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## Opinion

Dear government, move as the leadership wants you to move

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE policies of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad have greatly benefited the country, particularly after it faced several challenges that harmed its economy and reputation both locally and internationally, and impacted society as a whole.

As we highlight these policies, it is important to understand that they are still in their early stages and the Council of Ministers need to complete them by amending laws and taking into consideration the draft constitutional amendments by committees with extensive expertise in this area either from within Kuwait or with the assistance of international experts.

This is the only way to ensure the continued development of the country and to realize His Highness the Amir's vision.

Since the nation's independence, His Highness has lived alongside its Sheikhs, got to know them well and understood their aspirations, as well as observed the efforts of all institutions.

Having held several sensitive positions for a while, he is fully aware of the root causes of the flaws and the suffering faced by the people.

As His Highness stated in one of his speeches, "Despite our dissatisfaction with certain decisions, we had to listen and obey, because obeying the ruler is obeying the Almighty."

As a result, His Highness's announcement of this delicate surgical procedure marks the beginning of a lengthy process to address all the negative effects stemming from the period after Kuwait's liberation, with indicators that first emerged prior to the invasion and became firmly established thereafter.

As a statesman, His Highness fully understands the consequences of National Assembly members interfering with executive authority, as well as the ways in which the deep state attempts to thwart legislation and undermine institutions.

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# Foreign remittance tax seen as Kuwait's revenue booster



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Towering skyscrapers dominate Kuwait's skyline, bustling with businesses and embodying the nation's vibrant spirit.

'Taxation essential for funding infrastructure, curbing counterfeit goods'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: An economic and legal expert Adhbi Al-Tahnoon urged the government to diversify its sources of income to prevent deficits in the upcoming budgets.**

He indicated that the current 2024/2025 fiscal year is projected to experience a deficit of KD 5.6 billion, with deficits likely to persist in future fiscal years

due to ongoing increases in expenditures exceeding revenues.

Expressing his concern over the decline of the Kuwaiti economy in recent decades compared to other countries in the region, Al-Tahnoon affirmed the importance of working on boosting non-oil revenues.

He suggested expanding into various sectors, such as heavy industries, pharmaceuticals, food products, agriculture, and tourism.

**Implementing Taxes**

In a press statement, Al-Tahnoon proposed the introduction of a tax system, but under specific criteria. The most crucial among them is enhancing state services for

citizens in all sectors, improving health and education services, building new roads, and fixing any existing flaws.

He highlighted that the poor condition of the roads has negatively impacted the vehicles of both citizens and foreigners.

Al-Tahnoon explained that taxes can benefit the state in several ways, primarily by protecting local industries from foreign competition, especially regarding imported goods. Implementing a tax system would also diversify the state's revenues and prevent the national economy from continuing as a single-income system indefinitely. This diversification would ultimately lead to an increase in Kuwaiti products.

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Sinwar's death sparks new phase in Hezbollah fight

Joint session to sign accords

## Kuwait backs Palestinians via diplomatic, political channels

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait has consistently supported the Palestinian cause and rights through political, diplomatic, and humanitarian efforts, a Kuwaiti official has said.

Speaking before the UN's Second Committee on Economic Affairs concerning Palestine, Abdullah Bu Abbas, Kuwait's diplomatic attaché, emphasized, "Kuwait stands firmly with Palestine, recognizing it in the international community and participating in global political efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause and end Israeli occupation."

Bu Abbas affirmed that Kuwait has spared no effort in pursuing this goal through all available channels, urging the international community to support Palestinians who have long endured Israeli aggression.

He also stressed the severe economic challenges facing Palestine, which hinder its stability and development. Bu Abbas pointed to the ongoing conflict, political instability, and the Israeli blockade that has severely impacted key sectors such as agriculture, indus-



Smoke rises from an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024. (AP)

try, and trade.

Citing a UN report from last May, he noted that over 80 percent of Gaza's population lives below the poverty line. He also highlighted that approximately

5.8 percent of agricultural and food industries in the West Bank have nearly ceased operations.

The situation in Gaza remains dire, with little improvement in access to

humanitarian aid or healthcare in recent weeks, he warned. Bu Abbas further underscored the importance of UN Security Council resolutions regarding the protection of civilians in Palestine.

Kuwait Permanent Representative to UN: UNRWA lifeline to millions of Palestinians

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai, emphasized that UNRWA is a lifeline for millions of Palestinian refugees in the region and occupied Palestine. His statement followed a press conference at the UN headquarters on Thursday, where 123 nations reaffirmed their support for the agency. This show of backing stemmed from an initiative launched by Kuwait, Jordan, and Slovenia in May to express solidarity with UNRWA.

Ambassador Al-Banai reiterated the global commitment to UNRWA, cautioning against the severe consequences of halting the agency's operations and responsibilities toward Palestinians.

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## Kuwait, Bahrain set for high-level talks



KUNA photo

Kuwait Ambassador to Manama Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

MANAMA, Oct 19, (KUNA): Kuwait Ambassador to Manama Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said Saturday that the Kuwaiti-Bahraini joint committee reflected mutual desire for cooperation in line with the directives of both countries' leaderships.

This came in a statement by the ambassador to KUNA, on the occasion of the 11th session of the Kuwaiti-Bahraini high joint committee that would be held in Kuwait, Sunday, headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and his Bahraini counterpart Dr. Abdullah Al-Zayani.

He pointed out that the meeting would follow up on the implementation of previously signed investment, economic and trade agreements.

He added that it would also witness the signing of more accords and Memoranda of Understandings (MoU) that would serve the common interests and enhance security, stability and prosperity of both sides.

## New regulations for charities announced

### NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Ministry of Social Affairs has issued a circular introducing new controls for the internal disbursement mechanisms of charitable associations and foundations, aimed at enhancing transparency and streamlining financial procedures, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The controls include the following:

- Financial aid must be transferred exclusively through banks.
- Checks will only be issued in necessary cases.
- Financial transactions will be facilitated through electronic linking between the Ministry and banks.
- Prior approvals will not be required for certain routine banking operations to ease the work of charitable organizations.

This circular follows a meeting held yesterday, led by Acting Undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, who praised the collaboration between local banks and the Ministry's departments responsible for charitable societies.

The Ministry also announced plans to update its automation system for managing charitable associations, ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in financial operations.

Meanwhile, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, urged the senior officials and employees of the Public Authority for the Disabled Affairs to collaborate diligently as a unified team to drive the development forward, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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## PACI removes 408 addresses

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced in the official gazette "Kuwait Alyoum" that the residential addresses of 408 individuals have been canceled, either based on the declaration of the property owner or due to the demolition of the building.

According to PACI, these individuals must visit PACI office to register their new address within 30 days of the announcement, and provide the necessary supporting documents. Failure to do so will result in penalties as stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which imposes a fine not exceeding KD 100, multiplied by the number of individuals affected.

□ □ □

**KUWAIT CITY:** The Ministry of Electricity has announced that maintenance work on secondary transformer stations across the six governorates will begin on October 19 and will continue until October 26. As a result, some areas will experience temporary power outages during this period, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

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'Rapid connections vital to avert rumors spread'

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Boubyan Bank's net profits grow to KD 73.5 million until Sept end 2024

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Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship, participation in the third edition of "Watheefti" career fair

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Reba McEntire finds new on-screen family

Naval training exercises set

## Al-Muzain inspects military camps

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: On Friday morning, Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Pilot Salem Al-Muzain conducted an inspection of several military camps and sites, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During his visit, he received briefings from commanders and duty crews about their assigned duties, workflow mechanisms, and overall readiness.

The Chief of Staff stressed the importance of maintaining the highest levels of vigilance and combat preparedness, wishing the teams continued success in safeguarding the security and safety of the nation.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Army announced on Friday that the naval forces will conduct a maritime training explosion starting this Sunday until next Thursday, from 7 am to 6 pm

The Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations stated in a press release today that the training explosion will take place in the designated firing range, located 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Jlaiah, extending toward Failaka Island, and six nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zour, extending to Umm Al-Maradim Island.

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## Minister checks on preparations for upcoming 45th GCC Summit

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan inspected the Amiri Airport and Airport Road on Saturday to personally look into the ongoing preparations for the 45th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit that will be held in the country in December.

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushehri and acting Director General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAFR) Nasser Taqi accompanied Al-Mashaan during the inspection tour.

In a press statement after the inspection tour, Al-Mashaan revealed that the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) are in the process

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:32	Asr .....	14:48
Sunrise ..	05:51	Maghrib ..	17:14
Zohr .....	11:33	Isha .....	18:31

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some high clouds will appear.			
By Night: Rather hot to mild			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	37	24	
Kuwait Airport	38	23	

Abdaly	39	21
Bubyan	32	22
Jahra	39	26
Failaka Island	34	22
Salmiyah	33	28
Ahmadi	34	20
Jal Aliyah	38	22
Nuwaisib	38	-



PM Diwan photo  
Amir's Representative HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is seen off at the airport.

## Amir Rep leaves Brussels

BRUSSELS, Oct 19, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah left the Belgian capital Brussels on Friday after attending the first GCC-EU Summit.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to Belgium and head of the country's diplomatic missions to the EU and NATO Ambassador Nawaf Al-Enezi and embassy staff saw His Highness the Prime Minister and his delegation off.



Al-Seyassah photo  
Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari with Major General Khaled Al-Shuraian.

## Japan seeks 'upgrade' in defense ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Morino Yasunari hosted a dinner at his residence to strengthen Kuwaiti-Japanese defense ties, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event was attended by Major General Khaled Al-Shuraian, Commander of the Air Defense Forces, alongside former commanders of the armed forces, military attachés accredited to Kuwait, and foreign officers, reflecting the long-standing Kuwaiti-Japanese relations and continued defense cooperation.

During the event, Ambassador Yasunari expressed his deepest condolences on the passing of Captain (Pilot) Mohammad Abdul Rasool, acknowledging his dedication to serving Kuwait.

The ambassador highlighted the strong friendship between Japan and Kuwait, recalling Japan's contributions, such as sending ships from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force to clear sea mines off the coast of Kuwait and deploying personnel from the Japan Air Self-Defense Force to Ali Al Salem Air Base to support humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

He also expressed gratitude for Kuwait's support during that time, emphasizing the growing strength of defense relations between the two nations. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to exchange views on regional and international issues and deepen their mutual ties.



