiritual, moral, and cultural values of Arab societies, and ensuring that the national sovereignty of member states is respected.

He added that the principles outlined in the Code of Conduct are based on two key principles: social responsibility of electronic media and the public interest of member states. Additionally, these principles emphasize

standards such as accuracy, credibility, neutrality, and integrity in content that reflects values of tolerance and ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity, free from any form of discrimination or hate speech.

For her part, the Executive Director of the Media Strategy and Policies Sector at the Emirates Media Council, Maitha Al Suwaidi, stressed in her speech that the media is witnessing rapid developments and transformations, requiring a joint Arab strategy. She noted that electronic media is one of the fastest-growing fields globally, with spending on it continuously increasing.

Al Suwaidi highlighted the main trends shaping the future of electronic media, starting with generative artificial intelligence, which she described as a revolution in content production.

She emphasized that this development creates more opportunities for young people, as artificial intelligence is becoming the driving force reshaping media. She stressed the importance of benefiting from this field and training specialized human cadres.

Al Suwaidi also noted that the media industry is transforming due to virtual worlds, which are reshaping content production methods. At the same time, she stressed the need to focus on cybersecurity, combat misleading information, and protect intellectual property.

The State of Kuwait is participating in the two-day meeting with a delegation from the Electronic Monitoring Department at the Ministry of Information.

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to Gulf ‘economic’ integration

Al-Fassam highlights significance of collaborative efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Kuwait participated on Sunday in the sixth meeting of the preparatory ministerial committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Economic and Development Affairs Authority, headed by Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Nora Al-Fassam.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance said in a statement that Kuwait's participation in the ministerial committee meeting in Doha is part of efforts to achieve Gulf economic integration.

The statement indicated that the meeting reviewed the draft agenda and discussed several items, most notably the report on following up on the implementation of decisions from the fifth meeting of the permanent preparatory committee at the ministerial level, the tenth meeting of the Senior Officials Committee, and the proposed draft agenda for the second session of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority.

The meeting also approved, in principle, a draft vision for the governance of joint Gulf economic and development work, as well as the development of the work mechanism for the committees and associated work teams. Additionally, the committee reviewed the roadmap for initiatives and projects related to achieving economic unity by 2025, along with a report on key economic indicators in GCC countries.

The committee discussed a memorandum from the General Secretariat regarding the schedule for upcoming meetings of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority, the Ministerial Committee, and the Senior Officials Committee. It also reviewed the timetable for achieving economic unity and the report on free trade negotiations, alongside a memorandum concerning the 158th session of the Ministerial Council's decision to establish an appropriate mechanism for presenting the authority's budget. The budget of the Office of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority was also reviewed.

Preparations for the first International Gulf Economic Conference in 2025 were discussed, as well as the performance dashboard assessing the implementation level of the common Gulf market. The committee also reviewed the statistical survey on the implementation of joint Gulf work decisions and the studies and projects overseen by the Office of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority.

The statement conveyed Minister Al-Fassam's affirmation of Kuwait's commitment to participating in such meetings with GCC countries, emphasizing the significant impact on consolidating future economic relations and fostering fruitful cooperation.

Minister Al-Fassam also welcomed hosting the Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee meetings next year in Kuwait.



Minister of Finance, Eng. Nora Al-Fassam, during her participation in the meeting of the preparatory ministerial committee of the Gulf Economic and Development Affairs Authority.

Academic support available at colleges until Oct 23

PAAET launches ‘Ask Me’ drive

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The Awareness and Guidance Department at the Deanship of Student Affairs of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has launched an awareness campaign titled ‘Ask Me’, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The campaign which runs until Wednesday, Oct 23, is designed to address all inquiries from new and returning students in the applied colleges under the authority, focusing on academic and study-related matters. A specialized team will be available at various college locations to answer students' questions.

The department provided details on the dates and locations for the event. The first meeting catered to students at the College of Basic Education, with another meeting for female students taking place today in the college cafeteria.

For students at the College of Health Sciences, the session is set for Tuesday, the 15th, at the college entrance.

The College of Business Studies will host its session for male students on Wednesday, Oct 16, followed by a session for female students on Thursday, Oct 17, in the college cafeteria.

On Sunday, Oct 20, students at the College of Nursing can attend their session in the common hall shared by both boys' and girls' colleges.

The College of Technological Studies will hold its meeting on Monday, Oct 21, in the lobby of Building 5, with a session for female students the following day, Tuesday, Oct 22, at the entrance of the Girls' College. The final meeting will be for students at the College of Health Sciences on Wednesday, Oct 23, at the college entrance.

All sessions happen between 9 am and 1 pm.

68 violations cited

PAFN continues food inspection

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: The inspection teams at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) continue to ensure that food and food products sold throughout the country are safe for human consumption.

These teams inspected food establishments in Jahra and Hawally governorates on Friday, during which they issued a total of 68 violation citations. They revealed that various insects were found in several of these establishments.

The Hawally Governorate Inspection Department issued 32 violation citations, while the Jahra Governorate Inspection Department issued 36 violation citations in Sulaibiya Agricultural Area and Sulaibiya Industrial Area.

Violations uncovered in the recent inspection tours included handling food without a health certificate from the relevant authorities, handling food without meeting the technical and health requirements, and violating the public sanitation regulations while at work.

Director of Jahra Inspection Department Talal Al-Daihani, along with the head and inspectors at South Jahra Food Inspection Center and their counterparts at the Vegetable and Fruit Market, conducted the inspection campaign.

Proposal for new governance

Qairawan Co-op seeks reform

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Secretary of the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and a member of the Board of Directors of Qairawan Cooperative Society Fahad Al-Kashti revealed that he has submitted a proposal for the governance of Qairawan Cooperative Society, guided by the vision of His Highness the Amir, as reflected in his recent speech, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, Al-Kashti affirmed that the proposal is also in line with the steps taken by His Highness the Prime Minister to update and implement laws, based on the capabilities of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood

Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.

He stressed that this initiative aims to enhance oversight and accountability, which are essential for combating corruption in all its forms - a goal that nations strive for in various fields.

Al-Kashti highlighted that no country or institution seeks anything less than advancement, growth, and the achievement of their objectives while tackling corruption, which is a widespread phenomenon with complex roots, making it challenging to distinguish between its various dimensions and impacts, adding that this phenomenon threatens the economy and the financial stability of both states and institutions.

Ottoman-era market in the southern city of Nabatiyeh overnight, killing at least one person and wounding four more. Lebanon's Civil Defense said it battled fires in 12 residential buildings and 40 shops in the market, which dates back to 1910.

“Our livelihoods have all been leveled to the ground,” said Ahmad Fakh, whose corner shop was destroyed.

The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah targets in the city, without elaborating.

Rescuers were searching for survivors and remains in the pancaked buildings early Sunday as Israeli drones buzzed overhead. Nabatiyeh was one of dozens of communities across southern Lebanon that Israel has warned people to evacuate, even as the city hosts people who have already fled.

Lebanon's Hezbollah, which is allied with Hamas, began firing rockets into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, drawing retaliatory airstrikes. The conflict dramatically escalated in September with a wave of Israeli strikes that killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his senior commanders. Israel launched a ground operation into southern Lebanon earlier this month.

In a separate incident, the Lebanese Red Cross said paramedics were searching for casualties in the wreckage of a house destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in southern Lebanon on Sunday when a second strike left four paramedics with concussions and damaged two ambulances.

It said the rescue operation had been coordinated with U.N. peacekeepers, who informed the Israeli side. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

Israeli forces have repeatedly fired upon first responders and U.N. peacekeepers since the start of the ground operation. The military has accused Hezbollah of using ambulances to ferry fighters and weapons and says Hezbollah operates in the vicinity of the peacekeepers, without providing evidence.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday called for the peacekeepers to heed Israel's warnings to evacuate, accusing them of “providing a human shield” to Hezbollah after Israeli strikes wounded five peacekeepers in recent days.

“We regret the injury to the UNIFIL soldiers and we are doing everything in our power to prevent this injury. But the simple and obvious way to ensure this is simply to get them out of the danger zone,” he said in a video addressed to the U.N. secretary-general, who has been banned from entering Israel.

Israel has long accused the United Nations of being biased against it and relations have plunged further since the start of the war in Gaza. It has accused the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees of having been infiltrated by Hamas, allegations the agency denies.

Over KD 99 mln

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, the Bureau expressed reservations regarding the validity of the balance of checks and letters of guarantee issued by banks on behalf of the Ministry, noting that these were not backed by the issuing banks.

It pointed out that the Ministry failed to include bank certificates supporting the balances of these checks and letters of guarantee, violating the Ministry of Finance's Circular (1) of 2022.

This circular outlines the rules and procedures necessary for closing accounts and preparing final accounts for government agencies.

The lack of bank approvals hindered necessary reconciliations, especially since some letters of guarantee had expired, thereby confirming their exclusion from the balance of incoming checks and letters of guarantee, which amounted to approximately 812.45 million dinars.

The Bureau findings also revealed that the “Amounts for Services and Works Performed” account continued to grow during the same fiscal year, reaching around 17 million dinars by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

This increase was attributed to the low or non-existent collection of amounts owed to the Ministry from certain government agencies for health insurance fees for expatriate workers.

The Ministry's inadequate follow-up with these agencies regarding their outstanding health insurance dues was noted as a violation of budget implementation rules.

Kuwait denounces

Continued from Page 1

officials said Sunday, as Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants in the territory's north and airstrikes destroyed a century-old market in southern Lebanon.

The strike in Gaza late Saturday hit a home in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing parents and their six children, who ranged in age from 8 to 23, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in nearby Deir al-Balah, where the bodies were taken.

It said a further seven people were wounded, including two women and a child in critical condition. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies.

In northern Gaza, Israeli air and ground forces have been attacking Jabaliya, where the military says militants have regrouped. Over the past year, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to the built-up refugee camp, which dates back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, and other areas.

Israeli airstrikes destroyed an

Former US president praises Hispanics

Trump holds rally in California, a state he’s almost certain to lose

WASHINGTON, Oct 13, (AP): With the presidency on the line in battlegrounds like Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, Donald Trump spent Saturday night in solidly liberal California, seeking to link Vice President Kamala Harris to what he described as the failures of her home state.

Trump is almost certain to lose California, and that won't change after his Saturday stop in Coachella, a desert city east of Los Angeles best known for the annual music festival bearing its name. Still, Trump took advantage of his visit to tear into the nation's most populous state, bringing up its recent struggles with homelessness, water shortages and a lack of affordability. Harris, the Democratic nominee, was previously the state's junior senator and attorney general.

"We're not going to let Kamala Harris do to America what she did to California," Trump said, referring to the state as "Paradise Lost."

The former president lost California in a landslide in 2020. He did get 6 million-plus votes, more than any GOP presidential candidate before, and his margins topped 70% in some rural counties that typically favor con-



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the Calhoun Ranch on Oct 12, in Coachella, Calif. (AP)

servatives on the ballot.

That's an enormous pool of potential volunteers to work on state races and participate in phone banks into the most contested states. And Trump drew media coverage in the Los Angeles market, the second-largest in the country.

Trump visited Coachella in between stops in Nevada, at a roundtable in Las Vegas for Latinos earlier Saturday - where he praised Hispanics as having "such energy" - and Arizona, for a rally Sunday in Prescott Valley. He narrowly lost those two swing states to

Democrat Joe Biden in 2020.

Attendees who waited in broiling temperatures that approached 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) said they didn't expect Trump to win their state but were thrilled to see him.

"It's like a convention of like-minded people," said Tom Gibbons of Palm Desert, who's backed Trump since 2016 but been unable to see him in person until Saturday, as he waited in line. "Everybody understands the heartbeat of America, the plight of the working man ... It's reassuring."

Going to California gives Trump the "ability to swoop in and leverage this big population of Trump supporters," said Tim Lineberger, who was communications director for Trump's 2016 campaign in Michigan and also worked in the former president's administration. He's "coming here and activating that."

Lineberger recalled Californians making calls to Michigan voters in 2016 on Trump's behalf and said the campaign's decision to go into safe, Democratic turf at this point was "an aggressive, offensive play."

California is also a fountain of campaign cash for both parties, and Trump

will be fundraising. Photos with the former president in Coachella were priced at \$25,000, which comes with special seating for two. A "VIP Experience" was priced at \$5,000.

Speaking for 80 minutes Saturday night, Trump ran through the standard list of Republican complaints about the Democrat-dominated state - its large number of immigrants in the U.S. illegally, its homeless population and its thicket of regulations - and waded into a water rights battle over the endangered Delta smelt that has pitted environmentalists against farmers.

The former president was particularly scathing about illegal immigration, warning at one point: "Your children are in danger. You can't go to school with these people, these people are from a different planet."

He continued his long-running spat with Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, whom Trump called "New-scum." Trump again threatened Newsom over the water rights battle, saying that if he didn't act in favor of farmers, "we're not giving you any of that fire money that we send you all the time for all the forest fires that you have." Republicans beforehand listed a number of potential reasons for Trump's visit.

With congressional races in play that could determine which party controls the House, the Coachella rally "is a get-out-the-vote type of thing that motivates and energizes Republicans in California, when they are not as close to what is going on in the national campaign," Republican consultant Tim Rosales said.

Jim Brulte, a former chairman of the California Republican Party, said he thinks Trump is angling for something that has eluded him in previous campaigns: winning more total votes than his Democratic opponent.

"I believe Donald Trump is coming to California because he wants to win not only in the Electoral College, but he wants to win the popular vote. There are more registered voters in California than there are residents in 46 of the other 49 states," Brulte said.

The Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles sits on the Pacific Coast, south of the city. But Trump has long had a conflicted relationship with California, where a Republican has not carried the state since 1988 and Democrats outnumber registered Republicans by about 2-to-1.

Obama gives frank words for men

Harris helps pack aid boxes for hurricane victims

RALEIGH, NC., Oct 13, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday helped pack diapers into boxes of personal care products destined for North Carolina hurricane victims, agreeing with one helper who said "it takes a village."

"You're exactly right," Harris replied to Greg Hatem, owner of The Pit Authentic Barbecue restaurant as she put two packages of diapers inside each cardboard box that was placed in front of her assembly-line style.

Harris met with Black leaders at the barbecue restaurant in Raleigh before she joined volunteers who were there to pack bandages, baby formula, baby wipes, pain relief pills and other items for victims of Hurricane Helene, which tore through western North Carolina last month.

The vice president was overnighting in the state, which narrowly backed her rival, Republican Donald Trump, in 2020. Democrats are campaigning hard to flip North Carolina into their column in the presidential election next month. On Sunday, Harris was attending church in Greenville as part

of her campaign's "Souls to the Polls" effort to get out the vote and holding a rally.

The weekend trip was her second to the battleground state after it was struck by Hurricane Helene. The Democratic presidential nominee went to North Carolina last Saturday to survey the aftermath of Helene and pledged federal assistance for its victims.

Before her plane left Washington, Harris told reporters accompanying her that she looked forward to talking with residents "first and foremost to see how they're doing in the wake of the hurricane."

Democrats view North Carolina as swinging their way this year with its base of Black and college-educated voters, as well as women concerned about the loss of abortion protections. But the aftermath of Hurricane Helene has become a political flashpoint with former President Trump and his allies attacking the Biden administration's response to the natural disaster.

At The Pit, Harris met with Black elected, faith and community leaders. Her campaign did not release a list of

the people she met with.

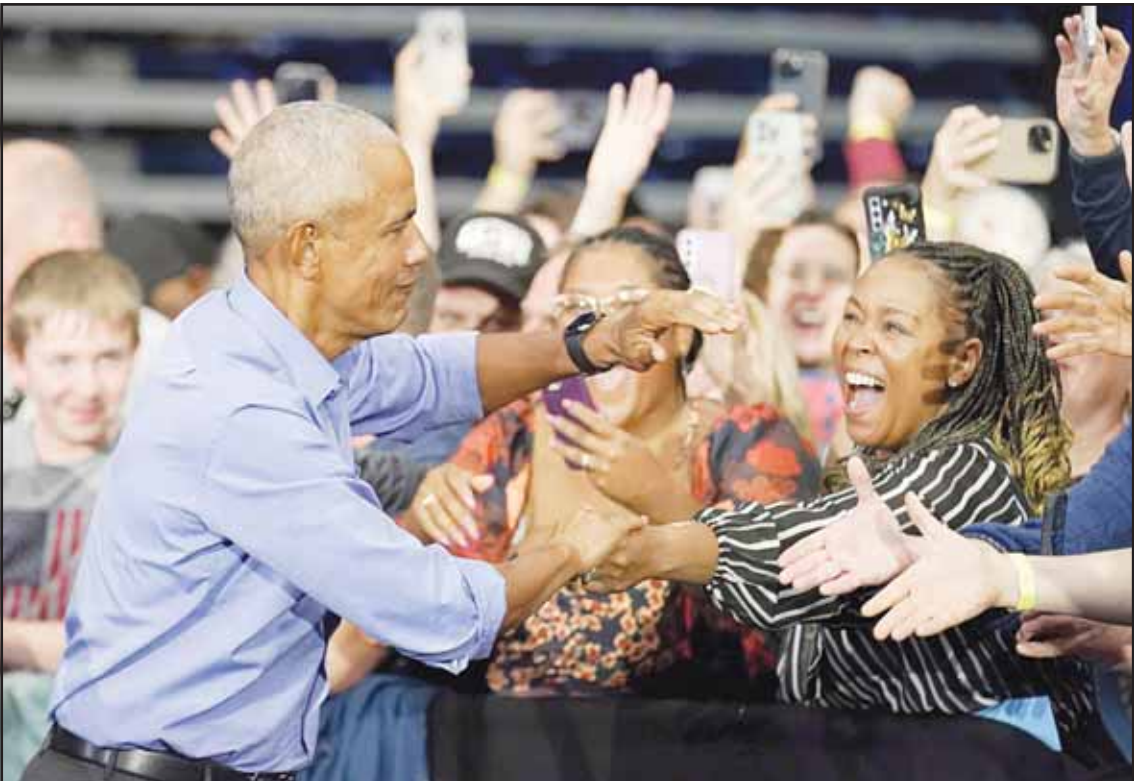
After church on Sunday, Harris, a Baptist, was set to speak about her economic plans at a rally to generate support for early voting, which starts Thursday in North Carolina.