Photo by Samer Shaqair  
A huge crowd received the renowned singer Abdullah Al-Ruwaished at the airport.

## Joy as singer returns after recovering

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (Agencies): The joyful atmosphere at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Airport was electrified Thursday evening with the return of the beloved artist Abdullah Al-Ruwaished, known as the "Ambassador of Gulf Song," after his medical treatment in Germany.

A large crowd gathered early to celebrate his arrival, singing his iconic songs, expressing their love and longing.

The airport buzzed with excitement as family, friends, and fans welcomed Al-Ruwaished, including notable figures like Nabil Shuaib and Salem Al Hindi, who praised his contributions to music and the joy of his return.

Al-Ruwaished's son expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support, calling the day a celebration for all of Kuwait.

Despite his ongoing recovery, there are plans for a special concert to honor him once he regains his health.

Everyone present reflected on the deep admiration for Al-Ruwaished, emphasizing the significance of his homecoming and the warmth it brought to the hearts of many.

## 'Kuwait always supports war-hit countries'

### 'Global partnerships key to justice, stability'

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has emphasized that international partnerships are key to promoting global security, peace and justice. Shabib Al-Ajmi, Diplomatic Attaché of the Kuwaiti Mission to the UN, said this at a special session of the UN Economic and Financial Committee on global partnerships.

Kuwait will continue to support all international efforts aimed at realizing the interests and aspirations of the peoples and promoting justice and stability worldwide, Al-Ajmi said.

The Kuwaiti diplomat pointed out that in light of recent tragic developments in many parts of the world, global

partnerships emerge as a pivotal tool for achieving stability and addressing the dangerous repercussions.

In this regard, the State of Kuwait is a leading supporter of these partnerships and could do so through its active role in many international and regional organizations, he said.

He reaffirmed Kuwait's firm commitment to supporting conflict-affected countries and strengthening global stability in order to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the past decade, the State of Kuwait has provided humanitarian and development assistance to many coun-

tries affected by conflicts and disasters, contributing to reconstruction and funding infrastructure, education and healthcare sectors in these countries, Al-Ajmi indicated.

The Diplomatic Attaché shed light on the suffering of the Palestinian people, especially in the Gaza Strip, due to the fierce Israeli war that led to the widespread destruction of infrastructure, agricultural land, health and education sectors and the mass displacement of the civilian population.

He also spoke about the suffering of the Lebanese people, who are facing the same fate as a result of the ongoing "barbaric" attacks by the Israeli occupation.



KUNA photo  
Diplomatic Attaché of the Kuwaiti Mission to the UN Shabib Al-Ajmi speaking at the special session.

# 'Rapid connections vital to avert rumors spread'

## Challenges faced by spokespersons

By Mohammad Al-Musleeh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: In today's fast-paced digital age, official spokespersons in government agencies face multiple challenges in terms of the rapid dissemination of information and the proliferation of rumors.

Among the most prominent rumors that circulated within just a single month were the resignation of His Highness the Prime Minister, and the proposed amendments to the retirement law to reduce the end-of-service bonus. This sparked great panic among the public and created a state of anxiety, especially given the perceived timid response from the government.

### Media

From this standpoint, media observers are left questioning the whereabouts of some official spokespersons in government agencies in light of this wave of widespread rumors. They wonder why the government's responses from certain agencies often come only after these rumors have spread like wildfire among the public.

Observers explained that many journalists and media professionals are increasingly troubled by these issues. Some media personnel take the initiative to reach out to government agencies, only to encounter responses such as, "I apologize, I do not have sufficient information." This can come across as either a sign of the spokesperson's ignorance or a reluctance to share information. In some cases, agencies may choose not to respond at all or respond slowly.

It has also been observed that some official spokespersons hold multiple positions within the same entity, which makes it difficult to communicate quickly with them. They are in leadership positions that often involve continuous meetings, making it challenging to engage with them quickly. Therefore, it is essential for official spokespersons to be fully dedicated to their role of ensuring effective and timely communication with the public and the media.

One of the biggest challenges facing official spokespersons is keeping pace with rapid developments amid technological advancements and the prevalence of social media platforms.

The time required to prepare an official statement can often result in delays, as it necessitates approval from various sectors within the ministry. This delay can lead to a loss of control over the media narrative, especially compared to the quick dissemination of news on social media.

In many cases, spokespersons may find themselves in difficult situations when they do not have sufficient information to address rumors or circulating news. Journalists contacting them may encounter a lack of clear and accurate information, which further complicates the communication process.

### Communicate

This lack of information may stem from several factors, including the slow flow of information from government departments. In such situations, the official spokesperson faces a challenging choice - either remain silent, which may be interpreted as a confirmation of rumors, or issue a statement that lacks comprehensive facts.

While some sensitive issues do require a careful response, excessive delays in releasing official statements can heighten doubts and weaken citizens' confidence in the ability of government agencies to communicate effectively with the public.

In this context, a Professor of Media and Public Relations at Kuwait University Dr. Hussein Ibrahim affirmed that there are specific criteria and qualities to look out for when selecting an official spokesperson, which include a solid understanding of the agency's work and the ability to effectively engage with the public.

He explained that an official spokesperson must possess the ability to analyze problems and make quick decisions, tact, strong communication skills, and the ability to convey information accurately with the support of their deep knowledge of relevant topics.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq  
Minister Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah leads the 'white cane procession'.

## White cane walk is effort to prop up impaired people: Al-Huwailah

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed on Saturday that participation in the "white cane procession" is part of the efforts for supporting people of impairment and boosting their social role.

The minister in remarks to KUNA during her participation in the march, organized by the Kuwait Blind Association, marking the Global White Cane Safety Day, affirmed that the rod is a key tool in the hands of this segment of people.

The white cane, according to reports by the World Health Organization, is a tool that helps them be independent and integrate with the surrounding.

Fayez Al-Azmi, the society chair, said in remarks to KUNA that the association has been receiving since inception 50 years ago support from various parties and institutions in the

country in line with instructions by the supreme leaders.

The society has throughout its history made several accomplishments, namely establishing the center for youth under 18 to care for the blind, the Quran publishing center by the Braille method and Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad sports facility.

He mentioned other achievements, namely the electronic library, the holding of conventions and seminars, organizing training courses and programs. In February, the society will organize an Arab-level conference and a Gulf sports tournament.

Meanwhile, the society secretary, Mansour Al-Enezi said the association dedicates special attention for cyber security and artificial intelligence.

The Global White Cane Safety Day falls on October 15 aims at backing the blind to be self sufficient and independent.

## Violations seen in multiple co-ops

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Informed sources from the Ministry of Social Affairs have disclosed that the audit reports from four cooperative societies have identified several violations, which will soon be presented to Minister Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah for appropriate action.

The affected societies include one located in the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Gov-

ernorate, two in the Capital Governorate, and one in Hawalli Governorate.

A special Fatwa and Legislation Committee, established by the minister, will review these reports and submit recommendations.

The sources anticipate potential outcomes, including the dissolution of the boards of these cooperatives or the dismissal of certain members.

Minister Al-Huwailah is expected to make decisive moves in the interest of shareholders.

## Two PAI senior officials probed in funds scam

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel has issued directives to refer a department manager and a section head at the Public Authority for Industry to the Public Prosecution citing allegations of financial misconduct and waste of public funds, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting reliable MCI sources.

The same sources indicated that this referral was based on the findings of an investigation committee report regarding violations related to industrial plots and areas that have been developed. The committee was established by the Authority earlier.

While noting that the committee's third report concluded with their indictment, the sources clarified that the Minister of Commerce has referred a significant number of violations to the Public Prosecution and the Public Authority for Anti-Corruption (Nazaha) as part of the ministry's serious efforts to combat corruption.

# Daman health insurance system to create 6,000 jobs for Kuwaitis

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Some officials at the Health Insurance Hospitals Company (Daman) visited the Daman Hospital in Ahmadi and Daman Fahaheel Center to check the readiness of the health insurance system in the presence of a group of doctors with various medical specializations.

Director of Medical Services at Daman Dr. Anwar Al-Rashed disclosed that Daman was established in 2014 as per the Amiri directive to include it in the National Development Plan (New Kuwait 2035), as a partner and supporter of the health system in all related fields.

He affirmed that the system contributes to providing integrated healthcare services by managing a comprehensive system of primary healthcare centers and hospitals with high capacity; in addition to a wide range of support medical services, such as medical laboratories, radiology centers, pharmaceutical services, ambulance and medical training facilities.

He said Daman is the first healthcare facility in the Middle East founded through public-private partnership (PPP), in addition

to the first public subscription for a healthcare facility in Kuwait. He revealed it is the first in the region that offers medical services through the integrated health maintenance system (HMO). "Once the Daman health system is fully operational, it will generate more than 6,000 jobs for Kuwaitis and others in the new healthcare industry," he stressed.

Member of the Board of Directors of Daman and Advisor to the CEO Khaled Al-Abdulghani stated that "Daman Hospital in Ahmadi is considered a great edifice and a national project that makes us proud as Kuwaitis. It competes with international hospitals in terms of building, area, medical equipment, and professional and administrative technical staff."

Al-Abdulghani disclosed that the company owns Ahmadi Hospital, a hospital in Jahra and a number of centers in different parts of the country to cater to the largest number of people benefiting from its services, not to mention being a distinguished medical architectural edifice.

He added the health insurance hospitals constitute a health system equipped with the most advanced medical devices, but it is not the

end of the company's aspirations. "We are continuing towards more development and progress. In the future, citizens will be jealous of expatriates, because of the medical equipment prepared for them in the health insurance hospitals. The operation of health insurance hospitals will reduce pressure and congestion in government hospitals," he asserted.

Director of the Medical Engineering Department Eng. Hussein Al-Sayegh confirmed that all the facilities and devices of the insurance hospitals have been inspected and approved by the concerned authorities, through 15 committees that reviewed and audited everything related to the operational capabilities of the insurance hospitals to obtain the necessary licenses.

Al-Sayegh pointed out that the added value of the Daman system includes many modern medical equipment and devices according to international standards and in line with the number of targeted beneficiaries of expatriates in the State of Kuwait to support the national health system through distinguished services at Daman centers and hospitals as part of the economic reform plan and the New Kuwait 2035 vision.