Making landfall on Sept. 26, Hurricane Helene resulted in the deaths of roughly 230 people and wiped out roads, electrical power and cell phone service. Just two weeks later, Hurricane Milton hit Florida this week and generated an estimated \$50 billion worth of damage and left several people dead.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama had frank words for Black men who may be considering sitting out the election.

"Part of it makes me think that, well, you just aren't feeling the idea of having a woman as president, and you're coming up with other alternatives and other reasons for that," he said to Harris-Walz campaign volunteers and officials at a field office in Pittsburgh.

America's first Black president touched a nerve among Democrats worried about Harris' chances of becoming the second.



Former US president Barack Obama greets attendees before speaking at a campaign rally supporting Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, on Oct 10 at the University of Pittsburgh's Fitzgerald Field House in Pittsburgh. (AP)

Nation faces pressure on Belarus border

Poland's leader plans to suspend right to asylum

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 13, (AP): Poland's leader has said that he plans to temporarily suspend the right to asylum as part of a new migration policy, pointing to its alleged abuse by eastern neighbor Belarus and Russia.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that "the state must regain 100% of the control over who enters and leaves Poland," and that a territorial suspension of the right to asylum will be part of a strategy that will be presented to a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Polish news agency PAP reported.

He didn't give details, but said at a convention of his Civic Coalition that "we will reduce illegal migration in Poland to a minimum."

Poland has struggled with migration pressures on its border with Belarus since 2021. Successive Polish governments have accused Belarus and Russia of luring migrants from the Middle East and Africa there to destabilize the West.

Tusk pointed to alleged misuse of the right to asylum "by (Belarusian President Alexander) Lukashenko, by (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, by smugglers, human smugglers, human traffickers. How this right to asylum is used is in exact contradiction to the idea of the right to asylum."



Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk arrives in Prague, Czech Republic on Oct 9. (AP)



Alex Salmond speaks to the media on College Green, Westminster, London on Oct. 11, 2022. (AP)

Monumental figure: UK prime minister

Ex-Scottish first minister Salmond dies aged 69

LONDON, Oct 13, (AP): Alex Salmond, the former first minister of Scotland who for decades championed Scotland's independence from the U.K. and nearly accomplished it, has died. He was 69.

Salmond, who was one of the most divisive figures in British politics at the turn of the century and who as the then leader of the Scottish National Party took Scotland to the brink of independence in the 2014 referendum, died in the North Macedonia lake-resort town of Ohrid, local media reported.

"Unfortunately, Alex Salmond, the former first minister of Scotland who was one of the panellists at yesterday's cultural diplomacy forum that was held in Ohrid, died suddenly today," according to a statement from the office of former North Macedonia President Gjorge Ivanov.

Tributes poured in from across the political spectrum, led by King Charles III and his wife Queen Camilla.

"My wife and I are greatly saddened to hear of the sudden death of Alex Salmond," the king said. "His devotion to Scotland drove his decades of public service."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer of the Labour Party called him a "monumental figure" of both Scottish and British politics.

"He leaves behind a lasting legacy," Starmer said. "As first minister of Scotland, he cared deeply about Scotland's heritage, history and culture, as well as the communities he represented."

Salmond served as first minister of Scotland from 2007 to 2014, and was leader of the Scottish National Party on two occasions, from 1990 to 2000, and from 2004 to 2014. Salmond led the independence campaign in the referendum in 2014, but lost, gaining 45% of the vote, and subsequently resigned from the top job and replaced by his long-time ally, Nicola Sturgeon. Their subsequent split dominated Scottish politics for years.

"Obviously, I cannot pretend that the events of the past few years which led to the breakdown of our relationship did not happen, and it would not be right for me to try," Sturgeon said after learning of Salmond's death. "However, it remains the fact that for many years Alex was an incredibly significant figure in my life. He was my mentor, and for more than a decade we formed one of the most successful partnerships in U.K. politics."

In 2019, Salmond was charged with sexual assault and attempted rape after allegations by nine women who had worked with him as first minister or for the party. Salmond called the charges "deliberate fabrications for a political purpose." Salmond was acquitted after a trial in March 2020.

A year later, he created a new party called Alba - the Scottish Gaelic word for Scotland - that made few inroads into Scottish politics and sought a new independence referendum come what may.



An elderly woman casts her vote at the polling station during the first round of voting in parliamentary elections, in Vilnius, Lithuania on Oct 13. (AP)

Lithuanians vote in parliamentary election

Lithuanians voted Sunday in the first round of parliamentary elections that could lead to the center-right governing coalition being replaced by the opposition Social Democrats and smaller center-left parties.

Despite economic successes, strict COVID-19 measures and an influx of migrants have cast shadows over conservative Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte's government, which took office in 2020.

Although European Union member Lithuania has

seen annual double-digit personal income growth and has one of the lowest inflation rates in the 27-nation bloc, many voters don't seem to be impressed.

"There's a lot of disappointment and discontent among voters," said Rima Urbonaitė, a political analyst at Vilnius' Mykolas Romeris University. "It is related to numerous crises and shocks and cannot be compensated by economic factors like positive change in purchasing power." (AP)

America

Gunfire kills 1, wounds 9: Gunfire broke out among a crowd near a Tennessee university Saturday afternoon, killing one person and wounding nine others, police said.

A crowd that gathered earlier in the day for homecoming events at Tennessee State University was beginning to thin out when the gunfire erupted between two groups around 5 p.m., said Metro Nashville Po-

lice spokesperson Don Aaron.

He said shell casings indicate that gunfire was exchanged across a street near campus between the groups. (AP)

□ □ □

3 nurses hit by vehicle: A vehicle fleeing a Philadelphia hospital after dropping off a gunshot victim early Saturday struck three nurses who were

trying to treat the patient, injuring one critically, authorities said.

The silver Jeep Cherokee had just dropped off the man in the ambulance bay at Penn Presbyterian Hospital about 4:30 a.m. Saturday when it hit the three male nurses as it fled, police said.

One 36-year-old nurse was listed in critical condition with facial injuries and internal bleeding. (AP)

China VP meets Colombian FM

BEIJING, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on Saturday met with Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Gilberto Murillo in Beijing.

Han said that over the past 44 years since China and Colombia established diplomatic relations, the development of bilateral ties has maintained a sound momentum. He called on the two countries to fully implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, deepen political mutual trust and firmly support each other.

Han extended a welcome to Colombia on its efforts to join the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and further tap the potential of cooperation, noting that China is ready to strengthen multilateral coordination with Colombia and practice genuine multilateralism to jointly build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Murillo said Colombia adheres to the one-China principle, and stands ready to actively participate in the BRI and deepen cooperation with China in various fields. Colombia agrees with the concept of building a community with a shared future for humanity, and is willing to join hands with the Global South to safeguard international fairness and justice, Murillo added.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also held talks with Murillo in Beijing on Thursday.



Chinese Vice President Han Zheng meets with Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Gilberto Murillo in Beijing, capital of China on Oct 12. (Xinhua)



The sole candidate for the Macao chief executive post, Sam Hou Fai, the city's former top judge, celebrates after declaring his victory in the chief executive election in Macao on Oct 13. (AP)

N.Korea to prepare all means of attack

Kim's sister threatens S.Korea over drone flights

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 13, (AP): The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Saturday accused South Korea of deliberately avoiding responsibility for the alleged flights of South Korean drones over the North's capital, and warned of a "terrible calamity" if they continue.

The statement by Kim Yo Jong came a day after North Korea's Foreign Ministry claimed that South Korean drones carrying anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets were detected in the night skies over Pyongyang on Oct 3, and Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The ministry said North Korean forces will prepare "all means of attack" capable of destroying the southern side of the border and the South Korean military, and respond without warning if South Korean drones are detected in its territory again.

South Korea's defense minister initially denied the accusation, but

the South's military later adjusted its response, saying it couldn't confirm whether or not the North's claims were true.

In comments published through state media, Kim, one of her brother's top foreign policy officials, said that the South Korean military's vague statements should be taken as proof that it was "either the main culprit or accomplice in this incident."

"If the military stood by while its own citizens employed drones, a widely recognized multi-purpose military tool, to violate another country's sovereignty, thereby increasing the risk of armed conflict with a potential adversary, this would amount to intentional acquiescence and collusion," she said.

"The moment a South Korean drone is discovered once again in skies above our capital, a terrible calamity will surely occur. I personally hope that does not happen."

South Korea's military and government didn't immediately respond to Kim's comments.

Tensions between the Koreas are now at their worst in years as the pace of both North Korea's missile tests and the South's combined military training with the United States have intensified in tit-for-tat. The animosity has been exacerbated by Cold War-style psychological warfare campaigns between the Koreas in recent months.

Since May, North Korea has sent thousands of balloons carrying paper waste, plastic and other trash to drop on the South, in what it described as retaliation against South Korean civilian activists who flew balloons with anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets across the border.

South Korea's military responded to the North's balloon campaign by using border loudspeakers to broadcast propaganda and K-pop to North Korea.

'It is the highest honor of my life'

Sam Hou Fai elected as Macao's chief executive

MACAO, Oct 13, (AP): Macao's former top judge, Sam Hou Fai, was chosen as the Chinese casino hub's next leader in a largely ceremonial election on Sunday, setting him up to become the city's first chief executive born in mainland China.

Almost the entire election committee stacked with Beijing loyalists - 394 of 398 - voted for Sam, the sole candidate, in a departure from the long-standing custom of having chief executives who were born in the former Portuguese colony, typically from influential business families. The remaining four were blank votes.

The shift in the city's leadership to someone from the legal profession is likely to create expectations of a declining influence from business circles, which critics have often accused of colluding with officials, analysts say. They anticipate Beijing's policy agenda for the city will take priority.

Sam, 62, is widely seen to have Beijing's blessings. During the nomination period, he had already secured endorsements from 386 election committee members who voted in batches

in a conference hall on Sunday.

Influential figures among the 400-strong committee were Shun Tak Holdings' group executive chairperson Pansy Ho, daughter of late casino tycoon Stanley Ho, lawmaker Angela Leong, one of Ho's widows, and former chief executives Edmund Ho and Fernando Chui.

After being announced as the chief executive-elect, Sam walked onto the stage to applause from the committee members.

"It is the highest honor of my life," Sam said.

He pledged to uphold national sovereignty, accelerate economic diversification of the city and better integrate it into the national development plans.

Sam is expected to assume office in December, when the city marks the 25th anniversary of its handover to China's rule.

After the election, China's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, Macao's incumbent city leader Ho Iat Seng and Hong Kong's Chief Executive John Lee congratulated Sam in separate statements.

Most of the territory's 687,000 residents lack voting rights, leading to mixed sentiments about the election. Some hope Sam will heed public opinion and avoid prioritizing business interests, while others feel disconnected from an election process they can't participate in.

Still, political observers said many residents are comfortable with Sam's non-local origin in a city that has been home to migrants for decades.

With Sam's victory guaranteed, the real challenges await in the governance hurdles that lie ahead.

Macao is the only place in China where casino gambling is legal. Beijing has called for the city to diversify its gambling-reliant economy.

Sam has promised to accelerate the current government's plan to boost tourism and other sectors such as traditional Chinese medicine, finance, exhibitions and commerce. However, the city will still need to rely on the gambling industry for government revenues to support the city's welfare and accomplish other goals laid out by Beijing, analysts say.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister Kim Yo Jong, (center), arrives at the Jinbu train station in Pyeongchang, South Korea on Feb 9, 2018. (AP)

'Less capacity to assist migrants'

Migration through Darien Gap increased in Sept

PANAMA CITY, Panama, Oct 13, (AP): The number of migrants crossing the Darien Gap - a rugged jungle passage between Colombia and Panama - increased sharply in September, according to Panamanian government data, and a human rights organization says there's less capacity to assist migrants.

Venezuelans have led mass migration through the Darien since 2022, and make up much of the increase since that country's recent controversial presidential election.

"The crackdown in the wake of the July 28, 2024 elections in Venezuela has led to an increase in immigration," Refugees International said in a report published Friday. The report was based on dozens of interviews with migrants at reception stations in Panama and Costa Rica.

More than half a million migrants, a record number, crossed the Darien in 2023. More than 65% of them were Venezuelan. Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino, who took office on July 1, promised to curb migration by closing several access points.

He also said he would implement a repatriation program with the help of the United States, which has so far added flights to Colombia, Ecuador, and India. The U.S. government agreed to pay for deportation flights for those migrants deemed inadmissible.

The plan has not been applied to Venezuelan migrants because Panama, like neighboring Costa Rica, suspended its relations with Caracas after refusing to recognize the electoral victory claimed by Nicolás Maduro. Flights



between the two nations are paralyzed.

As of Oct. 7, the number of migrants who had crossed through the Darien this year was 277,939 or 36% less than the same period in 2023, according to the Panamanian Ministry of Security. However, the same data showed a sharp increase in September compared to August.

Records show that 25,111 migrants crossed last month, 51% more than in August with more than 80% of them Venezuelans. The numbers also included Colombians, Ecuadorians, Chinese and dozens of other nationalities.

"The (migratory) measures and the rhetoric from the Panamanian govern-

ment could have temporarily discouraged migration, but not in the long-term," said the organization.

"When they exit Darien, migrants encounter less humanitarian aid in Panama," the report said. "For those who aren't Venezuelan they encounter the threat of deportation."

Refugees International said this is due in part to the suspension of Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in early March by the previous Panamanian administration. The organization provided humanitarian aid to migrants, but was suspended because of an expired agreement with the country's Ministry of Health.

Africa

'Redouble efforts to protect girls': African countries have been urged to intensify efforts to protect the rights and welfare of girls affected by conflict across the continent.

The appeal, made by the Africa Platform on Children Affected by Armed Conflicts (APCAAC), coincided with the global observance of the International Day of the Girl Child, which is celebrated annually on Oct. 11.

"In regions ravaged by violence and instability, girls often find themselves at the intersection of multiple crises, facing heightened risks of displacement, exploitation, and violence," the APCAAC was quoted by an African Union (AU) statement issued Friday.

(Xinhua)

Flooding affects 6.6m in Africa: The number of people affected by flooding in the West and Central Africa region continues to grow, currently standing at 6.6 million people in 16 countries, UN humanitarian said on Friday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the countries most affected include Chad, with 1.9 million people affected, Niger with 1.3 million, Nigeria with 1.2 million, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with 1.1 million.

As of last week, humanitarian partners and authorities reported that more

than 1,400 people had been killed and 980,000 others displaced. (Xinhua)

Tanzania prez registers to vote: Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Friday registered for voting in the civic polls slated for Nov 27, said the presidency.

Hassan registered in Sokoine village in the Chamwino District of the Dodoma Region, urging fellow citizens to register in large numbers ahead of the polls to enable them to participate in the democratic process.

The Directorate of Presidential Communications said registration for the civic polls would run from Friday until Oct 20. (Xinhua)

Indian politician Siddique shot dead in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, Oct 13, (Agencies): A senior politician in India's financial capital, Mumbai, who was also known for his close ties with Bollywood has been shot dead weeks before a key state election.

Baba Siddique, 66, was shot multiple times outside his son's office in Mumbai on Saturday night, police said in a statement. He later succumbed to his wounds at the city's Lilavati Hospital.

Siddique was associated with the Indian National Congress party for decades but had recently joined a regional party that rules Maharashtra state. He was also close to several Bollywood superstars and was known for throwing lavish parties.

Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, who is from the same

political party as Siddique, said he was shocked by the killing.

"The incident will be thoroughly investigated and strict action will be taken against the attackers. The mastermind behind the attack will also be traced," Pawar said in a statement.

News agency Press Trust of India reported that two suspected attackers had been arrested, and police were searching for another.

Broadcaster NDTV said the two sus-



Siddique

Boursa sees minor decline

General index down 6.16 points

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday with its general index down 6.16 points (0.09%) to 7,042.07 points. A total of 326.2 million shares were traded in 16,212 transactions, valued at KD 51.7 million (USD 157.6 million).

The main market index fell 6.61 points (0.10%) to 6,322.19 points, with 264.7 million shares traded in

11,562 transactions, worth KD 32.7 million (USD 99.7 million).

The premier market index also declined by 6.34 points (0.08%) to 7,572.90 points, through 61.5 million shares in 4,650 transactions, worth KD 18.9 million (USD 57.6 million).

Additionally, the Main 50 index dropped 13.75 points (0.22%) to 6,295.94 points, trading 213.3 million shares through 8,367 transactions, valued at KD 26.6 million (USD 81.13 million).

Kuwait's liquidity grows 35.4% with 4.7% index gain

GCC stock markets see 33.4% liquidity surge

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13, (KUNA): The total liquidity of the GCC stock markets rose from USD 396.3 billion in the first nine months of 2023 to USD 528.6 billion during the same period in 2024, marking an increase of 33.4 percent, showed an economic report.

The report, published by the Al-Shall Consulting Company on Saturday, indicated that the majority of this rise was driven by a significant increase in liquidity in the Saudi market, while three other GCC stock markets experienced a decline in liquidity over the same period.

According to the report, Bahrain's stock market recorded the highest relative increase in liquidity, up 71.8

percent compared to the first nine months of 2023, though its index posted minimal gains of only 2.1 percent compared to the end of 2023.

The Saudi market achieved the second-highest relative increase in liquidity, rising by 50.8 percent, with its index gaining 2.2 percent.

The Muscat stock market followed with a 35.9 percent increase in liquidity and a 4.3 percent rise in its index.

Kuwait's stock market ranked fourth in relative liquidity growth, up by 35.4 percent, with its general index posting the second-highest gains of 4.7 percent.

However, Qatar's stock market saw a 9.5 percent decline in liquidity, with its index suffering the greatest

losses, down by 2.0 percent.

The Abu Dhabi market recorded a 9.1 percent drop in liquidity, with its index losing 1.6 percent compared to the end of 2023, while the Dubai market experienced the lowest relative decrease in liquidity, falling by 4.8 percent.

Despite the liquidity decline, Dubai's index registered the highest gains among all Gulf markets, up by 10.9 percent compared to the end of 2023.

The report concluded by noting that six markets showed alignment between liquidity trends and index performance, while only one market saw a divergence between liquidity and index movement.

NBK aims for \$10 bln sustainable asset portfolio by 2030

Isam Al-Sager ranks first in Kuwait & third in ME on Forbes' sustainability leaders list

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO, has earned the distinction of being ranked first in Kuwait and third in the Middle East's banking and financial services sector on Forbes' 2024 Sustainability Leaders list.

Forbes based its ranking on a comprehensive set of criteria, including the overall impact of sustainability initiatives at both regional and international levels. The evaluation also considered the process of issuing sustainability and ESG reports, with a particular emphasis on transparency and accuracy.

The criteria also encompassed reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, improvements in waste management, and the efficient use of water, energy, and other resources. Additionally, the ranking considered the bank's reliance on renewable energy sources and the implementation of energy-efficient technologies.

Forbes magazine's ranking highlights NBK's unwavering commitment to sustainability, positioning it as a role model in this critical area for future generations. It also emphasizes the bank's dedication to advancing sustainable development in Kuwait and across all the markets in which it operates.

NBK has established itself as a pioneer in sustainability, making significant strides in the areas of environmental, social, and governance (ESG). The bank has introduced a comprehensive Sustainable Financing Framework to support and strengthen its efforts in this domain, embedding sustainability as a core element across its business model, operations, and corporate culture. This approach aligns with Kuwait's economic vision and facilitates the transition to a low-carbon economy. NBK is also aiming to achieve a sustainable asset portfolio of \$10 billion by 2030.

Furthermore, NBK has taken a leadership role in leveraging the glob-



Isam Al-Sager, NBK Group Vice Chairman and CEO.



Forbes' sustainability leaders 2024.

zero emissions across its products, services, and financing solutions by 2060. This approach underscores NBK's dedication to offering environmentally responsible options to its customers while playing a pivotal role in shaping the region's sustainable future.

NBK maintained its leadership in sustainability by successfully issuing its first green bonds totaling USD 500 million.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to sustainability, NBK has fully integrated ESG standards into its investment strategies and decision-making. The bank has undertaken significant initiatives to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including joining the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the largest global initiative promoting responsible business practices.

Furthermore, for the second consecutive year, the Bank has achieved a "C" score in Combating Climate Change and Forest Protection categories from CDP. This notable achievement establishes NBK as the only bank in Kuwait to earn a CDP rating, a recognition awarded by the global non-profit organization renowned for overseeing the world's premier environmental disclosure platform. This accolade further affirms NBK's position among the leading financial institutions in the GCC that champion the highest standards of environmental stewardship.

- The ranking underscores NBK's relentless commitment to sustainability and positions it as a role model in this field.
- NBK champions the principles of sustainable development in Kuwait and all the markets where it operates.

al shift towards sustainable finance by launching a range of green products and services across its branches. These include green mortgages, sustainability-linked financing, consumer loans for electric vehicles, and low-emission housing loans, reinforcing the bank's commitment to driving the green transformation across all aspects of its business.

NBK Group's ESG strategy is built on a robust four-pillar framework, with a central focus on facilitating the transition to a sustainable economy and advancing sustainable finance in the region. A key pillar of this strategy is "Responsible Banking," which outlines the bank's commitment to achieving net-

Confirming the Bank's strong performance and overall improving operating environment

Fitch Ratings upgrades Burgan Bank Turkey's IDR to 'BB-', with stable outlook, and VR to 'B'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Burgan Bank has announced that Burgan Bank A.S. (Turkey) ("BBT") has received a two-notch upgrade in its LTFC IDR from Fitch Ratings in recognition of an improvement in the Bank's standalone rating and Turkey's country rating upgrade.

Fitch Ratings has upgraded the Bank's Long-Term Foreign-Currency (LTFC) Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'BB-' from 'B' and Long-Term Local-Currency (LTLC) IDR to 'BB-' from 'B+', with a stable outlook. The rating agency also upgraded the Shareholder Support Rating to 'BB-' from 'B'; and the Viability Rating (VR) to 'B' from 'B-'; whereby the Short-Term Foreign-Currency (STFC) IDR and Short-Term Local-Currency (STLC) IDR were affirmed at 'B'.

The rating action was announced following the upgrade of Türkiye's Long-Term IDR to 'BB-' from 'B+', which came in response to numerous factors. These include reduced financial dollarization and foreign exchange (FX) demand, capital inflows, and increased access to external borrowing, which altogether strengthened Türkiye's FX reserves position, thus improving its external buffers. These factors reflected positively on notably reducing the Bank's near-term financial stability risks, which can be seen in its increased external market access, lower risk premiums, the gradual decline in FX and FX-protected deposits, and the elimination of banking sector FX swaps with the Central bank.

The improved Bank's viability rating (VR) reflects the Bank's limited franchise, improving asset quality, adequate capitalization, adequate FC liquidity, and ordinary support from Burgan Bank Kuwait (BBK).

As a core part of its strategy, BBT continues to of-



Burgan Bank Turkey receives two-notch upgrade from Fitch Ratings.

fer a transformative mobile banking experience to its customers. The Bank's digital banking brand "ON" reached 900,000+ customers as of Aug '24. ON's pursuit of emerging as a growth and profitability engine is trending in the right direction. ON digital banking was awarded as "Best Integrated Consumer Site" both in Europe and Turkey at the "Best Digital Banking" award organized by the Global Finance Magazine in 2023.

Building on Burgan Bank Group's dedication to excellence, BBT continues to derive its growing success from innovative, forward-looking financial solutions, commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations, human capital development, as well as robust risk management and asset re-allocation.

About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), and Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue

structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO /IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

US consumer prices rise 0.2% MoM in Sept

New Zealand cuts interest rates by 50bps amid cooling inflation

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States

Consumer Price Index

The consumer price index in the US increased 0.2% month-over-month in September, matching the increases seen in August and July, however higher than expectations of a 0.1% increase. The all items index increased 2.4% y/y, also slightly higher than the expected 2.3% figure, while core CPI rose 3.3% y/y. Increases were seen in food and shelter, which rose 0.4% and 0.2% respectively, making up 75% of the monthly all items increase. While the energy index fell 1.9% for the month, following a 0.8% decline the previous month. The figures suggested that the Fed will be more cautious about further rate cuts this year. Markets are currently pricing in 45 bps worth of cuts in 2024.

Unemployment Claims

The weekly initial jobless claims ticked higher in September, with the figure showing a 258k claims for the month, up from 225k in August and beating expectations of 231k claims. The increase was mainly seen in unadjusted claims in North Carolina, Florida, and Washington. Economists expect the short term labor market to be distorted due to recent weather storms in the US which resulted in the destruction of homes as well as some casualties.

Producer Price Index

The producer price index for final demand in the US was unchanged in September, versus the previous 0.2% increase. Meanwhile, final demand prices rose 0.2% for the month, and 1.8% compared to the same month last year. Core PPI rose 0.2% for the month, slightly lower than July's 0.3% figure while meeting expectations.

University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment

The UoM Consumer Sentiment report showed a slight decrease in October, with the index dropping 1.2 points to 68.9. Despite the decrease, sentiment remains stronger than a year ago, with the index increasing 8% y/y. Long term business conditions have improved, while consumers continue to express concerns about rising prices. With the November elections coming up, some consumers appear to be withholding judgment about the longer term trajectory of the economy.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 102.890.

Canada

Unemployment Rate

In September, Canada added 46.7k jobs, marking a 0.2% increase and pushing the unemployment rate down to 6.5%, down from 6.6% previously. Gains were seen among youths (aged 15-24) and core aged women (aged 25 to 54). Sectors like information, culture, wholesale, and technical services saw notable growth. Provinces like Ontario and Quebec saw growth, while British Columbia saw declines. Meanwhile, average hourly wages rose 4.5%, a softer pace than the 4.9% increase recorded the previous month. Participation rate also declined slightly to 64.9%, down from 65.1%

The USD/CAD currency pair closed the week at 1.3762.

United Kingdom

Gross Domestic Product

UK's economy grew by a modest 0.2% in August, meeting expectations and marking an increase from July and June's no growth figures. Services output grew by 0.1%, while production output grew by 0.5% following a revised 0.7% fall in July. Construction output

Asia-Pacific

Australia Consumer Sentiment

The Australian Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index for October 2024 shows an increase of 6.2%, reaching 89.8. The report highlights sharply falling consumer expectations for interest rates, with cost-of-living pressures moderating. Moreover, there are signs that homebuyer sentiment has improved.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6750.

New Zealand Official Bank Rate

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand has decided to lower its official cash rate by 50 basis points in its October meeting, reaching 4.75%. The reduction in rates is considered the second rate cut of the year and in line with market expectations, after inflation in New Zealand reached 3.3% in Q2 of 2024, down from 4.0% the previous quarter and below market expectations of 3.5%. The RBNZ has decided to give little indication about future moves, while emphasizing that they intend to avoid unnecessary instability in output, employment, and exchange rates.

The NZD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6109.

Japan's Producer Price Index

Japan's producer prices increased by 2.8% y/y in September 2024, up from 2.6% in August and exceeding market expectations of 2.3%. This marked the 43rd consecutive month of producer inflation, driven by rising costs in various sectors such as transport equipment, electrical machinery, and beverages. Prices for petroleum, coal, and iron & steel also rebounded. However, some categories, like non-ferrous metals, saw slower price increases. On a monthly basis, producer prices remained flat, beating the forecasted 0.3% decline, after a 0.2% drop in August.

The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 149.13.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30585.

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.0932	1.0925	1.0953	1.0937	1.0780	1.1040	1.0982
GBP	1.3058	1.3083	1.3039	1.3066	1.3000	1.3120	1.3066
JPY	148.55	148.39	149.28	149.13	148.00	151.00	147.27
CHF	0.8565	0.8557	0.8584	0.8570	0.8500	0.8620	0.8483

Project will add 100K sq m to Kingdom’s most advanced warehousing complex

Agility Logistics Parks begins major Riyadh expansion

RIYADH, Oct 13: Agility, a global leader in supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation, announced plans for the final phase of expansion at the Agility Logistics Parks (ALP) warehousing complex in Riyadh.

The expansion project represents an investment of 250 million SAR and will add 100,000 sq m of Class A warehousing to the complex, taking the total available 551,368 sq m. The first phase of the expansion will be ready and operating in Q1 2025. It is expected to create 300 new jobs for Saudis.

ALP developed and operates state-of-the-art warehousing complexes in Riyadh and Dammam. The company is investing more than 611 million SAR to build a third ALP complex, near Jeddah.

Michel Saab, global CEO of Agility

Logistics Parks, saidthe help and collaboration of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City(RCRC), the Ministry of Investment (MISA), and the Riyadh region municipality were vital to the launch of the ALP expansion in Riyadh.

“ALP’s expansion in Riyadh is not just about increasing our operational capacity,” Saab said. “It represents a substantial contribution to the growth of the logistics market in Saudi Arabia and will allow international companies to invest in their growth in the Kingdom. By building world-class warehousing, we are able to provide critical infrastructure that is helping to make the Kingdom a global and regional logistics hub.”

ALP offers some of Saudi Arabia’s most modern, sustainable warehousing. Its Riyadh Logistics Park is home



Agility Logistics Parks, KSA

to storage, distribution, processing and fulfillment operations of some of the country’s leading consumer, industrial and e-commerce brands. In 2022, a warehouse at the Riyadh park became the first building in the Kingdom and the first warehouse in the GCC to receive EDGE Advanced certification.

EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) is the global standard for energy-efficient buildings, a certification system overseen by the International Finance Corp. (IFC), an arm of the World Bank. EDGE Advanced buildings are “zero-carbon ready” structures that are at least 40% more energy efficient than others in the market.

Agility is a global leader in supply chain services, infrastructure, and innovation with 65,000+ employees across six continents. Listed in Kuwait and Dubai, Agility specializes in growing and scaling operating businesses. Agility’s portfolio of companies includes the world’s largest aviation services company (Menzies Aviation); a global fuel logistics business (Tristar); and a leading logistics parks developer and operator across the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa (Agility Logistics Parks). Other Agility companies offer customs digitization services, remote-site infrastructure services, defense and government services, ecommerce-enablement and digital logistics, and waste management and recycling. Agility invests in supply chain innovation, sustainability, and resilience, and has minority holdings in a portfolio of listed and non-listed companies.



Tarek Sultan with Bashar Al Malik, CEO of SAR.

Feasibility study OK’d

Agility signs MoU with SAR

RIYADH, Oct 13: Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Saudi Railway Company (SAR) today to look at requirements for inter-modal storage, transportation and processing facilities in Sudair City for Industry and Businesses and near King Khalid International Airport.

Under its Vision 2030 national strategy, Saudi Arabia has set out to establish itself as a global hub for logistics and trade through massive investment in the modernization and expansion of its logistics and transportation infrastructure.

“Saudi Arabia is rapidly moving toward achieving its goal to be one of the world’s most important centers of trade, transportation and logistics,” said Agility Vice Chairman Tarek Sultan. “Agility has been a long-time supporter, partner and investor in the Saudi logistics sector. We have decades of experience here, and we’ve built some of the Kingdom’s most advanced logistics infrastructure. We see a future not too far away where Saudi and the region lead the world’s supply chain sector. We thank SAR for giving us the opportunity to be part of this future and the opportunity to contribute to Saudi’s growth and success story”

Agility has been investing in Saudi Arabia for two decades. Its Agility Logistics Parks (ALP) unit developed and operates world-class logistics parks and warehousing facilities in Riyadh and Dammam. The Riyadh ALP includes “green” buildings that are the first EDGE Advanced-certified warehousing in the GCC. A third large ALP complex is under construction in Jeddah and scheduled to open in 2025.

Other Agility businesses serve Saudi Arabia’s energy, aviation and e-commerce sectors. The company’s corporate venture arm is an investor in Saudi startups in e-commerce and digital freight matching for the trucking industry.

Last year, Agility signed an MOU with the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA) to strengthen the Saudi healthcare sector by expanding digital health services, localizing the medical technology supply chain, and promoting the transfer of critical supply chain and healthcare knowledge through new services, technology, investment and jobs.

Agility also is one of the largest shareholders in DSV, a global logistics provider and key logistics partner of NEOM, the ultra-modern, smart mega-city project near the Red Sea in the northwest part of the Kingdom.

Strike cripples production

Boeing to lay off 10% of workers

SEATTLE, Oct 13, (AP): Boeing plans to lay off about 10% of its workers in the coming months, about 17,000 people, as it continues to lose money and tries to deal with a strike that is crippling production of the company’s best-selling airplane planes.

New CEO Kelly Ortberg told staff in a memo Friday that the job cuts will include executives, managers and employees.

The company has about 170,000 employees worldwide, many of them working in manufacturing facilities in the states of Washington and South Carolina.

Boeing had already imposed rolling temporary furloughs, but Ortberg said those will be suspended because of the impending layoffs.

The company will further delay the rollout of a new plane, the 777X, to 2026 instead of 2025. It will also stop building the cargo version of its 767 jet in 2027 after finishing current orders.

Boeing has lost more than \$25 billion since the start of 2019.

About 33,000 union machinists have been on strike since Sept. 14. Two days of talks this week failed to produce a deal, and Boeing filed an unfair-labor-practices charge against the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

As it announced layoffs, Boeing also gave a preliminary report on its third-quarter financial results - and the news is not good for the company.

Boeing said it burned through \$1.3 billion in cash during the quarter and lost \$9.97 per share. Industry analysts had been expecting the company to lose \$1.61 per share in the quarter, according to a FactSet survey, but analysts were likely unaware of some large write-downs that Boeing announced Friday - a \$2.6 billion charge related to delays of the 777X, \$400 million for the 767, and \$2 billion for defense and space programs including new Air Force One jets, a space capsule for NASA and a military refueling tanker.

The company based in Arlington, Virginia, said it had \$10.5 billion in cash and marketable securities on Sept. 30. Boeing is scheduled to release full third-quarter numbers on Oct. 23.

The strike has a direct bearing on cash burn because Boeing gets half or more of the price of planes when it delivers them to airline customers. The strike has shut down production of the 737 Max, Boeing’s best-selling plane, and 777s and 767s.



The Boeing logo is displayed at the company’s factory Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, in Renton, Wash. (AP)

JPMorgan sets aside more money to take care of potential bad loans

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (Xinhua): U.S. banking giant JPMorgan’s net income fell 2 percent in the third quarter as it had to set aside more money to cover bad loans, but the results topped Wall

Street estimates and shares rose in morning trading, The Associated Press (AP) reported on Friday.

Net income fell to 12.9 billion U.S. dollars from 13.2 billion dollars in the

year-ago quarter, said the New York bank. However, earnings per share rose to 4.37 dollars from 4.33 dollars because there were fewer outstanding shares in the latest quarter.

The result beat Wall Street analysts’ forecasts, which called for a profit of 3.99 dollars a share, according to FactSet. Total revenues rose to 43.3 billion dollars from 40.7 billion dollars a year ago.

JPMorgan set aside 3.1 billion dollars to cover credit losses, up from 1.4 billion dollars in the same period a year ago, said the report.

Consumers’ credit card debt has

been on the rise due to the lingering impact of the bout of inflation that hit the U.S. economy starting in 2021 and delinquencies have been rising, it added.

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (AP): The artificial intelligence maker OpenAI may face a costly and inconvenient reckoning with its nonprofit origins even as its valuation recently exploded to \$157 billion.

Nonprofit tax experts have been closely watching OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, since last November when its board ousted and rehired CEO Sam Altman. Now, some believe the company may have reached - or exceeded - the limits of its corporate structure, under which it is organized as a nonprofit whose mission is to develop artificial intelligence to benefit “all of humanity” but with for-profit subsidiaries under its control.