# Capital Committee to address heritage, infrastructure issues

Delays and new initiatives in focus

By Inaas Awadh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** The Capital Governorate Committee in the Municipal Council will meet on Monday to discuss the following:

- Proposal of Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri on extending the service road parallel to Street 85 in

- Shamiya area, Block Eight;
- Request of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) to add the activity of a specialized training institute for teaching handicrafts and Al-Sadu engravings at Al-Sadu House;
- Request of the Ministry of Justice to reallocate a site for the Constitutional Court and the Capital Markets Court in Granada, Block Three;
- Proposal of Committee Chairman Dr. Hassan Kamal on the design and construction of longitudinal parking

lots for Dasma Cooperative Society, Block Five;

The committee will also deliberate on the response of the executive body to the question of council member Dr. Hassan Kamal about the delayed implementation of the heritage village project in the Capital.

Kuwait Municipality had earlier attributed the delay to the investor's failure to fulfill his contractual obligations, so the Ministry of Finance issued administrative evacuation Decision No. 4/2019.

The Municipality also pointed out that its role in the project is coordinating with the Ministry of Finance to carry out the necessary construction and technical works, and preparing all conditions that ensure the preservation of the heritage buildings surrounding the project as per the Cabinet decision taken on Aug 14, 2023.

On the measures that will be taken to develop the project site, the Municipality said it will coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to discuss development of the project site after receiving it from the investor.

Meanwhile, council member Fahad Al-Abdul Jader said the Municipality's announcement about the adoption of a new system for impounding abandoned cars is the first fruit of cooperation between the Municipality and the council. He said the first step is to send a message to the car owner through the Sahel application; indicating the deadline for removal of the vehicle and its location, followed by a message to withdraw.

He added this cooperation is also considered the real implementation of the council members' suggestions.

He added in a post on his 'X' account that translating ideas and suggestions in the committees into projects that benefit the country is the type of cooperation desired to develop the services provided by the Municipality. He expressed appreciation to the executive body for implementing the proposal of Munira Al-Amir in the joint committee that prepared the cleaning regulations.



Al-Seyassah photo

Relief efforts for Sudanese refugees in Chad.

## Kuwaiti charity carries out food distribution to refugees in Chad

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** Khaled Al-Subaihi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Human Excellence Association, announced the launch of its relief efforts for Sudanese refugees in Chad, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The aid includes the distribution of

500 food rations, each containing 50 kilograms of flour, 50 kilograms of rice, 10 kilograms of sugar, and 5 liters of oil.

Additionally, the association will carry out 200 cataract removal surgeries and distribute copies of the Holy Qur'an to Qur'an memorization circles.

## SAB approves KD 170K evaluation Shuaiba North privatization cleared

By Mohammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** The State Audit Bureau (SAB) confirmed that it has no objection to extending its approval for the Supreme Council for Privatization to evaluate the assets of Shuaiba North Power Generation and Distillation Station at a cost of KD 170,000 and carry out the procedures for privatizing the station at a cost of KD 1.2 million.

The newspaper obtained a copy of SAB's letter to the council, emphasizing the need to take into account the commitment to Clause Eight of its circular no. 6/2018 on the rules and regulations that entities under its supervision must follow when submitting to prior oversight and adhering to the guide for preparing tender documents, draft contracts, commitments and agreements subject to prior oversight.

Sources point out this is an important step towards privatizing a vital station affiliated with the Ministry of Electricity in line with its development policies; which include involving the private sector in the development plan, increasing the electrical energy production capacity, and preparing the business environment.

Sources revealed the station has a production capacity of 875.5 megawatts through three gas turbine units, each of which has a capacity of 220 megawatts; in addition to a steam turbine with a capacity of 215.5 megawatts. Sources affirmed all of the station's units are ready for operation according to the requirements of the electricity grid.

Sources added the council is adopting the privatization of two projects -- first is the North Shuaiba Station and second is a strategic study on the privatization of the main workshops of the ministry.

Sources explained such a move is aimed at raising the level of productivity of the private sector, generating national income away from oil, detailed roadmap for the privatization process, and defining ways to raise the operational efficiency of the main workshops.



Al-Seyassah

Variety of plants at Omariya Nursery.

## PAAFR announces winter sale of plants, shrubs at Omariya Nursery

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** The Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources has announced the commencement of its winter sale and distribution of plants, set to begin this Sunday at Omariya Nursery, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The sale will feature a variety of plants and shrubs, including plant fences, flowering and decorative shrubs, ground covers, aromatic

plants, palm trees, as well as indoor and fungal plants.

The Authority highlighted the high demand and popularity of these plants in previous sales, offering them at symbolic prices.

The prices have been established in accordance with Resolution No. 1453 of 2020, which regulates the fees for utilizing the Authority's services.

## Nutritional services centralized

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** Minister of Health Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi issued a decision to transfer the technical affiliation of the therapeutic nutrition and catering services departments in all hospitals and health centers to the Nutrition and Catering Department.

The decision aims to achieve a unified and consistent level of nutritional care in hospitals and health centers under the ministry. Unifying technical affiliation contributes to ensuring adherence to the technical procedures

and standards; while guaranteeing the achievement of the highest standard of quality and safety in the catering services provided to patients and health sector workers.

The decision contributes to improving the level of control and supervision of the therapeutic nutrition and catering service departments; thereby, increasing the operational efficiency of these departments. It provides continuous technical support to specialized cadres to maintain high-quality nutritional services in line with modern health requirements and medical developments in this field.

## CAPT accepts twelve bids for Abdullah Al-Salem, Nuzha infrastructure designs

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) announced in its meeting held on Monday that it has accepted 12 bids from companies and excluded one in line with article 40 of the Tenders Law, for the tender related to studying and designing infrastructure improvement works in Abdullah Al-Salem and Nuzha. The lowest bid was submitted at a cost of KD 301,500, and the highest bid was KD 995,000.

According to informed sources, the accepted bids will be referred to the Ministry of Public Works for evaluation and the preparation of a technical recommendation within a month, in accordance with the Tenders Law. This will be followed by sending the recom-

mendation to CAPT to make the award decision in line with applicable regulations and laws.

The study and design for the aforementioned tender is part of the Ministry of Public Works' strategy and objectives to implement infrastructure improvement projects in all governorates.

Once the study and design are complete, a separate tender will be issued for the implementation in the Abdullah Al-Salem and Al-Nuzha areas. This upcoming tender will focus on improving the existing services, including sewage networks, road networks, rain drainage, telephone networks, lighting, and irrigation. The project will involve replacing current networks and establishing new lines and networks using the latest specifications and materials in the field.

## Kuwait Society unveils center for special needs students in Yemen

**ADEN, Oct 19, (KUNA):** Kuwait Society for Students Support on Thursday inaugurated Kuwait Center for Special Needs Cases to support 1,500 students of such cases per year in the town of Hadiboh, the central town in the Socotra archipelago.

The move is part of "Kuwait by your side" campaign, ongoing since nine years ago.

The society chairman, Abdullah Al-Sabej, said in a statement during the inauguration ceremony that the center features three floors, various classes, including some specially equipped for formative arts and handicrafts.

It is situated on a 875 sq-m plot of land, ceded by the landlord for the Kuwaiti association as a tangible gesture to help students of special challenges.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti society opens center for special needs in Yemen.

## CMA mulls work-from-home initiative

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19:** The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) is exploring a groundbreaking initiative aimed at achieving a better work-life balance in Kuwait through a flexible work model, reports Al-Rai daily.

This initiative seeks to transition 25 percent of its total workforce to remote work designed exclusively for employees, excluding supervisors and managers.

A recent survey indicated strong interest among staff, with a higher than anticipated percentage --exceeding the target of 20 to 25 percent -- expressing a desire to participate.

The preliminary concept outlines certain limitations, such as reduced financial benefits for those working remotely com-

pared to their in-office counterparts.

The CMA's relevant departments are actively developing the executive details for this initiative, balancing work flexibility with the goal of lowering operational costs.

Moreover, to ensure job discipline, specific administrative measures will be implemented for employees who do not fulfill their remote work responsibilities.

While the exact timeline for the implementation of the work-from-home initiative remains unclear, it is under study, along with other technical and financial aspects. The CMA is also establishing regulations and providing the necessary technical devices to facilitate remote work.



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Dear government,

Continued from Page 1

Indeed, any citizen who wishes to see their country advance alongside others will not be satisfied with the current state of affairs.

In this context, I recall that Kuwait faced a severe financial and economic crisis from 1980 to 1987. The late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad sought the assistance of foreign experts to address the issue, and he was successful.

He also established the Public Institution for Social Security, with its bylaws drafted by foreign specialists who had a deep understanding of the subject.

However, following these achievements, chaos ensued in the National Assembly, leading to its quick dissolution due to violations of the constitutional boundaries that govern the relationship between the National Assembly and the government.

This is what transpired last year when the actions of lawmakers caused many to lose faith in democracy and the National Assembly. As tensions escalated, sectarian and tribal banners began to emerge, overshadowing the banner of Kuwait.

For those with wisdom, this issue is serious and cannot be overlooked. Regardless of the reasons, this is why His Highness the Amir took courageous measures.

Therefore, accelerating the development of legislation, including constitutional amendments, is central to the current Council of Ministers' agenda, either through local expertise or international specialists.

All countries seek the assistance of external minds and expertise, especially when working to rebuild, develop, and strengthen state projects.

For instance, one neighboring country reached the brink of bankruptcy at one point, with proponents of divisive projects sharpening their swords against it. However, thanks to the wisdom of its leadership and their use of international experts, the country managed to avoid this dangerous slippery slope. Today, it stands as a beacon of development and modernity, serving as a model in the fight against corruption.

In today's turbulent world, while we have national expertise, it is necessary to introduce foreign minds to our own to support modern amendments that will benefit the country's future and protect it from potential crises.

We must establish both internal and external defense mechanisms, as everyone aspires for Kuwait to be on par with advanced countries, and even competitive in various fields, especially in the economic field. Kuwait should strive for strength comparable to that of Switzerland, and avoid any vulnerabilities that could lead to crises.

Al-Muzain inspects

Continued from Page 1

The Directorate urged all citizens and residents, including sea-goers and fishing enthusiasts, to avoid the mentioned area during the specified period to ensure everyone's safety.

New regulations

Continued from Page 1

During her meeting with the Authority's Director, deputies and supervisors, Minister Al-Huwailah discussed the Authority's operations and its responsibilities, particularly in facilitating services for individuals with disabilities and their families.

She addressed recent developments and ongoing issues related to these services, emphasizing the importance of resolving challenges and improving processes.