Jill Horwitz, a professor in law and medicine at UCLA School of Law who has studied OpenAI, said that when two sides of a joint venture between a nonprofit and a for-profit come into conflict, the charitable purpose must always win out.

“It’s the job of the board first, and then the regulators and the court, to ensure that the promise that was made to the public to pursue the charitable interest is kept,” she said.

Altman recently confirmed that OpenAI is considering a corporate restructure but did not offer any specifics. A source told The Associated Press, however, that the company is looking at the possibility of turning OpenAI into a public benefit corporation. No final decision has been made by the board and the timing of the shift hasn’t been determined, the source said.

In the event the nonprofit loses control of its subsidiaries, some experts think OpenAI may have to pay for the interests and assets that had belonged to the nonprofit. So far, most

observers agree OpenAI has carefully orchestrated its relationships between its nonprofit and its various other corporate entities to try to avoid that.

However, they also see OpenAI as ripe for scrutiny from regulators, including the Internal Revenue Service and state attorneys general in Delaware, where its incorporated, and in California, where it operates.

Bret Taylor, chair of the OpenAI nonprofit’s board, said in a statement that the board was focused on fulfilling its fiduciary obligation.

“Any potential restructuring would ensure the nonprofit continues to exist and thrive, and receives full value for its current stake in the OpenAI for-profit with an enhanced ability to pursue its mission,” he said.

Here are the main questions nonprofit experts have:

Tax-exempt nonprofits sometimes decide to change their status. That requires what the IRS calls a conversion.

Tax law requires money or assets donated to a tax-exempt organization to remain within the charitable sector. If the initial organization becomes a for-profit, generally, a conversion is needed where the for-profit pays the fair market value of the assets to another charitable organization.

Argue

Even if the nonprofit OpenAI continues to exist in some way, some experts argue it would have to be paid fair market value for any assets that get transferred to its for-profit subsidiaries.

In OpenAI’s case, there are many questions: What assets belong to its nonprofit? What is the value of those assets? Do they include intellectual property, patents, commercial products and licenses? Also, what is the value of giving up control of the for-profit subsidiaries?

If OpenAI were to diminish the control that its nonprofit has over its other business entities, a regulator may require answers to those ques-

tions. Any change to OpenAI’s structure will require it to navigate the laws governing tax-exempt organizations.

Andrew Steinberg, counsel at Venable LLP and a member of the American Bar Association’s nonprofit organizations committee, said it would be an “extraordinary” transaction to change the structure of corporate subsidiaries of a tax-exempt nonprofit.

“It would be a complex, involved process with numerous different legal and regulatory considerations to work through,” he said. “But it’s not impossible.”

To be granted tax-exempt status, OpenAI had to apply to the IRS and explain its charitable purpose. OpenAI provided The Associated Press a copy of that September 2016 application, which shows how significantly the organization’s plans for its technology and structure have changed.

OpenAI spokesperson Liz Bourgeois said in an email that the organization’s missions and goals remained constant, though the way it’s carried out its mission has evolved alongside advances in technology.

When OpenAI incorporated as a nonprofit in Delaware, it wrote that its purpose was, “to provide funding for research, development and distribution of technology related to artificial intelligence.” In tax filings, it’s also described its mission as building, “general-purpose artificial intelligence (AI) that safely benefits humanity, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return.”

Steinberg said there is no problem with the organization’s plans changing as long as it reported that information on its annual tax returns, which it has.

But some observers, including Elon Musk, who was a board member and early supporter of OpenAI and has sued the organization, are skeptical that it has been faithful to its mission.

The “godfather of AI” Geoffrey Hinton, who was co-awarded the Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday, has also expressed concern about

OpenAI’s evolution, openly boasting that one of his former students, Ilya Sutskever, who went on to co-found the organization, helped oust Altman as CEO before bringing him back.

“OpenAI was set up with a big emphasis on safety. Its primary objective was to develop artificial general intelligence and ensure that it was safe,” Hinton said, adding that “over time, it turned out that Sam Altman was much less concerned with safety than with profits. And I think that’s unfortunate.”

Sutskever, who led a team focused on AI safety at OpenAI, left the organization in May and has started his own AI company. OpenAI for its part says it is proud of its safety record.

Question

Ultimately, this question returns to the board of OpenAI’s nonprofit, and the extent to which it is acting to further the organization’s charitable mission.

Steinberg said that any regulators looking at a nonprofit board’s decision will be most interested in the process through which it arrived at that decision, not necessarily whether it reached the best decision.

He said regulators, “will often defer to the business judgment of members of the board as long as the transactions don’t involve conflict of interests for any of the board members. They don’t stand to gain financially from the transaction.”

Whether any board members were to benefit financially from any change in OpenAI’s structure could also be of interest to nonprofit regulators.

In response to questions about if Altman might be given equity in the for-profit subsidiary in any potential restructuring, OpenAI board chair Taylor said in a statement, “The board has had discussions about whether it would be beneficial to the company and our mission to have Sam be compensated with equity, but no specific figures have been discussed nor have any decisions been made.”

Group grapples with financial difficulties

Stellantis CEO under fire from Italian lawmakers

ROME, Oct 13, (AP): Italian lawmakers on Friday questioned the head of Stellantis, the world’s fourth largest automaker, over the group’s strategy, one day after it announced a management shakeup in an effort to revive sales.

Stellantis, which makes Jeep and Chrysler vehicles, is struggling globally, with the Italian government demanding clarity about its production plans for the country. It also faces a national metal workers strike called by Italy’s main unions for Oct. 18, with a massive demonstration expected in Rome.

The group has been under fire following a concerning profit warning in which the company said it expected to finish the year with a negative cash flow of up to 10 billion euros (\$11.2 billion).

Speaking in front of a parliamentary committee on Friday, Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares stressed that European Union carbon emission rules impose 40% higher costs on the struggling car-making industry.

He added that European customers are reluctant to buy expensive electric vehicles, while Chinese competitors can leverage on additional cost advantages.

Tavares, whose leadership has recently come under scrutiny, said the sector is under pressure due to a constant change in technologies. “This can generate anxiety, especially when fast and profound ... But we at Stellantis have a very clear roadmap for carrying forward this change,” he said.



Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares speaks during a news conference following a meeting with unions, March 31, 2022, in Turin, Italy. Tavares will retire in early 2026 and Chief Financial Officer Natalie Knight is stepping down as the world’s fourth biggest automaker contends with ongoing sales difficulties in North America. (AP)

Tavares has also been under fire from U.S. dealers and the United Auto Workers union after a dismal financial performance this year, caught off guard by too many high-priced vehicles on dealer lots. He has been trying to cut costs by delaying factory openings, laying off union workers and offering buyouts to salaried employees.

Italian lawmakers pointed to a significant cutback in car manufacturing in Italy, which threatens the country’s once prosperous automotive industry.

Stellantis, which was created in

2021 from the merger of Fiat-Chrysler with PSA Peugeot, registered a sharp drop in output at most of its Italian plants in the first half of 2024. Over the past 17 years, the carmaker has slashed its Italian production by nearly 70%.

Tavares was invited by lawmakers to explain how he intends to reverse the decline of Italy’s car industry.

“The cost of energy here is very high,” he said. “It is double that of Spain, and this is a significant disadvantage,” he noted, calling for political leaders to provide responses on how to

manage the cost increase.

Calling for additional state incentives for the struggling electric cars sector, Tavares said: “We are not asking for money for ourselves, we are asking you to help your citizens, so that they can buy vehicles they can afford.”

However, several parliamentarians - mainly from the center-left opposition - blasted Tavares’ hearing as “disappointing.”

Giuseppe Conte, leader of the 5-Star party, noted that Stellantis’ CEO “didn’t say anything about the future of our factories, nothing specific regarding investments in research, technology and development.”

Meanwhile, Democratic Party leader Elly Schlein said that her party will support the autoworkers’ strike.

“We ask that Stellantis discuss with the trade unions and the workers. It cannot be them who bear the costs of what is happening,” she said.

In the latest management shakeup announced Thursday, Stellantis’ chief financial officer Natalie Knight will be replaced by Doug Ostermann, the company’s chief operating officer in China. Stellantis also appointed new chief operating officers in North America and in Europe.

The group in September announced that it was looking for a successor for Tavares, 66, as part of a planned leadership change. Tavares’ five-year contract was a little over a year from its expiration date in 2026, but the company hinted at the time it was possible he might remain in the job beyond that.

New Zain videos highlight impact of parents’ screen overuse on children

Zain Group launches Phase 2 of #LimitScreenTime campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital life-style communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announced the launch of Phase 2 of its highly impactful ‘Screen Time’ campaign, #LimitScreenTime.

The latest three-video series that will be posted back-to-back on Zain’s social media channels over the next three weeks, focuses attention on how parents’ overuse of screens can lead to missing memorable moments with their children, as well as having a detrimental impact on the emotional development of children due to feelings of loneliness and neglect.

In today’s digital age, screen time has become a major part of daily life, though this campaign emphasizes the cost of screen addiction on familial relationships and emotional health. By focusing on real-life scenarios, the campaign aims to provoke self-reflection among parents and inspire them to prioritize quality time with their children.

Phase 2 builds on Zain’s previous screen time campaign earlier this year that focused on raising awareness on the effects on their child’s well-being and upbringing given

- Parents are missing memorable moments with their children by neglecting them for devices, as well as having detrimental impact on their child’s emotional development
- Latest #LimitScreenTime region wide campaign builds on Zain’s previous campaign of how children’s overuse of screens harms their childhood
- Three-video series to be posted consecutively on Zain’s social media channels

children’s excessive screen usage.

“Zain continues to drive home the message that overuse of screens can have repercussions on both parents and children. As a leading regional communications and digital services provider, it is our duty to be active in providing guidance on the responsible use of digital devices, so that users focus on the positive aspects of meaningful connectivity while prioritizing family and children’s well-being.”

“Less screen time for parents creates more opportunity for child-bonding and attention, setting a better example for children’s own screen time.”

This #LimitScreenTime campaign will consist of a series of emotional-ly engaging, short videos that depict



various scenarios where children are left yearning for parental attention due to screen distraction, reminding parents to focus on their children.

Description of the #LimitScreenTime three videos:

1. Depicts a businessman completely engaged with his phone to the neglect of his son, keen to share details of his progress and performance at school.
2. The second reflects a birthday girl, sitting alone at a table with her mother paying little attention to her as she is absorbed on a video call.



Zain #LimitScreenTime campaign

3. The last scenario shows a dad who spends most of his time interacting with connected devices to the neglect of his ballerina daughter with him even missing a performance she has practiced hard for.

Following numerous Child Online Safety campaigns launched over the years, Zain Group continues to be a champion for the protection and well-being of the communities it serves, committed to addressing important societal issues. By focusing on family well-being and fostering meaningful connections, Zain reinforces its role as an organization that cares about the community.

To view the #LimitScreenTime video campaign on Zain’s social media channels over the next three weeks, please visit: www.youtube.com/zain; www.instagram.com/zaingroup; www.facebook.com/zain; x.com/zain; www.linkedin.com/company/zain



Warba Bank's Sunbula Grand Draw.

Essam Adnan Abu Shalhoub wins KD 250,000

Warba Bank reveals ‘Sunbula’ Grand Draw Q3 2024 winners

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate banking and investment banking in Kuwait - announced the winners of the Sunbula Grand Draw for the third quarter of 2024, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees at the head office.

As for the lucky clients of the draw, Essam Adnan Abu Shalhoub won the grand prize of KD 250,000, and as for the rest of the draws, each of the 10 lucky winners received KD 1,000, a total of KD 10,000 and the winners are: Adnan Abdullah Al-Khaldi, Khairiya Saleh Marzouq Al-Rashidi, Talal Ali Hussein Shuaib, Mohammed Mohyildeen Ahmed, Abdul Mohsen Mohammed Al-Ajmi, Wafaa Ali Mohammed Al-Awadhi, Ahmed Abdul Aziz Ismail, Abdul Rahman Hussein Al-Ajmi, Mishaal Mubarak Hmoud Al-Azmi, Sarah Sayer Bader.

The 7 winners of the monthly draw for Sunbula Kids Account were also announced, where the first winner Zaid Abdullah Jamal Al-Shomar received KD 1,000, while the second winner: Hussein Mohammed Behbehani received KD 500, while the winners from third to seventh received KD 100 each, and they are: Farah Ahmed Mohammed Al-Deheshi, Ajwan Mohammed Musa Al-Zuwaid, Rania Habib Abbas Al-Munawar, Alulu Salah Abdullah Al-Khreinej, and Mohammed Bader Habab Shuweib.

The Sunbula account is the best choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve fixed financial returns on their balances at the same time, in addition to getting opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year.

Regarding the Sunbula campaign in 2024, Warba Bank continues to hold weekly draws for 10 winners with each winner receiving an amount of KD 1,000. As for the grand draws,

there will be a quarterly draw of KD 250,000 at a rate of 4 draws during the year, as the first draw was held in April, the second draw was held in July, the third draw was held in October, and the fourth and final draw will be in January 2025.

Regarding the conditions, it is now required to have 100 KD to enter the weekly and grand Sunbula draws, noting that the client still gets one chance for every 10 KD in the account, and the chances are calculated based on the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, the amount must have been in the account for a full month to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the grand draws to calculate the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawals and deposits, the more the deposited amount, the more chances the client has to win.

Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, “Customer Onboarding”, in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank’s website without the need to visit any of the Bank’s branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that have achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it has occupied a leading position by providing innovative digital banking services in accordance with Islamic Sharia for individuals and companies, and is one of the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Bijoy Joseph wins GMC Yukon in ABK’s quarterly draw

ABK announces GMC Yukon winner in ‘Transfer Your Salary!’ campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced Bijoy Joseph Joseph as the winner of the GMC Yukon vehicle in the Bank’s quarterly ‘Transfer Your Salary!’ campaign draw, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, said, “I would like to begin by congratulating our winner. I am very pleased to witness the great success of our campaign, reaffirmed by the noteworthy customer turnout seeking to benefit from the numerous features offered.”

Upon salary transfer, ABK awards new customers an array of benefits including a cash gift of up to KD 1,000, a free-of-charge Visa Signature credit card for life, as well as a chance to enter the next quarterly draw to win yet another GMC Yukon.

Marafi continued, “Our salary transfer offering represents one of the Bank’s most significant campaigns designed to reward customers with worthwhile benefits. It encompasses an all-inclusive package catered to suit customer needs and desires.”

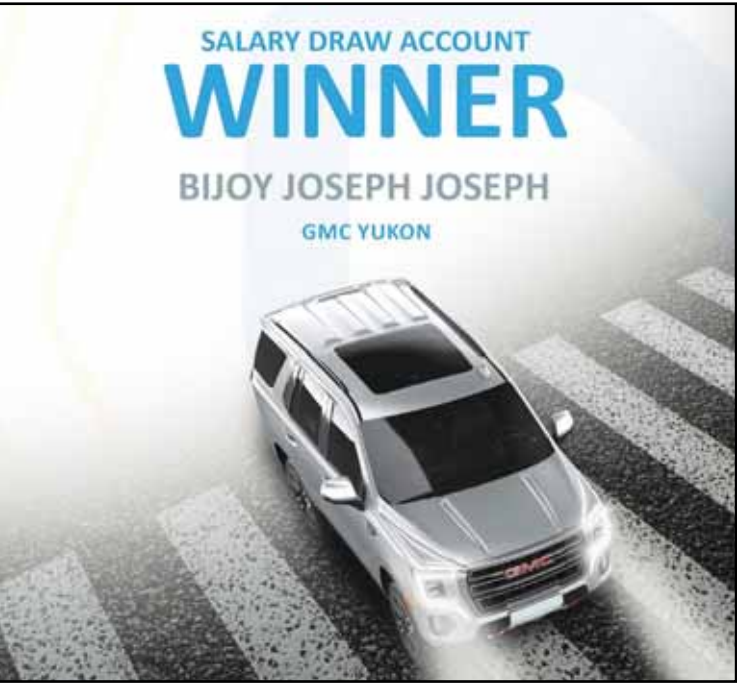
In addition to attracting new customers to open accounts, she also



Ms. Johair Marafi – General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK

expressed ABK’s commitment and eagerness to ensure the satisfaction of its existing customers. She said, “All our initiatives are in line with the Bank’s goal to sustain our position as one of the most prominent players in the market.”

Marafi affirmed, “We constantly study the best possible ways to enhance our product and service offering to thank and reward our customers for their loyalty and trust.



ABK’s ‘Transfer Your Salary!’ campaign draw

As such, the Bank will continue to develop more sought-after promotional campaigns in the near future.”

Marafi concluded with an invitation to follow the Bank’s social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and to benefit from the promotions offered throughout the year.

To reward its distinguished customers with an exceptional banking experience

KIB launches exclusive Lotus car offer for Black segment customers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced a new exclusive offer for its distinguished Black segment customers, featuring the latest Lotus cars, in partnership with the official local dealer in Kuwait, Alghanim Motors Company. This initiative underscores the Bank’s commitment to delivering a high level of comfort and luxury, providing a banking experience that meets and surpasses customer expectations and aligns with their lifestyle, in line with its main slogan, “Bank for Life.”

Commenting on the latest offer, Khaled Al-Hulaibi, Segments Manager at KIB, said: “KIB recognizes the importance of enhancing the services and products offered to all its customer segments. We continue to leverage our strategic partnerships in the local market to reward our distinguished customers with exclusive offers that ensure their satisfaction, elevate their comfort, and make their banking experience more exceptional and enjoyable.”



Khaled Al-Hulaibi, Segments Manager

able.” He added: “Through our collaboration with Lotus Alghanim, we aim to reach a broad clientele seeking to elevate their daily lives by providing them the opportunity to test drive and own a select range of the latest cars from both brands.”

The offer for Black segment customers includes special discounts, and competitive prices on cars from

Lotus, with the added benefit of test-driving opportunities from home. This initiative is grounded in the Bank’s regular market studies to understand the needs of each customer segment, ensuring that these needs are met with the highest levels of quality and efficiency.