She called for the creation of future service plans that align with Kuwait's Vision 2030, stressing the need for collective efforts to achieve greater

accomplishments for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Minister Al-Huwailah highlighted the importance of unwavering commitment to high directives, collaboration, and serving Kuwait in a manner that fosters growth and progress while reiterating the continuous fight against corruption and the enhancement of services for persons with disabilities.

Minister checks

Continued from Page 1

of completing the maintenance of the Airport Road and Amiri Airport, as well as the preparations for the summit.

Al-Mashaan stressed the need to remove obstacles on the Airport Road and Amiri Airport and complete the preparations within the specified period, taking into account the importance of this road to ensure the safety and smooth flow of traffic for the guests who will attend the summit.

She called for speedy completion of the required work with the highest level of quality and efficiency according to the approved technical specifications and timetable.

Meanwhile, MPW announced on the same day the tender for automating its services and link them to the Sahel application. Sources said this tender is part of the ministry's relentless efforts towards digital transformation in line with the government's directive to automate services, including that of MPW, as one of the important service ministries. Through this tender, the ministry aims to facilitate procedures for citizens and companies to complete their transactions, sources affirmed.

Sources stated that the tender will be offered through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), such that the interested companies must submit their bids to the agency and then the ministry will study them. Sources added CAPT will award the contract to the best bidder.

Foreign remittance

Continued from Page 1

Financial Transfers

Al-Tahnoon supported the idea of imposing taxes on foreign financial transfers for both citizens and expatriates.

He highlighted that many countries worldwide implement such taxes, suggesting that a rate of five percent would not significantly impact the average expatriate worker.

Al-Tahnoon said, "Since most expatriate workers transfer relatively small amounts, the overall volume of transfers would represent substantial sums that could support the state treasury."

He indicated that there are hidden customs fees applied to imports under the names of multiple fees, including customs clearance. He supported the idea of these "hidden taxes" in favor of imposing clear taxes on products imported from abroad, affirming that this would increase the state budget income.

However, Al-Tahnoon stressed the need for government oversight of commercial companies to prevent them from raising prices under the guise of implementing special taxes.

He affirmed that customs taxes are commonly levied in most countries worldwide, and citizens would be exempt from them under a double taxation treaty, such as the one between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, adding, "if taxes are implemented, they would be relatively low, ranging from one to five percent."

At the same time, Al-Tahnoon called for concluding more of these agreements with various countries, stressing the importance of avoiding the imposition of income taxes altogether, as this could negatively impact citizens' budgets, particularly for those with limited incomes.

He said the private sector would be encouraged to accept fair and proportional taxes, provided they serve the public interest. However, he stressed

that increasing taxes on businesses could lead to a yearly decline in final profits, as the state would need to provide more facilities and support to the private sector.

Increasing Revenues

Al-Tahnoon explained that all forms of taxes will enhance and support the state's general revenues by providing stable incomes for funding infrastructure, services for citizens, and other projects. Taxation will help curb the sale of tainted and counterfeit goods, which negatively impact the earnings of government organizations, manufacturing facilities, and private businesses. Furthermore, imposing taxes will strengthen the state's efforts to combat tax evasion and protect consumers from adulterated and non-compliant products that may enter the market.

Ireland, for example, has successfully implemented a policy of balancing tax policies and promoting economic growth through a number of tax reforms. Therefore, it is important to establish a low tax system as a means to attract foreign investment.

Some new industrial facilities will be exempted from taxes. The overall tax burden on private sector businesses will be reduced. This approach has drawn foreign investment and spurred economic growth, incentivizing many capital owners to launch their enterprises in the first place.

The implementation of taxes in Kuwait will be in line with the initiatives of Gulf Cooperation Council countries with the aim of diversifying income sources, especially since the oil prices are not fixed.

Al-Tahnoon stated that Gulf countries have provided the opportunity to each country to enact internal legislation related to certain types of taxes, adding that when citizens see improvements in infrastructure and receive tangible benefits from the taxes they pay, they are more likely to support such measures.

He affirmed that taxes will have a positive impact on both current and future generations, and the implementation of conditional taxes can improve services and encourage better purchasing behavior among citizens.

Kuwait backs

Continued from Page 1

In other news, the Palestinian movement Hamas officially declared on Friday that the head of its politburo Yahya Sinwar had been assassinated.

Hamas' statement said Sinwar, 61, had been assassinated in a clash with forces of the Israeli occupation. He was in the forward ranks moving among combat position before his death.

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group said Friday it is entering a new phase in its fight against invading Israeli troops, as the region reckons with the killing of top Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in a battle with Israeli forces in Gaza.

Hamas acknowledged Sinwar's death and described him as a martyr. Sinwar was a chief architect of the attack on southern Israel that precipitated the latest escalating conflicts in the Middle East.

Many, from the governments of Israeli allies to exhausted residents of Gaza, expressed hope that Sinwar's death would pave the way for an end to the war, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech announcing Sinwar's death that "Our war is not yet ended."

In latest development, the Israeli government said a drone targeted the prime minister's house Saturday, though there were no casualties, as Iran's supreme leader vowed Hamas would continue its fight following the killing of the mastermind of last year's deadly Oct. 7 attack.

Siens wailed in Israel warning of incoming fire from Lebanon. The military said dozens of projectiles were launched. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the drone targeted his house in the Mediterranean coastal town of Caesarea, though neither he nor his wife were home.

Newest central market poised to launch soon

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sabah Al-Ahmad City Cooperative Society Eng. Hamad Al-Marri recently shared exciting news with shareholders and residents about the upcoming opening of the central market in the third district, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Marri affirmed in a press statement that this market completes a system of five central markets in the city to serve residents round the clock, with spacious layouts and contemporary systems that enhance the shopping experience and ease of access to various goods.

He disclosed that since he assumed the post, the cooperative has launched the largest stationery festival in the country; which encouraged a number of specialized companies to provide essential supplies for students at competitive prices, supported by the cooperative with a purchase coupon worth KD60 for each family card. He said the festival was a resounding success; considering it generated more than KD600,000 in sales and benefited more than 8,000 shareholders.

He further noted that in line with a proactive marketing strategy; the cooperative hosted its largest marketing festival to date, featuring over 1,500 items. This festival offered a diverse range of products in substantial quantities to achieve its objectives.

Kuwait pushes for stronger Arab-Turkish economic ties



Kuwait's Finance Minister, second left, during the 15th Turkish-Arab Economic Forum in Istanbul.

Forum addresses trade barriers, new opportunities

ISTANBUL, Oct 19, (KUNA): Kuwait took part in the 15th Turkish-Arab Economic Forum that featured participation of high-level officials from the two sides.

Kuwait's Finance Minister and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, and Acting Oil Minister Nora Al-Fassam met with her Egyptian, Tunisian and Turkish counterparts in Istanbul late Thursday.

During the meeting, held on the sidelines of the 15th Turkish-Arab Economic Forum that brought together Arab and Turkish finance ministers in Istanbul on Thursday, they discussed ways of promoting joint cooperation and cementing fraternal ties.

The Kuwaiti minister underlined the significance of the pioneering role that countries should play in order to boost economic development, adding that removal of trade barriers would certainly lead to promoting interaction between Turkiye and the Arab world, with the possibility of accelerating Kuwaiti investments in Turkiye.

The one-day forum discussed a host of key economic and financial issues, including managing financial policy amid unstable economic conditions, and bolstering Turkish-Arab economic ties and others.

The event touched upon new opportunities in such emerging sectors as green energy, financial technology and logistic services.

Nora Al-Fassam chaired the Kuwaiti delegation at the forum.

The one-day event gathered ministers, experts, representatives, and economists from various institutions and the private sector to discuss key agenda items.

Al-Fassam said removing commercial barriers would enhance cooperation between Turkiye and the Arab world, with a possibility of facilitating Kuwaiti investments in



MoF photos  
Kuwait Finance Minister meets counterparts of Egypt, Tunisia, Turkiye in Istanbul.

Turkiye.

She pointed to the leading role of countries played in raising economic development.

Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance Mehmet Simsek said there is possible economic partnership between Turkiye and the Arab world, along with opportunities of integration between the two sides.

There are major challenges in the region, but there are also opportunities, he noted.

There is a state of uncertainty in terms of monetary and financial policies globally, and geopolitical tensions and disputes pose threats to economic system, he stated.

Furthermore, Egypt's Finance Minister Ahmad Kouchouk said relations between Turkiye and Egypt are based on benefiting the two sides.

Turkiye is a gateway to Asia and Europe, and there are also big opportunities to the Gulf and Arab states, he said.

Egypt continues its role as the strategic northern gateway to Africa, he said, noting that ties between Turkiye and Egypt have reached an extremely good level.

Exporters in Egypt have established robust ties with Turkish companies, and four big Turkish firms have signed key projects in Egypt, he said.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmad Aboul Gheit stressed the forum's significance as a platform for trade relations between the parties.

He said that this forum strengthens dialogue and provides an opportunity to debate problems, pointing to growing Turkish and Arab economic relations.

He pointed out that Turkiye has substantial know-how that can leverage opportunities arising from the Arab world.

He revealed that Turkiye's exports to the Arab world has totaled USD 46 billion annually, with imports of USD 36 billion.

Aboul Gheit stated that Turkiye and the Arab world could achieve a bilateral trade volume of USD 150 billion, underscoring Turkiye's well-developed infrastructure, including Turkish contractors who are involved in infrastructure projects across Asia and Arab countries.

He stressed the need of signing free trade deals as soon as possible, elaborating that they would help boost investment fields between the two sides.

The one-day forum discussed some key topics, including managing financial policy amid unstable economic conditions, and bolstering Turkish-Arab economic ties and others.

It touched upon new opportunities in the emerging sectors such as green energy, financial technology, logistic services and others.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

وزارة التجارة والصناعة

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Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from **20 OCT 2024** up to **14 NOV 2024** for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on **Monday, 25 NOV 2024 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES ( KD )
1	020840 - R2	AIR CONDITIONERS (COOLEX - GREE - PANASONIC) OR EQUIVALENT	15
2	022942 - R1	V - CONE FLOWMETER	5
3	024055 - R1	S/F H2S SENSOR TRANSMITTER/DETECTOR, DRAGER	5
4	024056 - R1	S/F ZEECO FLARE SYSTEM	25
5	026472	BALL VALVES	25
6	026474	AIR COMPRESSOR PACKAGE	50
7	026607	WATER INJECTION PUMP	35
8	026799	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS	25
9	026858	S/F 3-PHASE PRODUCTION SEPARATOR, JCI FILT. & SEPA. INC	35

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For additional information, you may contact: Tel No.: **23983639** - Ext. : **2502 - 3477**





Top: Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign rally at the Oakland Expo Center in Waterford Township, Michigan on Oct 18. Above: Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump arrives at a campaign rally on Friday in Detroit. (AP)

Time to ‘end the suffering’ in the Middle East: VP

Harris, Trump seek Arab American votes in Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Oct 19, (AP): Kamala Harris insisted it was time to “end the suffering” in the Middle East while Donald Trump visited one of the nation’s only Muslim-majority cities on Friday as the dueling presidential contenders fought for a small but pivotal bloc of Arab American voters in swing-state Michigan.

In a rare reference to Israel’s fight against Hamas and Hezbollah, Harris said, “This year has been very difficult, given the scale of death and destruction in Gaza and given the civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon.” She said the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar “can and must be a turning point.”

“Everyone must seize this opportunity to finally end the war in Gaza, bring the hostages home and end the suffering once and for all,” she said.

Trump, meanwhile, avoided any specifics about his plans for the Middle East, but he said he didn’t think the Arab American community would vote for Harris “because she doesn’t know what she’s doing.”

Later, he fought through technical glitches that silenced his microphone for almost 20 minutes at a rally in Detroit.

Michigan is one of three “blue wall” states that, along with Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, will help decide the election on Nov. 5. Diverse voting blocs are key to winning virtually any swing state, but Michigan is unique

with its significant Arab American population, which has been deeply frustrated by the Biden administration’s support for Israel’s offensive in Gaza following Hamas’ Oct 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Trump, who instituted a travel ban targeting Muslim countries while in office and has vowed to expand the ban to include refugees from Gaza if elected again, is trying to capitalize on the community’s frustration with the Democratic administration, despite his well-documented history of hostile rhetoric and policies.

There were modest signs Friday that he may be making progress.

The Republican nominee visited a new campaign office in Hamtramck, one of the nation’s only Muslim-majority cities, and was joined there by Mayor Amer Ghalib, a Democrat who has endorsed Trump. Meanwhile, three city council members in the same town have endorsed Harris.

“His visit today is to show respect and appreciation to our community,” said Ghalib, who presented Trump with a framed certificate of appreciation.

**Endorsement**

Trump’s allies have held meetings for months with community leaders in the state, which Biden carried by less than 3 points in 2020. Asked about the Hamtramck mayor’s endorsement, Trump said: “I mean, frankly, it’s an honor. I’ve got a lot of endorsements, Arab Americans, from a lot of people.”

Trump has held 15 separate events in Michigan dating back to April, when Biden was still the presumed Democratic nominee. Including a scheduled Saturday event in Detroit, Harris will have visited Michigan 11 times since she became the nominee, according to AP tracking of the campaigns’ public events.

**Foreign policy**

And while foreign policy rarely sways US elections, the war in the Middle East is a critical concern for many of Michigan’s Arab American voters.

Trump said Sinwar “was not a good person” when asked about the Hamas leader’s death. Sinwar, one of the architects of the Oct. 7 attack, was killed Wednesday by Israelis.

“That’s my reaction. That’s sometimes what happens,” Trump told reporters at the airport in Detroit.

Even as he reached out to disillusioned Arab American voters, Trump suggested he would end efforts to encourage Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to restrain military operations that have killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Even though Biden “is trying to hold him back ... he probably should be doing the opposite, actually,” Trump said.

Harris highlighted her support from the Arab American community as well.

On Friday, 52 Lebanese Americans endorsed Harris and her running mate,

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, saying in a letter that the voice of their community “will be heard” under the ticket’s leadership.

The letter reiterated calls for a cease-fire, and it cited a recent decision by the Department of Homeland Security to extend temporary legal status to Lebanese citizens in the U.S. Such status is made available to people from certain countries marred by war, turmoil or natural disasters.

But Harris has also faced demonstrators protesting U.S. support of Israel in the conflict. During a closed-door meeting Thursday with students at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she was confronted by a protester, according to a video posted by a pro-Palestinian student group on social media.

According to the video, as Harris was telling students she was invested in them, a protester interrupted her, asking, “And in genocide, right? Billions of dollars in genocide?”

A phalanx of Democratic governors - Maura Healey of Massachusetts, Wes Moore of Maryland, Tony Evers of Wisconsin, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Kathy Hochul of New York - campaigned with Harris earlier Friday.

Longtime Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow, a Democrat, emphasized that the army of top Democrats descending on the state was not a sign of panic, stating, “We have to run like we’re behind.”

US election discussed in private talks

Biden meets with European leaders, says West must keep aiding Ukraine

BERLIN, Oct 19, (AP): US President Joe Biden said it’s important for Ukraine’s Western allies to “sustain our resolve” in supporting the country as he met Friday with European partners, with the upcoming U.S. presidential election casting a long shadow over his visit to Germany.

Biden met Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, Ukraine’s second-biggest military supplier after the US. They were joined by French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer for discussions that also addressed the conflict in the Middle East.

With the election just weeks away and the race extremely tight, there are worries that a victory for Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, could upset the relationships that Biden is hoping to pass on to Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee.

Trump has an appetite for imposing trade tariffs on key US security partners. He has expressed indifference to the security of Ukraine, refusing to say during a presidential debate if he wants the US ally to win its war against Russia. He’s voiced doubts about coming to the defense of NATO members if

they come under attack.

The gathered leaders never uttered Trump’s name in public, yet their remarks often hinted at the possibility that he could withdraw support from Ukraine and scorn global alliances that Biden and his counterparts view as critical.

Biden in an exchange with reporters following his meeting with the three European leaders suggested that the US election was discussed in the private talks. Asked if the leaders were worried about the presidential race, Biden responded tersely, “They’re interested.”

Earlier in the day Biden emphasized the need to support Ukraine.

“As Ukraine faces a tough winter, we must - we must - sustain our resolve, our effort and our support,” Biden said.

Scholz said that “we will stand beside Ukraine as long as it is necessary,” pointing to a planned \$50 billion international loan package funded by interest on profits from frozen Russian assets.

“Our position is clear: We are supporting Ukraine as strongly as possible,” he added. “At the same time, we are taking care that NATO does not



Prime Minister Keir Starmer of the United Kingdom, US President Joe Biden, Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, and President Emmanuel Macron of France, (from left), look up after a family photo during a meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on Oct 18. (AP)

become a party to the war so that this war doesn’t culminate in an even bigger catastrophe.”

Scholz has indicated that he’s skeptical about aspects of a “victory plan” drawn up by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and says he will stand by his refusal to supply Taurus long-range cruise missiles to Kyiv.

Biden is also opposed to loosening restrictions on letting Ukraine use western weapons to strike deeper into Russia, but did not shut the door on the issue.

“In foreign policy, there’s never a ‘never will I change my mind,’” Biden said. “Right now there is no consensus on long-range weapons.”

Biden didn’t want his term to end without visiting Berlin, after having been to other key allies such as Japan, South Korea, France, India, the UK, Poland and Ukraine. The visit was a quick one, with Biden spending about 20 hours on the ground in Berlin.

Concerns about what might come next were reflected as Biden received the highest class of Germany’s Order of Merit, which was also bestowed on former US president George H.W. Bush in recognition of his support for German reunification.



A migrant intercepted in international waters and sent to a reception facility in Albania earlier this week, boards an Italian coast guard vessel at the port of Shengjin, Albania, with destination Italy after a court in Rome rejected their detention, on Oct 19. (AP)

1st migrants sent to Albania for processing returned to Italy

An Italian navy ship on Saturday took back to Italy the first 12 migrants from newly opened asylum processing centers in Albania following a court decision in Rome.

The court ruling on Friday represents an early stumbling block to a five-year deal between Italy and Albania for Tirana to host 3,000 migrants per month picked up by the Italian coast guard. They will be vet-

ted for possible asylum in Italy or to be sent back to their countries.

Italian Premier Minister Giorgia Meloni has hailed the deal as a new “model” to handle illegal migration.

The court in Rome rejected the detention of 12 of the migrants, arguing they cannot be sent back to their countries or origin -- Bangladesh and Egypt -- because the court did not deem them to be safe enough. (AP)

India’s remaining diplomats on notice not to harm Canadians, says Canada’s FM

TORONTO, Oct 19, (AP): Canada’s foreign minister said Friday that India’s remaining diplomats in the country are “clearly on notice” not to endanger Canadian lives after New Delhi’s top envoy in Canada was named a person of interest in the assassination of a Sikh activist.

India’s high commissioner was expelled Monday along with five other diplomats, prompting Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly to compare India to Russia, saying Canada’s national police force has linked Indian diplomats to homicides, death threats and intimidation in Canada.

Joly said Friday that Canada won’t tolerate foreign diplomats putting the lives of Canadians at risk.

“We’ve never seen that in our history. That level of transnational repression cannot happen on Canadian soil. We’ve seen it elsewhere in Europe. Russia has done that in Germany and the U.K. and we needed to stand firm on this issue,” she said in Montreal.

Asked if other Indian diplomats will be expelled, Joly said: “They are clearly on notice. Six of them have been expelled including the high commissioner in Ottawa. Others were mainly from Toronto and Vancouver and clearly we won’t tolerate any dip-



Security personnel stand outside the Canadian high commission in New Delhi, India on Oct 15 after India and Canada expelled each other’s top diplomats over an ongoing dispute about the killing of a Sikh activist in Canada. (AP)

lomats that are in contravention of the Vienna convention.”

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police went public this week with allegations

that Indian diplomats were targeting Sikh separatists in Canada by sharing information about them with their government back home. They said top Indian officials were then passing that information along to Indian organized crime groups who were targeting the activists, who are Canadian citizens, with drive-by shootings, extortions and even murder.

India, for its part, has rejected the Canadian accusations as absurd, and its foreign ministry said it was expelling Canada’s acting high commissioner and five other diplomats in response.

Canada is not the only country that has accused Indian officials of plotting an assassination on foreign soil. The U.S. Justice Department announced criminal charges against an Indian government employee Thursday in connection with an alleged foiled plot to kill a Sikh separatist leader living in New York City.

In the case announced by the Justice Department, Vikash Yadav, who authorities say directed the New York plot from India, faces murder-for-hire charges in a planned killing that prosecutors have previously said was meant to precede a string of other politically motivated murders in the United States and Canada.