It is worth noting that KIB remains dedicated to its role as a key partner in its customers’ daily lives by offering banking solutions with a positive impact. The Bank also proactively introduces offers that reward customers with a banking experience characterized by enhanced luxury, convenience, and comfort.

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 position.

Confirming its leadership in providing best financing solutions

Kuwait Finance House demonstrates its services in ‘Lifetime Homes Expo’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: In line with its leading economic role in financing construction and housing projects, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has participated as a strategic sponsor in the latest “Lifetime Homes Expo”. KFH’s participation reflects its commitment to supporting the industries sector in addition to boosting the national economy.

Organized by the Kuwait International Fair (KIF), Lifetime Homes Expo is the largest exhibition for housing and home furnishing in Kuwait taking place in Mishref from October 7 to 12.

KFH Executive Manager Media and Government Relations, Mohammed Alfaris attended the exhibition opening with the Executive Manager Personal Finance Products at KFH, Abdulaziz Alsaeed, amid a large presence of companies, government entities and private organizations.

At KFH’s booth, a team was available to answer customers’ and visitors’ inquiries, providing detailed explanations of KFH’s financing services and supporting all construction-related needs.

During its participation, KFH has demonstrated its services including financing the requirements of housing and construction materials in convenient installments. The Bank also introduced exclusive offers and discounts in coordination with the top-tier companies in the market. Other services include financing furniture, electronics, household



Mohammed Alfaris, Abdulaziz Alsaeed and KFH representatives at the KFH booth in the exhibition.

appliances and their accessories.

Additionally, KFH offers exclusive benefits at the market level with a selection of suppliers specializing in related fields as well as credit advantages including maturity of the first installment up to 12 months from the housing financing contract and 6 months for consumer financing. The maximum limit for housing financing is up to KD 70,000 with a repayment period of 15 years. The consumer finance is up to KD 25,000 with a maximum repayment period of up to 5 years.

Therefore, customers can obtain financing up to KD 95,000, according to the maximum limits for personal finance with salary collateral. In addition, customers can postpone one installment per year (for consumer and housing financing) with KFH Pass service throughout their credit period.

The exhibition brings together a wide array of pioneering companies in construction, finishes, furniture and interior design all under one roof. It aims to offer new property owners a comprehensive range of the latest products in the field for the construction projects of their homes at every stage.

It is worth noting that KFH has always been devoted to catering to the housing needs of customers, providing financing services and solutions that meet their aspirations and contributing to enhancing their banking experience.

76-year-old Nicks returns as musical guest

Grande hosts 'SNL' since the last female presidential nominee

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP): Ariana Grande took the New York 30 Rock stage at "Saturday Night Live" for the third time as host and found herself in familiar circumstances.

"The last time I hosted was in 2016, and we were right on the verge of electing our first female president," the 31-year-old singer and actor said in her monologue. "So, I guess, second time's the charm?"

Grande, who first hosted in 2014, was doing it for the first time without also serving as musical guest - a role that fell to Stevie Nicks - and promised not to sing, before breaking into a song.

The theme continued as she vowed during the tune not to do her signature impressions of Britney Spears, Miley Cyrus and Gwen Stefani, before throwing out a bit of each. She would do a much longer version of Celine Dion in a sketch later in the

show.

Grande hosted in promotion of her movie musical "Wicked," the "Wizard of Oz" prequel set to be released next month.

She said playing the good witch Glinda as she does in the film is the dream of every theater kid like her."

Grande's episode comes amid a ratings spike for the sketch institution, likely brought on by its 50th season, and election season. Last month's season premiere brought in the most viewers since 2020.

Just as in the first two episodes of the new season, Maya Rudolph played Vice President Kamala Harris in the night's cold open, leading a group of former cast members returning as guest stars, including Andy Samberg as Harris' husband Doug Emhoff and Dana Carvey as President Joe Biden.

They teamed up for an election edi-



This image released by NBC shows cast member Bowen Yang, (from left), host Ariana Grande, and musical guest Stevie Nicks during promos for the upcoming 'Saturday Night Live' broadcast in New York on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. (AP)

tion of "The Family Feud," taking on team Trump.

Kenan Thompson, the longest-tenured cast member in the show's history who began in 2003, reprised his long-running role as "Feud" host Steve Harvey and asked Rudolph-as-Harris about her recent media blitz.

"It's been a hell of a week," she said. "I went on Howard Stern to reach the horny cab drivers, I went on 'The View' for the horny moms, and I also went on the podcast 'Call Her Daddy' because I have a message for young women: You need to go to the ballot box if you want the government out of your ballot box."

Current cast member James Austin Johnson returned as Donald Trump, saying his opponent is "going to be horrible at this game. She's a very low IQ person. The whole world is laughing at her because they don't respect her."

The 76-year-old Nicks was the "SNL" musical guest for the first time in more than 40 years. She opened with her brand new single, "The Lighthouse," but the look of the performance was classic Stevie, with an abundance of rings and scarves and the singer draped in black. For her second song, she reached back with "Edge of Seventeen" from 1981.

Michael Keaton is set to host next week with musical guest Billie Eilish. John Mulaney and Chappell Roan are set for the following Saturday.

The onset of season 50 already has brought reflection and nostalgia in many forms, including "Saturday Night," a movie comedy dramatizing the minutes before the first episode of the Lorne Michaels-helmed sketch institution on Oct. 11, 1975.

A three-hour primetime special on Feb. 16 is set to serve as the official 50th season celebration.

Film



This image released by Focus Features shows a Lego character voiced by Pharrell Williams in a scene from 'Piece By Piece.' (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: A federal appeals court judge has ruled to keep **Sean "Diddy" Combs** locked up while he makes a third bid for bail in his sex trafficking case, which is slated to go to trial in May.

In a decision filed Friday, Circuit Judge William J. Nardini denied the hip-hop mogul's immediate release from jail while a three-judge panel weighs his bail request.

Combs' lawyers appealed to the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 30 after two judges rejected his release.

Combs, 54, has been held at a federal jail in Brooklyn since his Sept. 16 arrest on charges that he used his "power and prestige" as a music star to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances with male sex workers in events dubbed "Freak Offs."

Combs has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges alleging he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

At a bail hearing three weeks ago, a judge rejected the defense's \$50 million bail proposal that would've allowed the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to be placed under house arrest at his Florida mansion with GPS monitoring and strict limits on visitors.

Judge Andrew L. Carter Jr., who has since recused himself from the case, said that prosecutors had presented "clear and convincing evidence" that Combs is a danger to the community. He said "no condition or set of conditions" could guard against the risk of Combs obstructing the investigation or threatening or harming witnesses.

In their appeal, Combs' lawyers argued that the judge had "endorsed the government's exaggerated rhetoric" and ordered Combs detained for "purely speculative reasons."

"Indeed, hardly a risk of flight, he is a 54-year-old father of seven, a U.S. citizen, an extraordinarily successful artist, businessman, and philanthropist, and one of the most recognizable people on earth," the lawyers wrote.

Combs' lawyers have not asked the new trial judge, Arun Subramanian, to consider releasing him on bail. (AP)

'Piece by Piece' snaps together somehow

An odd Lego docu celebrates Pharrell

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP): A movie documentary that uses only Lego pieces might seem an unconventional choice. When that documentary is about renowned musician-producer Pharrell Williams, it's actually sort of on-brand.

"Piece by Piece" is a bright, clever song-filled biopic that pretends it's a behind-the-scenes documentary using small plastic bricks, angles and curves to celebrate an artist known for his quirky soul. It is deep and surreal and often adorable. Is it high concept or low? Like Williams, it's a bit of both.

Director Morgan Neville - who has gotten more and more experimental exploring other celebrity lives like Fred Rogers in "Won't You Be My Neighbor?,"

"Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain" and "Steve! (Martin): A Documentary in Two Pieces" - this time uses real interviews but masks them under little Lego figurines with animated faces. Call this one a documentary in a million pieces.

The filmmakers try to explain their device - "What if nothing is real? What if life is like a Lego set?" Williams says at the beginning - but it's very tenuous. Just submit and enjoy the ride of a poor kid from Virginia Beach, Virginia, who rose to dominate music and become a creative director at Louis Vuitton.

Williams, by his own admission, is a little detached, a little odd. Music triggers colors in his brain - he has synesthesia, beautifully portrayed here - and it's his forward-looking musical brain that will make him a star, first as part of the pro-

ducing team The Neptunes and then as an in-demand solo producer and songwriter.

There are highs and lows and then highs again. A verse Williams wrote for "Rump Shaker" by Wreckx-N-Effect when he was making a living selling beats would lead to superstars demanding to work with him and partner Chad Hugo - Kendrick Lamar, Justin Timberlake, Snoop Dogg, Busta Rhymes, Gwen Stefani, Missy Elliott and Jay-Z. All those superstars sit for interviews and have hysterically been depicted as Lego minifigures, right down to No Doubt's Adrian Young's mohawk. (Take my money, Lego.)

We also learn something about his wife, Helen, and his anguish over being a solo artist, an opportunity he spurned when it was his for the taking. Ultimately, we learn to understand his futuristic approach to fashion and music. "What I am is a maverick," he says. No one will question him on that.

Collection

The 3D world the filmmakers have made is astonishing, with waves of clear Lego pieces washing up on a beach made of slats of Lego baseplates and Williams' collection of cool beats depicted as bouncing bricks with lights in them. There's Lego McDonald's nuggets, Lego pretzels, singing Lego fish and a Lego Anna Win-tour, chilly and haughty in plastic, too.

Lego, while seemingly a restrictive medium - the hands are clips and everyone's walking is robotic since there are no Lego knees - can also, apparently, in the right hands soar, and here they

do, with Williams in one gorgeous dream sequence watching the Earth's lights as an distant astronaut. It is when the filmmakers make Lego appear as water and music that are their crowning achievements. (Special kudos to the team that made Lego champagne bubbles.)

Music credits are notoriously hard to pin down - Williams claims to have created McDonald's notoriously mysterious jingle "I'm lovin' it" - and the filmmakers try to cover any misinformation with a simple disclaimer in the end credits: "Not everything in this film is 100% accurate. For example, Pharrell never went to space."

There are also some extraordinary moments that snap by but likely took months to make, like a Lego glimpse of the "I Have A Dream" speech by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial and protest footage from Black Lives Matter figurines shouting "Don't shoot!"

The documentary lags a little during Williams' way up and rushes the years on top, although recreations of some of the music videos he fueled are too funny. Why he and Hugo broke up is papered over and the filmmakers struggle to find an ending, making several stutter steps.

"I think we're done," are the last words we hear as the filmmakers finally give up. But they've left behind a trippy, sweet portrait of a genius, forever in building blocks.

"Piece by Piece," a Focus Feature release in theaters Oct. 11, is rated PG for language, some suggestive material and thematic elements." Running time: 93 minutes. Three stars out of four.

National pride

S. Koreans 'joyful' after Han's Nobel

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 13, (AP): South Koreans reacted with joy and astonishment on Thursday after learning that homegrown writer **Han Kang** won the Nobel Prize in literature, an unexpected moment that stoked national pride about the country's growing cultural influence.

Han, known for her experimental and often disturbing stories that explore human traumas and violence and incorporate the brutal moments of South Korea's modern history, is the country's first writer to win the preeminent award in world literature.

Han's triumph adds to the growing global influence of South Korean culture, which in recent years included the successes of director Bong Joon-ho's Oscar-winning "Parasite," the brutal Netflix survival drama "Squid Game" and K-pop groups like BTS and BLACKPINK.

"I'm so surprised and honored," Han, 53, said in a telephone interview posted on the X account of the Nobel Prize.

As the news spread in South Korea, some online bookstores temporarily froze following a sudden jump in traffic. South Korean social media were flooded with jubilant messages expressing admiration and pride. Some internet users found it meaningful that Han was the first Asian woman to win the award and portrayed it as a statement toward the country's traditionally male-dominated literature scene.

"It's always the women who do the big things," one Facebook user wrote.

In South Korea's parliament, multiple government hearings were paused as lawmakers cheered and applauded Han's award. While visiting Laos for a meeting of Asian leaders, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol issued a statement, congratulating Han on her award, calling it a "great achievement in the history of Korean literature" and a "special moment for the nation."

"You converted the painful wounds of our modern history into great literature," Yoon wrote. "I send my respects to you for elevating the value of Korean literature."

Han, the daughter of renowned South Korean novelist Han Seung-won, made her publishing debut as a poet in 1993. She won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for the novel "The Vegetarian," a story in which a woman's decision to stop eating meat brings devastating consequences and raises concern among family members that she's mentally ill. The book sold more than 100,000 in the U.S.

'I Should Call Them' a genre-defying album

Saleh's debut album is arty, experimental loop

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP): The Sudanese-American actor/artist Dua Saleh, best known for their work as Cal Bowman on Netflix's "... Education," mesmerizes within the first few seconds of their experimental debut album, "I Should Call Them."

The opening track "Chi Girl" lays the foundation for the rest of Saleh's infectious project. A haunting string arrangement echos, melting into the background of Saleh's ethereal vocals. Then, a transition: electric percussion introduces a tale of desire.

"Baby going down/Now I'm drunk off of your touch," Saleh sings in a laidback falsetto. "I throw it down/Looking down when we downtown/If it ain't love, then what's up?"

An intoxicating blend of indie pop and electronica bleeds effortlessly in "Want" - a track that parallels the moody, sensuality of Saleh's sonic contemporaries, like Amaarae or Majid Jordan. But Saleh avoids being derivative by infusing elements of rock, R&B, and rap - offering their unique edge to familiar sounds.

On "I Should Call Them," Saleh's avant-pop doesn't play it safe, using complex instrumentation and poetic lyricism worthy of repeat listens.

Even though they are best known as an actor,



This album cover image released by Ghostly International shows 'I Should Call Them' by Dua Saleh. (AP)

Saleh has been releasing music since 2017, garnering attention in certain sections of the internet for their inventive rap and pop tracks, "Sugar Mama" and "Macro dosing." Even then, they weren't afraid to take risks. And on this genre-fluid album, they've managed to sharpen their craft.

Tracks like "Time & Time Again," featuring Indian R&B artist Sid Sriram, find Saleh effortlessly stepping into alt-R&B, with a sexy-and-slow blend of strings and percussion, amplified by Sriram and Saleh's breathy harmonies.

"Bo Peep" blends elements of rap, electronica and Latin instruments, genre-agnostic production that allows their vocal range to shine.

Thematically, it moves from sweet and suggestive to laidback bravado. Saleh raps, "Thinking 'bout her body got me swimmin' she the truth/I ain't had to think about the dip into the pool."

"I Should Call Them" dips in excitement near the mid-way point, after "Unruly," which features NYC experimental R&B artist serpentwithfeet. Later, "Playing Games," and "Television," which features Ambré, sandwich the upbeat electronica track "Cradle" - a brief intermission in an otherwise strong work of art.

Blends genres

Batiste to debut solo piano work

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (AP): When Grammy-award winner Jon Batiste was a kid, say, 9 or 10 years old, he moved between musical worlds - participating in local, classical piano competitions by day, then “gigging in night haunts in the heart of New Orleans.”

Free from the rigidity of genre, but also a dedicated student of it, his tastes wove into one another. He’d find himself transforming canonized classical works into blues or gospel songs, injecting them with the style-agnostic soulfulness he’s become known for. On Nov. 15, Batiste will release his first ever album of solo piano work, a collection of similar compositions.

Titled “Beethoven Blues (Batiste Piano Series, Vol. 1),” across 11 tracks, Batiste collaborates, in a way, with Beethoven, reimagining the German pianist’s instantly recognizable works into something fluid, extending across musical histories. Kicking off with the lead single “Für Elise-Batiste,” with its simple intro known the world over as one of the first pieces of music beginners learn on piano, he morphs the song into ebullient blues.

“My private practice has always been kind of in reverence to, of course, but also to demystify the mythology around these composers,” he told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of Wednesday’s album release announcement.

The album was written through a process called “spontaneous composition,” which he views as a lost art in classical music. It’s extemporization; Batiste sits at the piano and interpolates Beethoven’s masterpieces to make them his own.

“The approach is to think about, if I were both in conversation with Beethoven, but also if Beethoven himself were here today, and he was sitting at the piano, what would the approach be?” he explained. “And blending both, you know, my approach to artistry and creativity and what my imagined approach of how a contemporary Beethoven would approach these works.”

Valuable

There is a division, he said, in a popular understanding of music where “pristine and preserved and European” genres are viewed as more valuable than “something that’s Black and sweaty and improvisational.” This album, like most of his work, disrupts the assumption.

Contrary to what many might think, Batiste said that Beethoven’s rhythms are African. “On a basic technical level, he’s doing the thing that African music ingenuity brought to the world, which is he’s playing in both a two meter and a three meter at once, almost all the time. He’s playing in two different time signatures at once, almost exclusively,” he said.

“When you hear a drum circle, you know, the African diasporic tradition of playing in time together, you’re hearing multiple different meters happening at once,” he continued. “In general, he’s layering all of the practice of classical music and symphonic music with this deeply African rhythmic practice, so it’s sophisticated.”


“Beethoven Blues” honors that complexity. “I’m deeply repelled by the classism and the culture system that we’ve set up that degrades some and elevates others. And ultimately the main thing that I’m drawn in by is how excellence transcends race,” he said.

When these songs are performed live, given their spontaneous nature, they will never sound exactly like they do on record, and no two sets will be the same. “If you were to come and see me perform these works 10 times in a row, you’d hear not only a new version of Beethoven, but you would also get a completely new concert of Beethoven,” he said.

“Beethoven Blues” is the first in a piano series - just how many will there be, and over what time frame, and what they will look like? Well, he’s keeping his options open.

“The themes of the piano series are going to be based on, you know, whatever is timely for me in that moment of my development, whatever I’m exploring in terms of my artistry. It could be another series based on a composer,” he said.

“Or it could be something completely different.”



Photos courtesy of @shereenahmed Instagram

Some photos of Filipino-Bahraini Shereen Ahmed who is representing Bahrain at the Miss Universe 2024.