Moldova to hold two pivotal votes

MAGDACESTI, Moldova, Oct 19, (AP): On a frigid evening in a village near Moldova’s capital, President Maia Sandu warned locals of Russian meddling as she seeks reelection and touted joining the European Union as the only way forward.

Her message came days before key votes that could help to determine the country’s future.

Sandu is seeking a second term in office in which she is opposed by several pro-Moscow candidates out of a total of 11. A “yes” or “no” referendum will also be held the same day on whether to enshrine the path toward joining the EU in the country’s constitution.

“This decision will influence our lives not only for the next four years,” the pro-Western president told the crowd from an outdoor bandstand in Magdacesti, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the capital, Chisinau. “This decision will influence our lives for decades to come.”



Renato Usatii, leader of the Our Party and presidential candidate, addresses supporters during the final day of electoral campaign in Chisinau, Moldova on Oct 18 before a presidential election and a referendum on whether to enshrine in Moldova’s Constitution its path to European Union membership. (AP)

America

**Train derails in south Louisiana:** Seventeen cars of a train derailed in south Louisiana on Friday, and several leaked a chemical used to sanitize swimming pools, but authorities said it was not a threat to the public.

It was not immediately clear what led to the Union Pacific Railroad train derailment around 7:30 a.m. in Donaldsonville, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) southwest of New Orleans. No injuries were reported, and no hazardous materials were involved, authorities said.

“We want the community to know that everyone is safe,” Ascension Parish Sheriff’s Lt. Col. Cody Melancon said in a statement posted on Facebook. “We have no hazardous material leaks at this time. We do have several trains derailed. There’s only a white powder substance on the ground that is non-hazardous, made to make medicine.” (AP)

AG, ex-sheriff face off in race: Former US Rep Dave Reichert, a two-term sheriff known for helping to hunt down a prolific serial killer, is trying to

become Washington’s first GOP governor in 40 years. But he faces a difficult hurdle in the Democratic stronghold against longtime Attorney General Bob Ferguson, a darling of liberals for his many lawsuits against the Trump administration.

The two candidates have spent months trading accusations of dishonesty, especially when it comes to abortion rights, as they fight to lead a state that hasn’t had an open race for its top job in more than a decade.

They are seeking to replace Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee, the longest serving governor in office in the country, who declined to seek a fourth term.

Reichert, 74, has struggled to gain widespread appeal among independent and moderate Democratic voters - or uni-



Reichert

fied support from the state Republican party, which endorsed a rival in the primary. And as ballots are sent out in the vote-by-mail state, his path to victory appears increasingly shaky. (AP)

Calif fire burns 2 homes: A fast-moving fire fed by strong winds burned two homes Friday and damaged several others in a hillside neighborhood in the city of Oakland, where roughly 500 people were ordered to evacuate, officials said.

Fire Chief Damon Covington said that at about 1:30 p.m., calls came in reporting a fire in front of a home in the Oakland hills. Crews arrived as the inferno quickly grew with winds ranging from calm breezes to 40 mph (64 kph) gusts during red flag conditions.

Michael Hunt, a spokesperson for the fire department, said one of the homes was significantly burned while the second suffered minor damage from the flames. Fewer than 10 other homes had smoke and water damage. Early reports had conflicting numbers of impacted structures. (AP)



## Charles visit rekindles Australia’s debate on ending ties to British monarchy

MELBOURNE, Australia, Oct 19, (AP): King Charles III and Queen Camilla arrived in Sydney on Friday for the first Australian visit by a reigning monarch in more than a decade, a trip that has rekindled debate about the nation’s constitutional links to Britain.

The Sydney Opera House’s iconic sails were illuminated with images of previous royal visits to welcome the couple, whose six-day trip will be brief by royal standards. Charles, 75, is being treated for cancer, which led to the scaled-down itinerary.

Charles and Camilla were welcomed in light rain at Sydney Airport by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, New South Wales state Premier Chris Minns and the king’s representative in Australia, Governor-General Sam Mostyn. Charles is only the second reigning British monarch to visit Australia. His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, became the first 70 years ago.

While the welcome has been warm, Australia’s national and state leaders want the royals removed from their constitution.

Monarchists expect the visit will strengthen Australians’ connection to their sovereign. Opponents hope for a rejection of the concept that someone from the other side of the world is Australia’s head of state.

The Australian Republic Movement, which campaigns for an Australian citizen to replace the British monarch as head of state, likens the royal visit to a touring act in the entertainment industry.

The ARM this week launched what it calls a campaign to “Wave Goodbye to Royal Reign with Monarchy: The Farewell Oz Tour!”

ARM co-chair Esther Anatolitis said royal visits to Australia were “something of a show that comes to town.”

“Unfortunately, it is a reminder that Australia’s head of state isn’t full-time, isn’t Australian. It’s a part-time person based overseas who’s the head of state of numerous places,” Anatolitis told the AP.

“We say to Charles and Camilla: ‘Welcome, we hope you’re enjoying our country and good health and good spirits.’ But we also look forward to this being the final tour of a sitting Australian monarch and that when they come back to visit soon, we look

forward to welcoming them as visiting dignitaries,” she added.

Philip Benwell, national chair of the Australian Monarchist League, which campaigns for Australia’s constitutional links to Britain to be maintained, expects reaction to the royal couple will be overwhelmingly positive.

“Something like the royal visit brings the king closer in the minds of people, because we have an absent monarchy,” Benwell told the AP.

“The visit by the king brings it home that Australia is a constitutional monarchy and it has a king,” he added.

Benwell is critical of the premiers of all six states, who have declined invitations to attend a reception for Charles in the national capital Canberra.

The premiers each explained that they had more pressing engagements on the day such as cabinet meetings and overseas travel.

“It would be virtually incumbent upon the premiers to be in Canberra to meet him and pay their respects,” Benwell said. “To not attend can be considered to be a snub, because this is not a normal visit. This is the first visit of a king ever to Australia.”



The Sydney Opera House sails show photos of Britain’s King Charles and Queen Camilla soon after their arrival in Sydney, Australia on Oct 18. (AP)

### Two-day trip an attempt to reset ties with Beijing

## UK’s foreign secretary urges China against supporting Russia’s military

BEIJING, Oct 19, (AP): Britain’s foreign secretary raised concerns about China’s support of Russia in its war against Ukraine, urging his Chinese counterpart to prevent Chinese firms from supplying to Russia’s military in a meeting in Beijing.

David Lammy made the comments as he made his first visit by a Cabinet minister to China since the Labor government took control in July. He met Friday with Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang and held talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi later the same day.

The two-day trip is an attempt to reset ties with Beijing after relations turned frosty in recent years over spying allegations, China’s support for Russia in the Ukraine war and a crackdown on civil liberties in Hong Kong, a former British colony.

While Britain’s government stressed that engagement with China was “pragmatic and necessary,” officials said Lammy raised thorny issues including Russia and human rights concerns in Hong Kong and China’s far-western Xinjiang province.

Lammy “stated how both the UK and China have a shared interest in European peace and ending the war. He reaffirmed that concerns over China’s supply of equipment to Russia’s military industrial complex risks damaging China’s relationships with Europe whilst helping to sustain Russia’s war,” the Foreign Office said in a statement after the meeting.

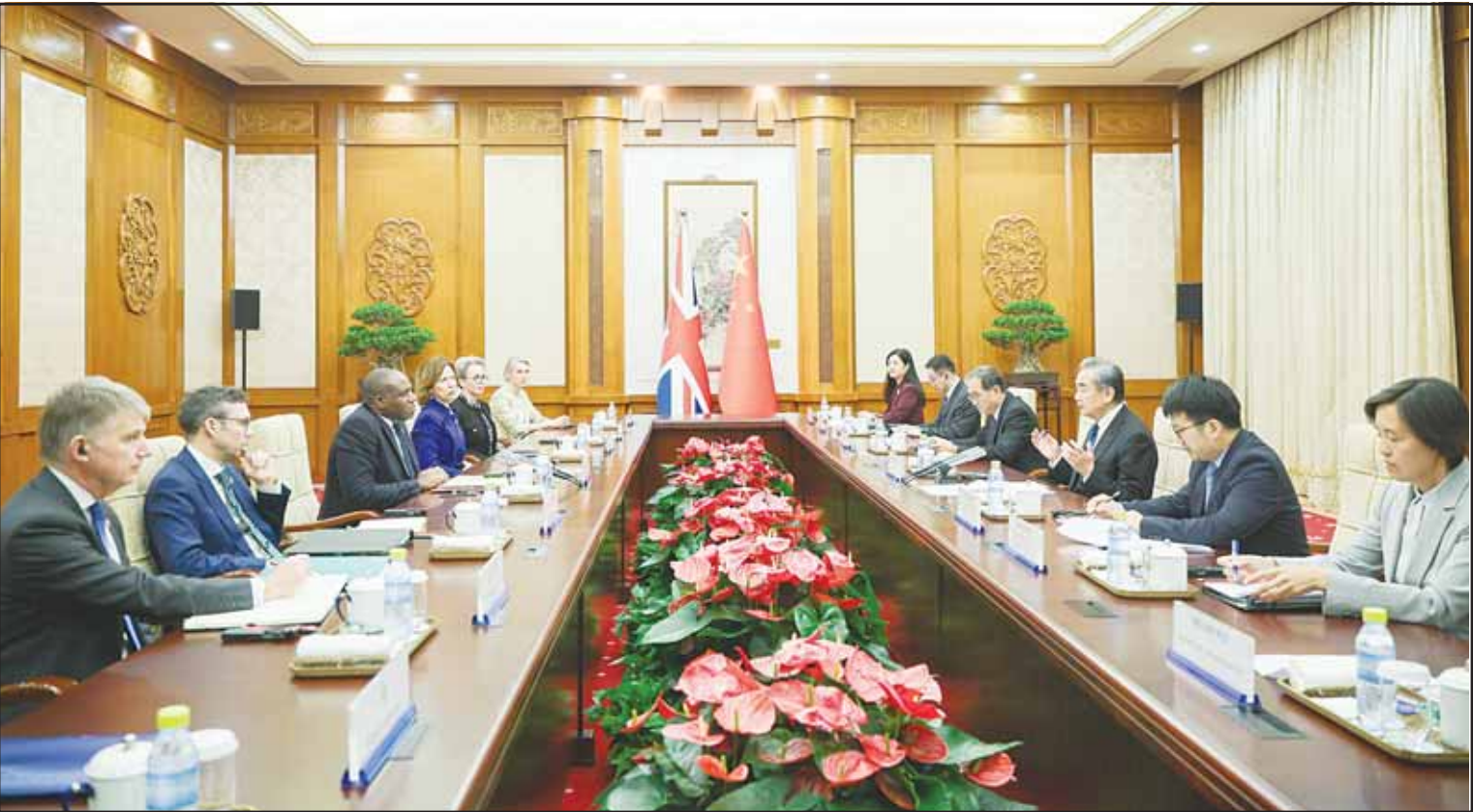
Lammy urged Wang to “take all measures to investigate and to prevent Chinese companies from supplying Russia’s military,” the statement said, adding the two sides agreed to continue discussions on this and other geopolitical issues such as the conflict in the Middle East.

The United States sanctioned two Chinese companies on Thursday for allegedly helping Russia build long-range attack drones used in the war in Ukraine. The Chinese Embassy in Washington said the allegations were false. Lammy also raised “serious concerns” about the implementation of a sweeping national security law in Hong Kong, and called for the release of Hong Kong publisher and activist Jimmy Lai.

Lai, 76, has been in custody since December 2020 and will testify in November for his defense in a landmark national security trial. He has British citizenship and his legal team has been pressing British authorities to do more to help him.

Before traveling to China, Lammy said it was important to speak “candidly” about “both areas of contention as well as areas for cooperation in the UK’s national interest.”

Human rights groups have demanded that Lammy press the Chinese government over its crackdowns on dissent in Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, holds talks with Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom David Lammy in Beijing, Oct 18. (Xinhua)



Police officers work near a vehicle, center, which was stuck against a barricade near the prime minister’s office (background), in Tokyo on Oct 19. (AP)

### Japan’s LDP HQs attacked, suspect arrested

A man threw several firebombs into the headquarters of Japan’s ruling party in Tokyo Saturday, then crashed his car into the fencing of the prime minister’s residence, Tokyo police said. There were no reports of injuries.

The man, identified by police as Atsunobu Usuda, 49, was arrested on the spot on charges of obstructing the performance of official duties, although additional charges can be added later.

Although the motive for the attack was not immediately clear, Japanese media reports said social media posts believed to be Usuda’s showed him complaining about the sums of money required to run for office under Japanese law, implying Usuda had political ambitions.

The media reports also quoted unidentified sources as saying Usuda had taken part in protests against nuclear plants. Usuda was not immediately available for comment.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is increasingly unpopular with the public due to a ballooning money scandal involving dubious funding and suspected tax evasion. The party declined to comment on Saturday’s attack, referring all queries to the police.

Voting for the lower house of Parliament is set for Oct. 27. Some tarnished politicians lost the official backing of the ruling party but are running as independents. (AP)



South Korean reconnaissance drones are carried in a parade during the 76th Armed Forces Day ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, on Oct 1. (AP)

### N.Korea discovers remains of South Korean drone

North Korea said Saturday it found the remains of a South Korean drone during a search in its capital, Pyongyang, claiming the drone proved the South’s military was behind the alleged drone infiltrations over the city’s skies earlier in the month.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff in a statement described the North Korean claim as “unilateral” and “unworthy of responding.” The North’s official Korean Central News Agency released photos showing a seemingly

damaged aircraft with wide, V-shaped wings and winglets. It said a joint investigation by North Korea’s military and state security agencies concluded that the aircraft, which it said was found on Oct. 13, was the same type of drone that appeared in a South Korean military parade earlier in October. North Korea accused South Korea of flying drones over the night skies of Pyongyang three different times this month to drop anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets.

It threatened to respond with force if such flights occur again.

The aircraft allegedly found in Pyongyang was likely one of the drones that were used to drop leaflets, North Korea’s Defense Ministry said, but further examinations were needed to verify that. Should South Korea deny that the aircraft was used to drop leaflets, that would only confess to a separate infiltration of North Korea’s airspace by the South’s military, the ministry said. (AP)

## Venezuela prez names Saab as industry minister

CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct 19, (AP): Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Friday appointed to his Cabinet a close ally who was pardoned by US President Joe Biden last year as part of a prisoner swap and following assurances that Venezuela would hold a fair presidential election in 2024.

Maduro named Alex Saab minister of industry and national production and tasked him with promoting “the development of the entire industrial system of Venezuela within the framework” of what he called a “new economic model.” Maduro made the announcement on the messaging app Telegram.

Saab returned to Venezuela a free man in December after being in custody since 2020, when authorities in Cape Verde arrested him on a US warrant for money laundering charges. US prosecutors long regarded him as a bagman for Maduro.

The president secured his release and clemency in a deal conducted with the Biden administration. In exchange for Saab, Maduro released 10 Americans and a fugitive defense contractor known as “Fat Leonard” who was wanted for his alleged role at the center



Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro and Alex Saab stand in an embrace during an event marking the anniversary of the 1958 coup that overthrew dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez, in Caracas on Jan 23. (AP)

cans and a fugitive defense contractor known as “Fat Leonard” who was wanted for his alleged role at the center

of a massive Pentagon bribery scandal.

The largest release of American prisoners in Venezuela’s history took place weeks after the White House granted the South American country a broad reprieve from economic sanctions, following a commitment by Maduro to work with the political opposition toward free and fair conditions for the 2024 presidential election.

The US ended the sanctions relief earlier this year after hopes for a democratic opening faded.

Last month, it responded to Venezuela’s highly disputed July presidential election by sanctioning 16 of Maduro’s allies, accusing them of obstructing the vote and carrying out human rights abuses.

Saab was arrested in 2020 during a fuel stop en route to Iran to negotiate oil deals on behalf of Maduro’s government. The US charges were conspiracy to commit money laundering tied to a bribery scheme that allegedly siphoned off \$350 million through state contracts to build affordable housing.

## Africa

**Ivory Coast dissolves unions:** Ivory Coast’s government has announced a ban on all student unions following the deaths of two students and the arrest of 17 suspects in a confrontation between police and a student association with connections to some of the most powerful people in the country.

The ban on Thursday came after a government raid on student housing controlled by a student union, known by its French acronym FESCI, that the government says was connected to the deaths.

The National Security Council said that officers discovered large caches of weapons as well as several “illegal businesses” within the student housing complex on the main campus of the University of Abidjan. (AP)

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**Ruto nominates interior minister:** Kenya’s president Friday nominated the country’s interior minister as his new deputy, hours after Rigathi Gachagua was overwhelmingly voted out as

deputy president in an impeachment motion in parliament over allegations of corruption and inciting ethnic division.

President **William Ruto** on Friday named Kithure Kindiki to the National Assembly after Gachagua was impeached while he was in the hospital. Kindiki, whose interior ministry docket has been marred by accusations of police brutality during deadly anti-government protests, had been a front-runner for deputy president during the 2022 election campaign. However, the country’s High Court later issued an order halting Gachagua’s replacement until Thursday when cases filed against the impeachment will be heard. (AP)

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**2 Mozambique politicians killed:**



Ruto

Gunmen in two vehicles chased down the lawyer for Mozambique’s leading opposition politician and a senior opposition official and fatally shot them in their SUV late at night on a main avenue in the capital, their party said Saturday, in a brutal burst of violence that rocked a country where tensions were already high amid a disputed election.

The killings came as the opposition party the two men were associated with prepared to challenge the results of this month’s presidential election that drew more allegations of vote rigging and clamping down on dissent against the long-ruling governing party, which has been in power for nearly 50 years.

Elvino Dias, a lawyer and advisor to opposition presidential candidate Venancio Mondlane, was killed late Friday night by gunmen who riddled his car with bullets in the port capital of Maputo, the PODEMOS opposition party said. Paulo Guambe, a senior member and the spokesperson for PODEMOS, was also in the car with Dias and died in the shooting. (AP)



Market Movements				18-10-2024				
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts	
▲	DUBAI	- DFMGI	+10.58	4,469.25	▼	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	
	JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+70.56	38,981.75		BRITAIN	- TASI	
	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	+15.40	7,415.73			-360.42	85,313.06
	EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50	+38.97	4,986.27			-26.88	8,358.25

# Boursa Kuwait ends week with general market index up 0.45%

Main market index rises 2.65%

**By Mahmoud Shendi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Boursa Kuwait concluded the week on a positive note, with the General Market Index climbing by 31.9 points, closing at 7,080.1, an increase of 0.45 percent.**

The Main Market Index saw a notable rise of approximately 2.65 percent, gaining 167.91 points to end at 6,496.71 points.

Meanwhile, the Main Market Index 50 also experienced a 2.15 percent increase, up by 135.74 points, reaching 6,445.43 points by the week's end, while the Premier Market Index dipped slightly by 0.03 percent, losing 2.58 points to close at 7,576.66 points.

The overall market capitalization rose by 189 million dinars (approximately \$617.78 million), reaching 41.863 billion dinars, compared to 41.674 billion dinars the previous week.

However, trading activity reflected a mixed performance: liquidity decreased by 15.46 percent to 338.59 million dinars, and the number of transactions dropped by 1.68 percent to 96,940 deals. In contrast, trading volumes increased by 5.75 percent, exceeding two billion shares.

From a sector perspective, eight sectors gained ground, led by consumer services with a 3.98 percent increase. In contrast, the healthcare sector remained stable, while four sectors experienced declines, with the industrial sector leading the downturn at 5.44 percent.

Notably, Alafco emerged as the top performer, surging by 111.16 percent, while Cinema led the decliners with a drop of 7.40 percent. Business City topped trading vol-

ume with 249.51 million shares, generating liquidity of 31.24 million dinars.

Market analysts attribute the current focus on medium and small company stocks to their attractive prices following a period of stagnation.

The overall market sentiment is positive, bolstered by the robust third-quarter profits reported by the National Bank of Kuwait. This trend is expected to enhance confidence in the banking sector and support ongoing government spending on projects, benefiting multiple sectors.

Regarding geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, analysts note a sense of anticipation for developments, particularly regarding potential military actions against Iran.

Recent statements suggest that any strikes will target military facilities rather than oil or nuclear sites, providing some reassurance and lowering the likelihood of widespread conflict in the region.