Pageantry

From TV presenter to Miss Universe 2024 hopeful

Filipino-Bahraini Shereen Ahmed champions mental health on global stage

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Shereen Ahmed, a Filipino-Bahraini beauty queen, has made headlines as Bahrain’s representative for the Miss Universe 2024 pageant. Her journey to this prestigious title is marked not only by her beauty and charm but also by her commitment to advocacy, particularly in mental health and support for single mothers, reports Arab Times.

Born to a Filipino mother from Cavite City (southwest of Manila) and a Bahraini father, Shereen has always embraced her dual heritage. Raised in Bahrain, she pursued a career in journalism and television presenting, showcasing her versatility and creativity. Her experiences as a TV presenter have allowed her to connect with diverse audiences, making her a relatable figure in the community.

Shereen’s pageantry journey began in earnest when she joined Miss Universe Bahrain in 2022, where she impressively placed as the 2nd runner-up. This experience ignited her passion for beauty competitions and inspired her to continue pursuing her dreams. After learning about the removal of age limits for contestants, she seized the opportunity to compete again and ultimately won the title of Miss Universe Bahrain 2024.

A significant aspect of Shereen’s platform is her advocacy for mental health awareness. Since 2020, she has been open about her struggles with anxiety and hypochondria, using her experiences to help others facing similar challenges. Through campaigns like Rock Your Ugly, Shereen aims to provide a safe space for individuals to share their stories and heal their inner child. Her dedication to mental health is a testament to her belief that beauty extends beyond physical appearance; it encompasses emotional well-being as well.

In addition to her focus on mental health, Shereen is passionate about empowering single mothers. As an ambassador for local organizations like Hope Amel UAE, she actively works to provide essential support and resources for women in need. Her initiatives aim to uplift single mothers by addressing their challenges and advocating for their rights within the community.

As Shereen Ahmed prepares to represent Bahrain at Miss Universe 2024, she embodies the spirit of resilience and advocacy. Her journey reflects not only personal growth but also a commitment to making a meaningful impact on society. With her unique blend of cultural heritage, professional experience, and advocacy efforts, Shereen is poised to shine on the international stage while bringing attention to vital issues affecting many in her community. The Miss Universe coronation night is set for November 16 at the Arena CDMX in Mexico City, where Shereen will proudly showcase the essence of Bahrain and advocate for causes close to her heart.

Greathead crafts a smart page-turner

‘Book of George,’ witty novel like top TV sitcom

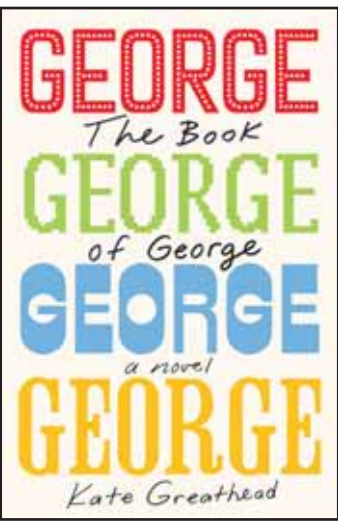
LOS ANGELES, Oct 13, (AP): “The Book of George” is a novel of many finely crafted, often funny moments that arrive episodically as the title character grows older. At first he’s a millennial kid, then a college guy as the Twin Towers fall on 9/11.

In time George – he’s given no surname – graduates and struggles over what to do with the rest of his life. Fate actually treats him pretty well. He’s an attractive, smart New Yorker; his family has some money; and he’s often quite lucky.

But you wouldn’t know it from his clownish, sour, perplexed, defeatist attitude. He’s self-absorbed and self-disparaging, lovable and devilish – the list could go on.

The novel’s author, Kate Greathead, is a gifted storyteller who reels off dialogue filled with wit and humor so well it makes page-turning a pleasure and “The Book of George” an easy read.

But just as the indecisive George doesn’t know where he is going in



This cover image released by Holt shows ‘The Book of George’ by Kate Greathead. (AP)

life, the reader doesn’t know where his story is going either. Getting there, in a way, is the point.

George groans inwardly at the

vacuous “sitcom-level banter” that comes easily to him in conversation. Greathead is deft at dishing out such dialogue, too, and chapter after chapter, as George ages and a variety of crises large and small arise, this episodic novel seems a form of first-rate TV sitcom between covers.

George would be glad to call it “the show about nothing,” similar to “Seinfeld.” Then he would cancel it.

Choosing philosophy as his college major, George writes his thesis on Arthur Schopenhauer, a 19th-century philosopher often seen as deeply pessimistic, much like George himself. Greathead, in the book’s epigraph, quotes from an 1807 letter written by Johanna Schopenhauer to her 19-year-old son, Arthur, whom she says could be “a credit to human society” but is nevertheless “irritating and unbearable.”

George’s own mother, Ellen, couldn’t have said it better.

After graduating, George eventually decides to become a writer. He starts a novel, but agonizes over the point of it. Early on, George says the book is “about a boy who grows up to be a man who is disappointed by life.” The book shifts gears over time. It’s title, finally, is “All For Naught.”

George may be a doom-and-gloom sort, but that’s not the case for Greathead’s novel. Page after page, her writing is full of humor built around prickly sarcasm and woebegone twists in George’s life.

There are serious, even sad, moments, plus plot turns that give the narrative depth. The reader may begin to feel an emotional tug. Jenny, a young woman who falls in love with George, lives with him for long, often agonizing stretches. They hit midlife as the pandemic hits the country, and Jenny brings real poignancy to the story.

She even grasps, finally, what George is all about.

Variety

XI’AN: An international arts festival opened on Saturday in the historic city of Xi’an in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, attracting artists to showcase their performances in an international arena.

The 10th Silk Road International Arts Festival, which is hosted by the provincial government of Shaanxi and will run until Nov. 10, has attracted artists from 15 countries and regions, according to the organizer of the event.

During the festival, 63 performances are scheduled to be staged. A series of activities will also take place during the festival, including shows and exhibitions.

The first Silk Road International Arts Festival was held in 2014. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

NEW YORK: The hosts of ABC’s “The View” clapped back at Donald Trump on Thursday, a day after the Republican nominee for president insulted co-hosts Sunny Hostin and **Whoopi Goldberg**.

“I have a personal legal note,” said Hostin. “Donald Trump, I want to thank you for personally telling so many lies and committing so many alleged crimes and providing us with material on a daily basis. You help us do our jobs and I’m so appreciative.”

On Wednesday, Trump, campaigning in Pennsylvania, called Hostin, who is Black and Latina, “dumber than Kamala,” saying: “That is one dumb woman. Sorry, I’m sorry, women, she’s a dummy.”

Later, he turned on Goldberg, who is also Black, calling her “demented.” Trump claimed he once hired Goldberg to perform and accused her of having a “foul mouth.”

“She was so filthy, dirty, disgusting, half the place left. I said I’d never hire her again,” he said. “She was so dirty. Every word was filthy, dirty. What a loser she is.”

Goldberg on Thursday wore it as a badge of honor. “I was filthy and stand on that fact. I have always been filthy. And you knew that when you hired me.” Goldberg said Trump hired her four times: “How dumb are you?”

The Trump barrage came after the daytime talk show hosted his opponent in the presidential race, Vice President Kamala Harris, for an interview Tuesday. (AP)



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul participates in Project Healthy Minds' World Mental Health Day panel discussions at HBO Theater Hudson Yards on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, in New York. (AP)

The Conversation

Course yields results

‘Happiness class’ uplifts teachers’ mental health

By John Sommers-Flanagan
University of Montana

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

□ □ □

I was discouraged. For nearly three decades, as a clinical psychologist, I trained mental health professionals on suicide assessment. The work was good but difficult.

All the while, I watched in dismay as US suicide rates relentlessly increased for 20 consecutive years, from 1999 to 2018, followed by a slight dip during the COVID-19 pandemic, and then a rise in 2021 and 2022 - this despite more local, state and national suicide prevention programming than ever.

I consulted my wife, Rita, who also happens to be my favorite clinical psychologist. We decided to explore the science of happiness. Together, we established the Montana Happiness Project and began offering evidence-based happiness workshops to complement our suicide prevention work.

Counselors

In 2021, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, through the University of Montana, awarded us a US\$150,000 grant to support the state's K-12 public school teachers, counselors and staff. We're using the funds to offer these educators low-cost, online graduate courses on happiness. In spring 2023, the foundation awarded us another \$150,000 so we could extend the program through December 2025.

Using the word "happiness" can be off-putting. Sometimes, people associate happiness with recommendations to just smile, cheer up and suppress negative emotions - which can lead to toxic positivity.

As mental health professionals, my wife and I reject that definition. Instead, we embrace Aristotle's concept of "eudaimonic happiness": the daily pursuit of meaning, mutually supportive relationships and becoming the best possible version of yourself.

The heart of the course is an academic, personal and experiential exploration of evidence-based positive psychology interventions. These are intentional practices that can improve mood, optimism, re-

lationships and physical wellness and offer a sense of purpose. Examples include gratitude, acts of kindness, savoring, mindfulness, mood music, practicing forgiveness and journaling about your best possible future self.

Students are required to implement at least 10 of 14 positive psychology interventions, and then to talk and write about their experiences on implementing them.

Teachers are more distressed than ever before. They're anxious, depressed and discouraged in ways that adversely affect their ability to teach effectively, which is one reason why so many of them leave the profession after a short period of time. It's not just the low pay - educators need support, appreciation and coping tools; they also need to know they're not alone.

The lesson on sleep is especially powerful for educators. A review of 33 studies from 15 countries reported that 36% to 61% of K-12 teachers suffered from insomnia. Although the rates varied across studies, sleep problems were generally worse when teachers were exposed to classroom violence, had low job satisfaction and were experiencing depressive symptoms.

The sleep lesson includes, along with sleep hygiene strategies, a happiness practice and insomnia intervention called Three Good Things, developed by the renowned positive psychologist Martin Seligman.

I describe the technique, in Seligman's words: "Write down, for one week, before you go to sleep, three things that went well for you during the day, and then reflect on why they went well."

Next, I make light of the concept: "I've always thought Three Good Things was hokey, simplistic and silly." I show a video of Seligman saying, "I don't need to recommend beyond a week, typically ... because when you do this, you find you like it so much, most people just keep doing it." At that point, I roll my eyes and say, "Maybe."

Then I share that I often awakened for years at 4 a.m. with terribly dark thoughts. Then - funny thing - I tried using Three Good Things in the middle of the night. It wasn't a perfect solution, but it was a vast improvement over lying helplessly in bed while negative thoughts pummeled me. (AP)

Doctors highlight osteoporosis prevention strategies

Vitamin D key to combat bone health decline

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Dr. Abdul Nasser Al-Othman, the founding president of the Osteoporosis Association and an endocrinology consultant, emphasized the growing necessity of vitamin D supplementation for people of all ages, including newborns and the elderly, to maintain bone health and muscle strength, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Dr. Al-Othman explained that bone density naturally declines after the age of 30 and highlighted the importance of maintaining adequate levels of vitamin D, which is essential for protecting bones.

The widespread deficiency of vitamin D worldwide, largely due to modern lifestyles that limit sun exposure,

has been documented in numerous scientific studies.

Dr. Al-Othman stressed that building higher bone density earlier in life and slowing the rate of bone density loss are key to long-term bone health. He noted that exercise focused on bone strength, along with a nutritious diet, can significantly influence this process.

Adding to this, Dr. Adel Reda, a consultant in internal medicine, endocrinology, and diabetes, pointed out that osteoporosis is a common, yet silent disease, which leads to gradual weakening of bones without clear symptoms.

This can result in fractures, especially in the spine, pelvis, wrist, and



Dr. Abdul Al-Othman and Dr. Reda

arms, as the disease progresses. He cautioned that osteoporosis is not directly linked to back pain, as is often misunderstood, but is more associated with aging and certain risk factors.

Dr. Reda underscored the impor-

tance of regular screenings for osteoporosis, particularly for women over 50 and men over 60, to help detect the disease early.

He also warned that long-term, high-dose corticosteroid use, common among patients with conditions like asthma, kidney disease, and certain skin diseases, increases the risk of developing osteoporosis. Additionally, he cautioned against excessive consumption of soft drinks, as they contribute to bone weakening.

Both experts emphasized the critical role of vitamin D in protecting against osteoporosis and called for increased awareness and proactive health measures to reduce the prevalence of the disease.



This illustration provided by NASA depicts the Europa Clipper spacecraft over the moon, Europa, with Jupiter at background left. (AP)

Mission ready for lift off

NASA’s Europa Clipper set to scour icy moon of Jupiter for signs of life

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Oct 13, (AP): A NASA spacecraft is ready to set sail for Jupiter and its moon Europa, one of the best bets for finding life beyond Earth.

Europa Clipper will peer beneath the moon's icy crust where an ocean is thought to be sloshing fairly close to the surface. It won't search for life, but rather determine whether conditions there could support it. Another mission would be needed to flush out any microorganisms lurking there.

"It's a chance for us to explore not a world that might have been habitable billions of years ago, but a world that might be habitable today - right now," said program scientist Curt Niebur.

Its massive solar panels make Clipper the biggest craft built by NASA to investigate another planet. It will take 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter and will sneak within 16 miles (25 kilometers) of Europa's surface - considerably closer than any other spacecraft.

Liftoff is targeted for this month aboard SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Mission cost: \$5.2 billion.

One of Jupiter's 95 known moons, Europa is almost the size of our own moon. It's encased in an ice sheet estimated to be 10 miles to 15 miles or more (15 kilometers to 24 kilometers) thick. Scientists believe this frozen crust hides an ocean that could be 80 miles (120 kilometers) or more deep. The Hubble Space Telescope has spotted what appear to be geysers erupting from the surface. Discovered by Galileo in 1610, Europa is one of the four so-called Galilean moons of Jupiter, along with Ganymede, Io and Callisto.

What type of life might Europa harbor? Besides water, organic compounds are needed for life as we know it, plus an energy source. In Europa's case that could be thermal vents on the ocean floor. Deputy project scientist Bonnie Buratti imagines any life would be primitive like the bacterial life that originated in Earth's deep ocean vents. "We will not know from this mission because we can't see that deep," she said. Unlike missions to Mars where habitability is one of many questions, Clipper's sole job is to establish whether the moon could support life in its ocean or possibly in any pockets of water in the ice.

When its solar wings and antennas are unfurled, Clipper is about the size of a basketball court - more than 100 feet (30 meters) end to end - and weighs nearly 13,000 pounds (6,000 kilograms). The super-sized solar panels are needed because of Jupiter's distance from the sun. The main body - about the size of a camper - is packed with nine science instruments, including radar that will penetrate the ice, cameras that will map virtually the entire moon and tools to tease out the contents of Europa's surface and tenuous atmosphere. The name hearkens to the swift sailing ships of centuries past.

The roundabout trip to Jupiter will span 1.8 billion miles (3 billion kilometers). For extra oomph, the spacecraft will swing past Mars early next year and then Earth in late 2026. It arrives at Jupiter in 2030 and begins science work the next year. While orbiting Jupiter, it will cross paths with Europa 49 times. The mission ends in 2034 with a planned crash into Ganymede - Jupiter's biggest moon and the solar system's too.

There's more radiation around Jupiter than anywhere else in our solar system, besides the sun. Europa passes through Jupiter's bands of radiation as it orbits the gas giant, making it especially menacing for spacecraft. That's why Clipper's electronics are inside a vault with dense aluminum and zinc walls. All this radiation would nix any life on Europa's surface. But it could break down water molecules and, perhaps, release oxygen all the way down into the ocean that could possibly fuel sea life.

Earlier this year, NASA was in a panic that the spacecraft's many transistors might not withstand the intense radiation. But after months of analysis, engineers concluded the mission could proceed as planned.

NASA's twin Pioneer spacecraft and then two Voyagers swept past Jupiter in the 1970s. The Voyagers provided the first detailed photos of Europa but from quite a distance. NASA's Galileo spacecraft had repeated flybys of the moon during the 1990s, passing as close as 124 miles (200 kilometers). Still in action around Jupiter, NASA's Juno spacecraft has added to Europa's photo album. Arriving at Jupiter a year after Clipper will be the European Space Agency's Juice spacecraft, launched last year.

New mammo rules

‘Dense breast’ makes cancer harder to spot

NEW YORK, Oct 13, (AP): When a woman has a mammogram, the most important finding is whether there's any sign of breast cancer.

The second most important finding is whether her breasts are dense.

Since early September, a new US rule requires mammography centers to inform women about their breast density - information that isn't entirely new for some women because many states already had similar requirements.

Here's what to know about why breast density is important.

No, dense breasts are not bad. In fact, they're quite normal. About 40% of women ages 40 and older have dense breasts.

Women of all shapes and sizes can have dense breasts. It has nothing to do with breast firmness. And it only matters in the world of breast cancer screening, said Dr. Ethan Cohen of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Mammograms

With the new rule, "there are going to be a lot of questions to a lot of doctors and there's going to be a lot of Googling, which is OK. But we want to make sure that people don't panic," Cohen said.

Doctors who review mammograms have a system for classifying breast density. There are four categories. The least dense category means the breasts are almost all fatty tissue. The most dense category means the breasts are mostly glandular and fibrous tissue.

Breasts are considered dense in two of the four categories: "heterogeneously dense" or "extremely dense." The other two categories are considered not dense.

Dr. Brian Dontchos of the Seattle-based Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center said the classification can vary depending on the doctor reading the mammogram "because it's somewhat subjective." Two reasons: For one, dense breasts make it more difficult to see cancer on an X-ray image, which is what a mammogram is.

"The dense tissue looks white on a mammogram and cancer also looks white on a mammogram," said Dr. Wendie Berg of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and chief scientific adviser to DenseBreastInfo.org. "It's like trying to see a snowball in a blizzard."

Second, women with dense breast tissue are at a slightly higher risk of developing breast cancer because cancers are more likely to arise in glandular and fibrous tissue.

Reassuringly, women with dense breasts are no more likely to die from breast cancer compared to other women.

If you find out you have dense breasts, talk to your doctor about your family history of breast cancer and whether you should have additional screening with ultrasound or MRI, said Dr. Georgia Spear of Endeavor Health/ NorthShore University Health System in the Chicago area. Researchers are studying better ways to detect cancer in women with dense breasts. So far, there's not enough evidence for a broad recommendation for additional screening.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health

To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For
your
ads on
this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARAWANIYA

Dermatology - Cosmetology Dept.

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD (DVD)
Skin & Dermatology
Specialist

Dr Faizan Kalekhan
MBBS, MD, DNB
Dermatology,
Venereology & Leprosy

Our Services

PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, Aging, Skin Tightening, Stretch marks | Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corn | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond Microdermabrasion | Carboxytherapy | Dualpeel | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) | Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries | Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police Station - Farwaniya
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Ph: 2473 4000

Musah and Pepi score second-half goals in 2-0 victory over Panama

Crowd-pleasing Pochettino comes up tops in US debut



United States forward Brendon Aaronson, center front, is tackled by Panama midfielder Abidel Ayarza (5) during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Austin, Texas. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas, Oct 13, (AP): Mauricio Pochettino arrived at Q2 Stadium to see posters and banners with his face around the grandstand and behind a goal.

By the time he left, he was saluting fans who were cheering his name. The 52-year-old Argentine's debut as U.S. coach was a crowd-pleasing success.

Yunus Musah scored a 49th-minute goal off an assist from AC Milan teammate Christian Pulisic and Ricardo Pepi added a stoppage time strike to close out 2-0 win over Panama on Saturday night.

The match in front of a near-capacity crowd of 20,239 was the first of two friendlies for the U.S. in a four-day span that includes a game against Mexico on Tuesday in Guadalajara. The Americans ended a four-game winless stretch and their first four-game home winless streak since a seven-game slide in 2010-11.

"Little by little building something. The objective is 2026," Pochettino said. "It's only the first step." And the love-at-first sight from the U.S. fans? "Amazing. Amazing. Thank you to the fans. You were amazing," Pochettino said.

The former Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain manager was hired last month to replace Gregg Berhalter, who was fired in July after first-round elimination at the Copa America. Pochettino was given a contract through the 2026 World Cup that the U.S. will co-host and tasked with sparking a team that has not reached the World Cup quarterfinals since 2002.

Musah made the most of the team's fresh start, scoring his first goal in 42 international appearances.

"Hopefully more to come," Musah said.

Antonee Robinson worked around defender Michael Murillo on a flank and centered to Pulisic, who exchanged passes with Brenden Aaronson and one-timed a cross. Musah beat defender César Blackman and redirected the ball with a right-foot volley past Orlando Mosquera from 4 yards.

"I told him it was goal-scoring instincts. He's been watching me," said Pulisic, who has five goals in seven Serie A matches this season. "He's been learning a thing or two. But honestly, that moment ... it's great to see that." Pulisic played for his eighth U.S. coach, a record for an American player. The U.S. was missing injured regulars Sergio Dest, Tyler Adams, Gio Reyna, Tim Weah and Folarin Balogun.

Three second-half subs combined for the second goal in the fourth minute of stoppage time. Malik Tillman brought down a kick from goalkeeper Matt Turner and passed to Haji Wright, who crossed. A Texas native,

United States head coach, Mauricio Pochettino, watches action from the sidelines during the second half of an international friendly soccer match against Panama in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Pepi slid the ball through Mosquera's legs for his 11th goal in 31 appearances - his fourth in three international games in Austin.

Turner, who played all four matches at the 2022 World Cup, made a double save in the 52nd minute, batting Puma Rodriguez's shot with his left hand, then diving back in front to get his body in front of Yoel Bárcenas' attempt off the rebound. Panama's José Fajardo put an open shot wide in the 87th minute. The U.S. had 55% possession and was outshot 13-11.

"It was a good night, but I don't want to get way too ahead of ourselves," Turner said. "It was a building block for the future. By no means was it perfect." Panama beat the U.S. in the Copa America group stage, a match in which Weah was given an early red card for punching an opponent.

"I didn't feel too many changes. But when a new coach is coming, for sure a victory, and that's what happened," Panama coach Thomas Christiansen said. "He will also need time to adapt his ideas to the team. He has the knowledge and experience, and he has the players to do to the job." Tim Ream captained the Americans one week after his 37th birthday and became the oldest U.S. field player since Preki Radosavljević in 2001. Forward Josh Sargent made his first start since the 2022 group-stage final against Iran.

Mexican referee Katia Garcia was believed to be the first woman to referee a U.S. men's national team match.

Mayer wins The Roval at Charlotte

NASCAR's late caution call upends Xfinity Series race

CONCORD, N.C., Oct 13, (AP): Sam Mayer won on The Roval at Charlotte Motor Speedway in a controversial overtime finish Saturday that allowed Mayer to advance in the Xfinity Series playoffs.

It came at the expense of Parker Kligerman, who not only was denied his first career Xfinity Series victory in regulation by a NASCAR scoring call, but also was eliminated from the playoff field.

Kligerman was leading head toward the white flag that would have signified the final lap of the race when Leland Honeyman ran into the tire barrier. NASCAR could have thrown the caution immediately - that's how deep into the tire barrier Honeyman was - but the yellow inexplicably didn't flash until the split second Kligerman was about to cross under the white flag that would have made the race official.

Kligerman's team was celebrating on pit road when NASCAR ruled that he had not taken the white flag and the race would go to overtime. It was a record-tying 14th overtime race of the Xfinity Series this season.

Mayer, who won this race a year

ago, caught Kligerman in the two-lap sprint to the finish to win the race and advance in the playoffs. The two made contact on Mayer's winning pass, which caused enough damage that Kligerman, who is in his final season of full-time NASCAR racing, faded to a sixth-place finish.

"I want to cry," said Kligerman, "but

I'm not gonna. I really love this, and I really, really wanted that. It would have made the world."

When shown the replay of how close he'd come to winning the race before the late call on the caution, Kligerman, who is a television analyst for the Cup races, was incredulous.

"What!" he said in disbelief. "I've

seen enough from the TV side to know the heart-wrench and guttedness that people go through on something like that."

AJ Allmendinger, who had been a perfect 4 for 4 on The Roval in the Xfinity Series, finished second and was followed by pole-sitter Shane Van Gisbergen, who despite the third-place finish was eliminated from the playoffs. Allmendinger and Van Gisbergen both race in Sunday's Cup Series race, with Van Gisbergen on the pole.

He was knocked out by Jesse Love, who finished 19th, but passed enough cars on the final two laps to eliminate Van Gisbergen by two points. Kligerman, Van Gisbergen, Sheldon Creed and Riley Herbst were all eliminated.

Creed and Herbst were in earlier accidents and left to watch the finish for their fate from inside the garage.

Sammy Smith and Chandler Smith were the only two drivers already locked into the round of eight, leaving only six spots open in the playoffs on Charlotte's hybrid road course/oval course.

Justin Allgaier, who was below the cutline at the start of the race, finished seventh and advanced. With the points reset, Allgaier is now the points leader headed into the opening race of the next round next Saturday in Las Vegas.

The top seven finishers Saturday at Charlotte were playoff drivers.



From left, Germany's Joshua Kimmich, Deniz Undav, Nico Schlotterbeck, Jamie Lewelling and Angelo Stiller attend a training session of the German soccer national team in Herzogenaurach, Germany. (AP)



In this file photo, Artur Beterbiev with Callum Smith, (not in photo), attends the weigh-in for their world unified light heavyweight boxing match in Quebec City. (AP)

Now undisputed champion

Beterbiev beats Bivol on points

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 13, (AP): Artur Beterbiev beat Dmitry Bivol by a points decision to become the first undisputed light heavyweight champion in the division for more than 20 years.

The 39-year-old Beterbiev (21-0, 20 KOs) had won all 20 of his previous fights by knockout but was forced the distance by his fellow Russian rival in Riyadh in the early hours of Sunday morning in a fight that had several swings of momentum and was almost too close to call.

"I feel not bad," Beterbiev said to DAZN after the fight. "I wanted to box with more quality. I'll be better one day. It was a little bit uncomfortable."

"Of course, it was a tough fight because Dmitry is a tough champion and he has tough skills, better than me."

Throughout the bout there was never much between the two dominant fighters of the division as Bivol (23-1, 12 KOs) used his speed to land early blows, while Beterbiev warned to the task in the middle rounds before a late flurry in the final rounds appeared to clinch it.

"During the fight, we always try to change something," Beterbiev said. "I didn't deliver more punches, I don't know. Today I am lucky too."

In the end, two judges scored it 115-113, 116-112 for Beterbiev, with a third judge scoring it as a 114-114 draw.

"I am a warrior. I have no explanation because it looks like excuses. I am a warrior," Bivol told DAZN. "I don't know, I did my job but I felt like I could do better but it was just the opinion of some judges. Congratulations to Artur. He is powerful, very powerful. I have a bruise from my hand, he hit it and it was so hard."

It was the first undisputed title fight in the division since 2002 and was the first time all four major world titles - WBO, WBA, IBF and WBC - have been up for grabs in the four-belt era.

They now all belong to Beterbiev.

He came into the bout with the WBC, WBO and IBF light heavyweight titles after defeating Callum Smith by knockout in January, needing just Bivol's WBA belt - which Bivol won with a shock upset points decision over Canelo Alvarez in May 2022 - to complete the set.

Both Russians showed patience in the opening rounds before Bivol went to work with his left jab and right hook as his speed began to trouble Beterbiev.

The tide began to turn through the fifth and sixth rounds as Beterbiev began landing his right hook, forcing Bivol onto the defensive.

The bout spurred to life in the seventh as both fighters attacked. A big left by Bivol forced Beterbiev against the ropes, but Beterbiev responded with a heavy jab and short left hook as both fighters ended the round showing damage.

Beterbiev had only been beyond round seven five times in his 20 previous fights, but Bivol was going to make this go the distance here as he was again the more assertive through rounds eight and nine.

But Beterbiev came back again in the 10th with a strong round to leave the fight in the balance and continued the assault into the 11th as a right hook to Bivol's body was followed by an uppercut in a rare clear round win.

The final round saw Beterbiev up the tempo even more as he sought to extend his incredible record of winning every bout inside the distance. Bivol held on to deny his compatriot a knockout blow but hadn't done quite enough to clinch it.

Earlier, Australian WBC featherweight champion Skye Nicolson beat Britain's Raven Chapman by a unanimous points decision in the first-ever women's world title fight in Saudi Arabia.

Nagelsmann creating relaxed atmosphere for Germany

BERLIN, Oct 13, (Xinhua): Ahead of Monday's UEFA Nations League clash against the Netherlands, the Germany national team has embraced a calm, pragmatic approach. Despite a growing list of injuries, coach Julian Nagelsmann remains unfazed, instilling a new mental state in the squad.

Following their 2-1 victory over Bosnia, the team returned to their base in Bavaria - a hub of energy and team-building since

Euro 2024. Nagelsmann's influence, combining recovery routines, proper rest, and a casual team dinner that even included doner kebabs, has rejuvenated the squad.

Nagelsmann's generational shift has opened doors for players typically in the background, giving them a chance to shine. His selection method, based on club performances, has restored motivation and determination, creating a

familiar and comfortable on-field atmosphere.

With key players like Toni Kroos, Ilkay Gundogan, and Manuel Neuer retired, the 37-year-old coach has employed a tactical strategy built on "pairing" players - linking wingers with full-backs to create fluid movement and alternating roles.

Up front, the team's attacking gaps have been filled by Deniz Undav of Stuttgart and Tim Klein-

dienst of Borussia Monchengladbach, who have stepped up in the absence of injured regulars like Niclas Fullkrug, Kai Havertz and Jamal Musiala.

Reports suggest a refreshed mood around the squad, with resilience replacing previous doubts. Nagelsmann's refusal to dwell on injuries has provided new opportunities for emerging talents, who have embraced the team spirit right from the start.

England moves closer to knockout stage

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 13, (AP): Maia Bouchier smashed 62 not out off 34 balls as England beat Scotland by 10 wickets in their group B clash at the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup.

England powered its way to 113-0 in 10 overs as Bouchier put on an unbeaten opening stand with Danielle Wyatt-Hodge, who continued her splendid tournament form to score 51 not out off 26 balls.

This was after Scotland was restricted to 109-6 in 20 overs. Left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone picked up 2-13 in four overs.

With the win England moved to the top of group B with three successive wins in as many games.

It is equal on points with second-placed South Africa, but ahead on a comfortable net run-rate of +1.716. England's final game is against third-placed West Indies (four points). All three teams could find themselves in a battle for the two knockout spots from group B.

Scotland has lost all four group games in

its maiden Women's T20 World Cup campaign, and along with hosts Bangladesh, is knocked out of contention to advance from the group.

Scotland opted to bat and its openers made a decent start. Sarah Bryce scored 27 off 31 balls and put on 38 for the first wicket with Saskia Horley (13).

Nat Sciver-Brunt provided the breakthrough, and then Ecclestone had Sarah stumped with the score at 50-2 in 10.4 overs.

Skipper Kathryn Bryce top scored with 33 off 28 balls but the other batters were unable to kick on against disciplined English bowling led by Ecclestone.

In reply, England's openers made light work of the chase. Wyatt-Hodge, who has previous scores of 41 and 43 in the tournament, smacked seven fours.

At the other end, Bouchier hit 12 fours to reach 50 off 30 balls as the opening duo overhauled the target with half the innings to spare.

Required for Academic Year 2024-25 at Private American School

Kindergarten

- Female Physical Education Teacher / lifeguard

Elementary

- Physical Education Teacher
- English Teacher
- Science Teacher

Middle and High School

- Math Teacher
- English Teacher
- ICT Teacher
- Science Teacher
- Culinary Arts

Leadership Positions

- Middle School Vice Principal
- Middle School Principal
- Dean of Students – Discipline
- Curriculum Coordinator

Admin

- Registration Assistant

Interested applicants may apply through our website at the following link:
<https://www.abs.edu.kw/careers/abs>

The all-new G-Class raises bar for real adventure on and off the road yet again

Al Mulla Automobiles hosts event celebrating the arrival of all-new Mercedes-Benz G-Class to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., a member of the Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, held a private showcase event from October 6th to October 8th for the all-new iconic G-Class. The event was held at the Al Mulla Automobiles Flagship Mercedes-Benz Showroom in Al Rai and attended by its esteemed guests, customers and members of the media.

The special event was organized to give invited guests a walk through of the all-new G-Class and to celebrate its official arrival to Kuwait. The company offered its guests a broad overview of the new G-Class, as well as a personalized tour of the iconic vehicle and its features.

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class has long been regarded as an automotive icon and is now once again underpinning its leading position among luxury off-road vehicles. The all-new models excel under all conditions – with improved performance thanks to electrified drive and modern driver assistance systems, increased comfort and advanced digitalisation. Established in 1979, the model series now offers the most diverse drive portfolio of all time and almost limitless customization options. At the same time, it retains its unmistakable off-road character and unique appearance.

The newly arrived G-Class raises the bar for real adventure on and off the road yet again. With an electrified drive portfolio, pioneering MBUX infotainment system, additional comfort and off-road functions, it's poised to continue its success story as the Geländewagen. The all-new G-Class combines an outstanding driving experience with a state-of-the-art digital experience.

The all-new G-Class sets standards in the off-road segment

The off-road icon is based on the tried-and-tested ladder-frame concept and features three mechanical differential locks and LOW RANGE off-road gear reduction as well as a rigid rear axle and independent front suspension. High ground clearance and long-travel suspension form the basis for the off-road characteristics of the all-new G-Class. The numbers speak for themselves:

- Up to 100% gradeability on suitable surfaces



The all-new Mercedes-Benz G-Class

- Ground clearance between the axles of at least 241 mm
- Maximum fording depth of 70 cm for water and mud
- Stable driving on sideward slopes of up to 35°
- Approach and departure angles of 31° at the front and 30° at the rear (without trailer hitch)

Off the beaten track, the new OFFROAD COCKPIT provides an overview of the relevant data for off-road driving in both the driver and media displays, as well as functions to support off-road driving.

The all-new G-Class is more versatile than ever before

In addition the all-new performance off-roader from Mercedes-AMG, and the all-new Mercedes-Benz G 500 are available with fully electrified engines. As mild hybrids with 48-volt technology, they offer increased performance with reduced fuel consumption. The first fully electric variant of the G-Class will round out the model portfolio at a later date.

The new G-Class evolves with the times and yet remains true to itself

The Mercedes-Benz G-Class has not significantly changed its appearance for around 45 years. The exterior design of the all-new models is only subtly modified. Visible changes include a radiator grille with four instead of the previous three horizontal louvres and front and rear bumpers.

The interior is luxurious and func-

tional. With the integration of the MBUX (Mercedes-Benz User Experience) infotainment system, the all-new G-Class is more digital than ever before. On request, KEYLESS-GO, temperature-controlled cup holders, the Burmester® 3D surround sound system and MBUX High-End Rear-Seat Entertainment system ensure increased comfort. There are also additional and enhanced safety and assistance systems. The MANUFAKTUR range for extensive customisation of the interior and exterior has been expanded once again.

Iconic design – unmistakable shape, modern technology

An unmistakable, angular shape is the hallmark of the G-Class. And its iconic design remains largely unchanged even during the latest developments. Classic details continue to be characteristic features. These include the distinctive door handles and the characteristic door-closing sound, robust exterior protective trim, the exposed spare wheel on the rear door and protruding indicator lights.

The interior – impressive quality and pioneering design language

In the interior of the all-new G-Class, off-road character meets top-class equipment. Numerous exterior design elements can be found in the interior. For example, the side air vents take the shape of the round headlights and are now also available with illumination. The grab handle on the passenger side is still present. Meanwhile, the switches



The all-new Mercedes-Benz G-Class

for the three differential locks remain central elements of the redesigned off-road control centre. The latter now also offers the option of quick access – for example to the OFFROAD COCKPIT. The latest-generation multi-function steering wheel with touch control surfaces is upholstered in nappa leather as standard. The ambient lighting and comprehensive leather upholstery complete the ambience.

With the EXCLUSIVE Line Interior, customers can further enhance the atmosphere of wellbeing inside their all-new G-Class. Among other things, it includes an expanded choice of upholstery in nappa leather. There is also ambient lighting for the air vents and the Burmester® 3D surround sound system with an illuminated satellite loudspeaker in the headliner. Meanwhile, the SUPERIOR Line Interior transforms the cabin into a luxurious lounge. The Active Multicontour Seat Plus package, upholstery in nappa leather and exclusive elements and decorative stitching in a diamond design contribute to this.

MBUX infotainment system – the new G-Class is more connected than ever

The MBUX (Mercedes-Benz User Experience) infotainment system with 31.2-centimetre (12.3-inch) driver and media displays including touch control is in all model variants for the first time. Smartphone integration connects the mobile phone wirelessly to the MBUX multimedia

system via Android Auto Wireless® or Apple CarPlay™.

MBUX Augmented Reality for Navigation is also part of the standard equipment of the all-new G-Class. The system superimposes graphical navigation and traffic information onto live images on the media display.

MBUX also brings voice assistance into the all-new G-Class that is capable of dialogue and learning. Certain actions can now be triggered without the “Hey Mercedes” wake term. The voice assistant also has around 20 voice commands created exclusively for use in the all-new G-Class.

New features for even more convenience

If desired, the interior of the all-new G-Class can be upgraded with additional comfort features. These include temperature-controlled cupholders, a wireless charging system for mobile devices and the MBUX High-End Rear Seat Entertainment system. The latter comprises two fully integrated 29.5-centimetre (11.6-inch) touch displays, which ensure rear passengers also remain fully entertained during a journey.

With the optional Burmester® 3D surround sound system, the all-new G-Class offers unrivalled sound quality. It features the immersive Dolby Atmos® audio experience, which gives music more space, clarity and depth. The system transforms the all-new G-Class into a state-of-the-art concert hall on wheels.

MANUFAKTUR – the individualisation programme with more than a million possible combinations

Paint colour, spare-wheel ring, seat trim, decorative stitching, instrument panel and much more – the MANUFAKTUR customisation programme enables owners to make their G-Class unique. When choosing exclusive colour combinations, individual contrasts and materials, the possibilities are almost unlimited.

Body and suspension – the G-Class is and remains the GELÄNDEWAGEN

The all-new G-Class benefits from around 45 years of experience and expertise in the off-road segment. The off-road vehicle icon continues to rely on proven ladder-frame construction, three mechanical differential locks and the combination of double wishbone independent front wheel suspension and a rigid rear axle. High ground clearance and long-travel suspension form the basis for the off-road characteristics.

Everything in view – the new OFFROAD COCKPIT

The redesigned off-road control unit takes drivers directly to the new OFFROAD COCKPIT. This provides an overview of the most relevant data for off-road driving in both the driver and media displays. It also offers functions to support off-road driving.

For an even more comfortable off-road driving experience – the “transparent bonnet”

The “transparent bonnet” function can be called up via the off-road menu in the central display. In conjunction with the 360° camera, it enables a virtual view under the front of the vehicle. For the camera view of the “transparent bonnet” in the media display, the vehicle combines the images from the front camera and the two exterior mirror cameras.

To register your interest and to get the latest news regarding the all-new Mercedes-Benz G-Class please visit Al Mulla Automobiles Mercedes-Benz showroom in Al Rai, Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues or call the customer center at 1887888, follow the account on Instagram @MercedesBenzKuwait, or visit the website at <https://www.mercedes-benz-mena.com/kuwait/en>

Sinner outplays Djokovic to win Shanghai Masters

Sabalenka reigns in Wuhan

SHANGHAI, Oct 13, (AP): Top-ranked Jannik Sinner beat Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win the Shanghai Masters on Sunday, giving the Italian his tour-leading seventh title.

The Italian bettered the 24-time Grand Slam champion 7-6 (4), 6-3 in an hour and 37 minutes and never faced a break point in the outdoor hard-court tournament. Sinner hit eight aces and 22 winners to four and 12, respectively, for Djokovic.

Djokovic was aiming for his 100th tour-level title and his fifth in Shanghai. Only Jimmy Connors with 109 titles and Roger Federer with 103 have hit the century mark in men's tennis.

Sinner became the first man to win more than six titles in a season since Andy Murray won nine in 2016. He also

pulled level in his career record against Djokovic, now at four wins apiece.

“It was a very tough match, obviously, playing against Novak is one of the toughest challenges we have,” Sinner said. “It’s tough to tell you a secret about (Djokovic) because he doesn’t have any weaknesses. You have to try and use the small chances that he gives you, but there are not many during the match. He is a legend of our sport, he’s very tough to play against, so I am very happy.”

The victory for Sinner came after he lost the final of the China Open in Beijing to Carlos Alcaraz and amid an ongoing doping case.

The 23-year-old Sinner is now 8-2 against top-5 opponents on hard courts this year, with both losses coming against Alcaraz, who watched Sunday’s final from the stands.

The 37-year-old Djokovic played in China for the first time in five years.

He also lost to Sinner in the Australian Open semifinals.

His only title for the year so far was at the Paris Olympics, where he beat Alcaraz for the gold medal.

“I think I played some really good tennis, but congratulations to Jannik,” Djokovic said. “He was just too good today. Too strong, too fast, well done. You’re having an incredible year. You deserve this.”

Aryna Sabalenka won the Wuhan Open for a third year after beating Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 in the final.

The second-ranked Sabalenka claimed her fourth title of the season, which included the Australian and U.S. Open.

The Belarussian player took her record at the tournament to 17-0.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot against Jannik Sinner of Italy during the men's singles finals match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)



Jannik Sinner of Italy celebrates with his trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the men's singles finals match for the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

Pakistan brings in spinners to counter England's top-order batters

Babar, Shaheen and Naseem left out for remaining tests

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 13, (AP): Pakistan dropped a number of players including Babar Azam on Sunday as it rung in the changes for the remaining two test matches against England after suffering a historic innings and 47 runs defeat in the first test at Multan.

Babar, who hasn't scored a half century in his last 18 test innings, was also released from the 16-member squad along with fast bowlers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and reserve wicketkeeper Sarfaraz Ahmed.

“We’ve had to carefully consider current form of the player and the urgency to bounce back in the series,” said Aqib Javed, one of the members of the selection committee. “In the best interest of Pakistan cricket as well as the players, we’ve made the decision to rest Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Shaheen Shah Afridi.”

Javed said that the “break from international cricket” will help the rested players to regain their fitness, confidence and composure.

“They remain some of our finest talents with much more to contribute to Pakistan cricket,” Javed said. “We are fully committed to supporting them during this period so they can come back even stronger.”

Uncapped Haseebullah replaced Sarfaraz as Pakistan also brought in spinners Noman Ali, Sajid Khan and

Zahid Mahmood to counter England's top-order batters in the remaining two test matches with slow bowlers. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed was ruled out of the series after he was hospitalized during the first test due to fever.

Pakistan is planning to play the second test on the same pitch where it became the first team to lose a test match after posting 500-plus runs in the first innings. Harry Brook's scintillating triple century and Joe Root's patient 262 helped England amass 823-7 declared as Pakistan capitulated for 220 in the second innings inside the first session on the fifth and final day to trail 1-0 in the series.

Another uncapped player, Kamran Ghulam, who has been scoring consistently in domestic cricket, will likely replace Babar at No. 4 and make his debut in the second test, starting Tuesday.

Pakistan has failed to claim 20 wickets in five of its last six test matches with captain Shan Masood losing all six games. Both Afridi and Naseem were among six Pakistan bowlers to concede more than 100 runs in England's record-breaking first-innings score at Multan that was reached at a rate of more than five runs an over.

Since scoring 161 against New Zealand at Karachi in December 2022, Babar has struggled in red-ball cricket – both at home and abroad. Root

top score of 41 came against Australia at Melbourne last year. Babar also struggled in the previous home series against Bangladesh, scoring only 64 in four innings before he made 30 and 5 in the first test against England.

It had been a turbulent year for Babar since he was recalled as white-ball captain earlier in 2024. Pakistan could win only against Ireland in a bilateral T20 series before making an early exit from the T20 World Cup after losing group matches to the United States and archrival India.

Babar quit the white-ball captaincy earlier this month, saying he wanted to focus on his batting. However, Pakistan's premier batter struggled against England on a flat wicket in Multan where three of his teammates – captain Shan Masood, Abdullah Shafique and Salman Ali Agha – scored centuries in the first innings.

The Pakistan Cricket Board reconstituted its selection committee hours after Pakistan lost the first test, including Javed, former ICC umpire Aleem Dar, former captain Azhar Ali and analyst Hasan Cheema.

Squad: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel, Aamer Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraiba, Mohammad Rizwan, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmo



England's Nat Sciver-Brunt, second left, celebrates the wicket of Scotland's Saskia Horley with her teammates during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 match between England and Scotland at Sharjah Stadium, United Arab Emirates. (AP)
— See Page 14

Sports

Pizzi urges players to put the loss behind them

Kuwait aims to rebound against Palestine in World Cup qualifiers

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Oct 13: Kuwait will conclude its training session at 7:30 PM today in the Qatari capital, Doha, at Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, home of Al-Sadd Club. The session is in preparation for its match against the Palestine in the fourth round of the third phase of the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, in Group Two.

The Blues' Argentine coach,

Juan Pizzi, has focused on correcting the mistakes made during their previous match against Oman last Thursday in the third round, which ended in a 4-0 defeat for Kuwait.

This loss dropped Kuwait to fifth place with only two points. South Korea and Iraq is currently tied for the top spot with 7 points each, followed by Jordan with 4 points, Oman with 3 points, and Palestine in last place with 1 point.

In a meeting before training, Piz-

zi urged the players to put the loss against Oman behind them and focus on delivering a stronger performance. He encouraged the team to give their all in order to secure a positive result that would keep their qualification hopes alive.

In related news, the Qatari Football Federation has announced the opening of a special outlet for ticket sales for the match between Kuwait and Palestine. Tickets can be purchased through an online link

on the Federation's official website, along with other sales points.

The match between Kuwait and Palestine will be officiated by a Qatari referee team led by international referee Abdulrahman Al-Jassim, with Taleb Salem and Saud Ahmed as assistants, and Mohammed Al-Shammari as the fourth official. In the VAR room, Abdullah Al-Athba and Zahi Al-Shammari will oversee the video reviews.

The Palestine arrived in Doha

and has begun training. Due to the current regional situation, the team has chosen Qatar as the venue for its home matches. Palestine arrived from Basra, where they faced Iraq in the third round and lost 1-0.

A press conference for the Kuwait national team will be held today at 11:00 AM in the conference hall at Al-Sadd Club. The Palestine national team's press conference will take place afterward, with a coach and a player from each team attending.



Juan Pizzi

Ronaldo scores again for perfect Portugal



Spain's Mikel Oyarzabal, left, and Denmark's Morten Due Hjulmand battle for the ball during the UEFA Nations League Group 4 soccer match between Spain and Denmark in Murcia, Spain. (AP)

Spain strikes late to edge Denmark

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 13, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored his record-extending 133rd international goal to keep Portugal perfect in the Nations League with a 3-1 win over Poland, and Spain struck late to edge Denmark 1-0.

The 39-year-old superstar was there to put in the rebound after Rafael Leão's shot hit the post in the 37th minute. That made it 2-0 following Bernardo Silva's opener in Warsaw in the 26th.

After failing to find the net in his five appearances at this summer's European Championship - with Portugal exiting in the quarterfinals - Ronaldo has scored in three straight Nations League matches, including in wins over Croatia - his 900th career goal - and Scotland last month.

Portugal coach Roberto Martínez replaced Ronaldo with Diogo Jota with just under half an hour to play.

Midfielder Piotr Zielinski halved the deficit in the 78th for the hosts, only for Southampton defender Jan Bednarek to score an own-goal with two minutes left.

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski started alongside Karol Swiderski but the Polish attacking pair couldn't find their way past the Portuguese defense.

"We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," Martínez said. "Also, I am satisfied how Renato Veiga and Rúben Dias performed against one of the best in the world (in Lewandowski)." Portugal leads Group A1 with nine points from three games. Second-place Croatia has six points after it came back to beat Scotland 2-1 in Zagreb with the

visitors having an equalizer deep into second-half stoppage time ruled out by VAR. Poland has three points, and Scotland zero.

Scotland's Ryan Christie opened for the Scots and their under-fire manager Steve Clarke in the 33rd. Igor Matanovic leveled three minutes later and Andrej Kramaric completed the fight-back in the 70th.

Scotland had the ball in the net right at the end with substitute Che Adams involved but VAR confirmed it was offside.

Martin Zubimendi helped Spain crack Denmark's defense as the holding midfielder starred in place of injured Rodri.

The Real Sociedad player unleashed a powerful volley in the 79th to smash a rebound from outside the area past Kasper Schmeichel, who got his hand on the ball but couldn't keep it out.

Zubimendi had impressed in the final of Euro 2024 when he replaced Rodri for the second half of Spain's 2-1 win over England. Rodri seriously injured his right knee and required surgery on his ACL while playing for Manchester City last month.

Spain was also missing Nico Williams and Dani Olmo, two more players who excelled at the Euros, who are sidelined with minor injuries.

Spain, the defending Nations League champion, has seven points in Group A4 after three games. Denmark has six points, and Serbia has four after beating the pointless Switzerland 2-0.

The Swiss didn't help their cause with an own-goal by Nico Elvedi right before the interval.

Aleksandar Mitrovic doubled the lead for Serbia with a solo effort in the 61st, and Serbia goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic saved a penalty taken by Brel Embolo.

Kosovo won 2-1 at Lithuania in League C, while Romania thumped Cyprus 3-0, Northern Ireland drew 0-0 at Belarus, and Bulgaria was held 0-0 at home by Luxembourg.



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo attempts a shot on goal during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Poland and Portugal at Narodowy stadium in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

Al-Sahou to lead new transitional committee

'No member of Jahra Club's General Assembly will be removed'

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 13: Sahou Al-Sahou, head of the newly formed transitional committee of Al-Jahra Club, affirmed his commitment to maintaining neutrality and fairness for all members, without exceptions. He emphasized that no member of the club's general assembly would be excluded based on their views or affiliations.

Al-Sahou expressed a vision for making club membership registration available online, ensuring equal access and eliminating concerns over potential exclusion. He emphasized that every individual should have an equal opportunity to participate.

The general assembly of Al-Jahra Club convened yesterday at the club's headquarters under heightened security, with officers from the Ministry of Interior present. During the meeting, the assembly elected a transitional committee led by Sahou



Sahou Al-Sahou, head of the newly formed transitional committee of Al-Jahra Club.

Fayhan Al-Sahou. The committee also includes Mansour Mohsen Al-Khalidi, Fahd Kuhlailan Al-Ajmi,

Ahmed Atiq Al-Thaidi, and Badr Hajjaj Al-Alaati.

This committee was proposed

by Khaled Al-Jarallah, Khalaf Al-Sahou, Khaled Al-Sarbal, Tariq Al-Shammari, and Saud Al-Hajraf.

Al-Sahou explained that he accepted this role to support the club's players, technical and administrative staff, and employees. The committee's mandate is for 90 days, after which they will seek formal approvals from the Kuwait Olympic Committee and the Public Authority for Sports to expedite procedures. Following the regulations, the club will proceed to elections to appoint a new council. Al-Sahou highlighted that the general assembly holds ultimate decision-making power, and he remains open to cooperation with all members, acknowledging that differences of opinion should not overshadow the unity and camaraderie within the club. He also expressed gratitude to the general assembly for entrusting him and the other committee members with this responsibility.

INEOS penalized for not keeping clear

New Zealand opens up 3-0 lead over Britain in America's Cup final

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 13, (AP): Emirates Team New Zealand nailed INEOS Britannia with a penalty and opened up a 3-0 lead in the first-to-seven wins finals of the 37th America's Cup on Sunday.

Britain was hit with a 75-meter penalty for not keeping clear when the two boats came feet from colliding in the pre-start jockeying for position. The Kiwis' Taihoro foiling yacht cruised through the six laps and won by 52 seconds.

Now the team that is backed by the design expertise of the Mercedes Formula 1 team must rebound big if its wants to win Britain's first ever America's Cup in its 173-year history.

For the Kiwis, they are four wins away.

New Zealand skipper Peter Burling

said that they had planned to steer aggressively in the pre-start, and it paid off. They had the right of way being the windward boat when they bore down on the Brits before turning late, and the Britannia was a tad slow to react as their foils almost touched.

"We tried it yesterday but they just got past us. It was a little bit uncomfortable to be honest with how close the boats got," Burling said about the maneuver. "But the umpire obviously thought we were pretty clear there, so it was great to get the penalty and control the race from there."

Britannia was more than 600 meters behind when the lead boat crossed the finish line off the Barcelona beachfront. "I am sure it's a tough call, it let like we were keeping clear, but obviously the umpires didn't see it that



Ineos Britannia and Emirates Team New Zealand race during the Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup Day 2 race in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

way," Britannia skipper Ben Ainslie said about the penalty. "We just got to keep upbeat. There is a long way to go in this competition, we just got to keep pushing."

Britannia largely avoided any costly mistakes and technical mishaps, until now.

On Saturday, Britannia was hampered by a battery meltdown just minutes before Race 1. New Zealand dominated both the opening regattas to make a perfect 2-0 start.

New Zealand is trying to win the Auld Mug, the oldest trophy in international sport, for a third straight time and fifth overall.

As defender, New Zealand was guaranteed a spot in the final. Britain had to fend off four other challengers to make its first final in six decades.

Despite not having raced competitively for a month, the Kiwis have shown they are still very much in championship form.

Race 4 was scheduled for later on Sunday, but it was pushed back after winds died down below the 6.5-knot minimum.

A couple thousand local residents held a protest against the hosting of the America's Cup near the old port where the team bases and fan zones are located on Sunday.

Some locals link the hosting of international events like the regatta with the already huge presence of tourists in the Mediterranean city. They argue that tourists fuel skyrocketing rents via short-term rentals of apartments and that many areas of the city now cater far too much to tourist appetites and interests.