Daily Trading Summary -- On a daily basis, the Boursa Kuwait saw its general index decline by 23.6 points, or 0.3 percent, closing at 7,080 points. A total of 324 million shares were traded through 17,570 cash transactions, valued at 57.2 million dinars (about \$174.4 million). The main market index rose by 50.9 points, or 0.7 percent, to reach 6,496 points, with trading volumes of 248 million shares through 10,865 transactions worth 31 million dinars (approximately \$94.5 million).

Bayt Al-Taqaq Company Update -- The Ordinary General Assembly of Bayt Al-Taqaq Company approved the reversal of its voluntary withdrawal from the Boursa Kuwait. This decision follows the Board of Directors' recommendation to revoke the withdrawal made on September 18. Notably, the company's losses increased by 30 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2024, amounting to 122.86 thousand dinars compared to losses of 94.55 thousand dinars in the same period of 2023.

## Non-OPEC+ producers increase output, pressuring prices

## Oil prices persist amid stagnant demand

**By Kamel Al-Harami**  
Independent Oil Analyst

OIL prices are currently hovering between \$70 and \$73 per barrel for American oil and \$73 for Brent crude. The focus now is figuring out what factors could push prices higher. Despite OPEC+ production cuts exceeding six million barrels per day, there remains a surplus of oil in the market. While there is more than enough volume readily available from OPEC+ and other producers to enter the market, demand is still lacking.

While non-OPEC+ producers are ramping up production at the expense of OPEC+, which seeks to defend oil prices, oil companies are still relying on OPEC+ to protect their investments in crude oil. OPEC+ serves as a safeguard for these companies in the oil market.

Perhaps for the first time, we are witnessing war-related tensions between Israel and Iran, and the potential loss of some

Iranian oil volumes. Despite this, oil prices remain firm but still in the low \$70s, which is a disappointing figure for oil traders.

With approximately 17 million barrels of crude oil passing from the Arabian Gulf region to the world, prices have stubbornly remained around \$73 per barrel.

The current figures are disappointing, but ample supply continues to dominate the oil market. OPEC+ is strictly adhering to its quotas, and there is very little that the organization can do to improve prices without a shift in demand. Unfortunately, the anticipated demand from China has not materialized, leaving other oil producers to wait and suffer.



Al-Harami

At this level, OPEC+ has limited options for pushing prices upward. It must simply wait for a surge in demand to occur. Without this, all producers must be patient and hope for an unexpected miracle, which seems unlikely to happen this year and possibly next as well.

Oil-producing countries are grappling with recurring budget deficits and cash shortages. These nations must seek alternatives, either by cutting expenses or resorting to borrowing.

One year ago, oil markets did not anticipate such low prices due to weak demand. Perhaps, lower oil prices could stimulate global economic activity, potentially leading to increased demand in the remaining months of the year. If that doesn't happen, January is just around the corner.

For now, let us hope for oil prices to rise above \$75 and look for higher demand.

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Shaikha Al-Bahar to discuss women's leadership & AI

# NBK to participate as a strategic partner in Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) is participating in the eighth edition of the Future Investment Initiative (FII 8th Edition) with a high-level delegation. The event will take place under the Royal Patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, at the King Abdulaziz International Convention Center in Riyadh, from October 29 to 31.

NBK's role as a strategic partner in the conference aligns with this year's theme, "Infinite Horizons: Investing Today, Shaping Tomorrow." The focus of this edition is on developing new strategies to tackle global challenges, exploring Africa's role in the global economy, and developing women's leadership in both internal structures and practical investment initiatives.

The NBK delegation is headed by Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, and Mr. Zaid Al-Sager, Deputy Head of the International Banking Group, representing IBG. Joining them are Mr. Meshari Bin Salamah, Deputy General Manager and Head of International Corporate & Commercial Real Estate within the International Banking Group, as well as representatives from NBK's international branches and subsidiaries. Additionally, Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, Chief Executive Officer of NBK Wealth, Mr. Malek Khalife, CEO - Global Private Banking&Switzerland, and Mr. Musaad Al-Sudairy, Board Member and CEO of NBK Wealth - Saudi Arabia, will be present, along with several senior executives from the bank.

During the conference, Deputy Group CEO Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar will engage in several key panel discussions alongside senior bankers from around the globe. These discussions will focus on critical topics such as women's leadership in driving global economic growth, as well as competition with AI and FinTechs. Furthermore, Mr. Faisal Al-Hamad, Group Chief Wealth Officer at NBK, will participate in a panel dedicated to the financial industry's role in prioritizing social impact.

The Bank's delegation will hold a series of bilateral meetings with senior international officials at its pavilion during the conference. Alongside these discussions, the delegation will sign several agreements. Additionally, the Bank will host a reception bringing together officials, investors, and senior bankers to explore the latest developments in the financial and banking sectors and to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration in finance and investment.

The conference is anticipated to draw over 5,000 attendees and feature 500 speakers covering a wide range of contemporary topics. With more than 200 sessions planned,



NBK headquarters

discussions will focus on economic stability, equitable development, climate change mitigation, as well as artificial intelligence, innovation, health, and geopolitical issues.

Discussions at the conference will be data-driven, ensuring that insights are rooted in facts and actionable strategies. Through its annual gathering, the Future Investment Initiative aims to foster dialogue on how investment can serve as a catalyst for a prosperous and sustainable future, expanding the possibilities for what can be achieved for humanity.

The 8th Edition of the FII 2024 Conference aims to transcend limitations and unlock boundless opportunities for advancement. Discussions will center on transforming investment into a catalyst for a prosperous and sustainable future, inspiring attendees to think beyond traditional boundaries and explore investment opportunities that bridge current gaps with future potential.

NBK has recently entered into a strategic partnership with the Future Investment Initiative (FII), a global non-profit organization committed to fostering growth and innovation in investment both regionally and internationally, aimed at creating a positive impact on humanity.

NBK is dedicated to actively participating in international forums to remain abreast of the latest developments in the global economy, international development, and the global financial system. This commitment reflects the bank's strategic focus on understanding and adapting to the evolving landscape of global finance and economic trends.

# Business

At a growth rate of 20%

# Boubyan Bank's net profits grow to KD 73.5 million until Sept end 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Boubyan Bank has announced KD 91.1million in operating profits until the end of last September, as the bank recorded KD 73.5million in net profits at a growth rate of 20% compared with last year, while the earnings per share amount to 16.1 fils.

Key financial indicators until the end of Q3 of this year show that the bank's assets grew to KD 9.1 billion at a growth rate of 11% compared with last year, while the bank's financing portfolio grew by 12% to reach KD 6.8 billion, and operating income grew by 12% to reach KD 183 million, whereas the bank's market share of local financing increased to 12%.

Mr. Adel Al-Majed, Boubyan Bank's Vice-Chairman & Group Chief Executive Officer, stated: "As we approach the end of this year with the lapse of 9 months already, the bank's financial results are very favorable and promising that we will be ending this year very well, which brings good news to our shareholders and customers who placed their confidence in Boubyan over the past years."

"Over the past years, Boubyan Bank Group expanded beyond the concept of banking services, as it now comprises of strong entities that offer retail and corporate services locally and internationally, side by side with Sharia-compliant insurance and wealth management services, as well investment solutions providing many options to customers.", he added.

Al-Majed emphasized that the accelerated growth over the past decade confirmed the success of the bank's strategy focusing on the future, especially as the bank now ranks third locally in terms of financial indicators, in addition to being the first and favorite choice of various segments of customers owing to the leap in digital banking services.

### A Game-Changing Plan

He added: "Results of this period are attributed to our strategy of focusing on new markets with promising growth opportunities and positive financing investments with profitability for the bank's investing customers and its shareholders. This is added to focusing on digital innovation and growth of the bank's operational performance and efficient liquidity, along with the great improvement of our state-of-the-art banking solutions and excelling in innovative offerings that meet the needs of various customer segments."

Al-Majed went on to add: "To continue our success journey, we developed a visionary strategy for the next 5 years titled 'Game-Changer', which activates our group-wide wealth management plan to expand our investment solutions and opportunities, and to explore new markets in order to accelerate the attraction of more wealth to manage in order to offer the best to our customers with an investment appetite."

"Boubyan's wealth management is not merely about offering investment advice; rather, it is a holistic process and an approach that integrates strategic and investment partnerships that ensure full understanding of the investor's financial position as well as the most significant goals, proper planning and management of risks in order to safeguard and grow wealth.", he pointed out.

### International Awards

In a new achievement that reflects Boubyan's leadership, the bank has recently received 6 prestigious global, regional, and domestic banking awards by Global Finance, the internationally renowned publication, as part of its annual awards that recognize the most outstanding and innovative financial and banking institutions in offering consumer and digital banking services for the year 2024.

These awards are a strong motivation for the bank to move forward with more excellent and innovative banking services as part of the bank's ongoing journey towards digital transformation.

Moreover, the "Straight Through Processing Award" given by Citi Bank highlights the outstanding and exceptional performance of Boubyan Bank in processing USD payments, as the bank scored 99.8% for commercial payments and 100% for treasury payments.

Mastercard International recognized Boubyan with the award for the "Fastest Growing in Kuwait" for the outstanding growth of its Premium customers' base, thus celebrating the bank's efforts that focus on innovating unique bank-



Adel Al-Majed

ing services and solutions to give customers an exceptional banking experience - coupled with the highest service levels - that befits their modern lifestyle and exceeds their expectations.

Boubyan's partnership with Mastercard complements the bank's accomplishments in the field of digital payments over the past years, which can be seen through its special tech-solutions boosted by Mastercard's advanced technology. Such accomplishments included a number of innovations launched for the first time in the local market.

### Strategic Partnerships

Boubyan Bank has recently concluded a series of strategic partnerships that reflect its commitment to offering exceptional experiences that add value to the lifestyle of its customers and enhance their satisfaction levels.

The bank already announced its collaboration with Acico Group through a strategic partnership that includes providing innovative financial promotions and flexible credit facilities up to KD 70,000 over tenures extending up to 15 years to its customers who are interested in high-quality construction and engineering services. The agreement secures a 10% discount offered by Acico to Boubyan Bank's customers on Super Deluxe construction packages. In return, Acico's customers get special financing rates by Boubyan Bank on the same package.

Moreover, Boubyan's strategic partnership with Enabill, the leader in the business of restaurants' digitalization, reflects the bank's focus on incentivizing business environments to embrace digital innovation and to boost the capabilities of startups' entrepreneurs to offer the best level of daily services in a smooth manner. The agreement targets the achievement of two key goals, namely improving the performance of FinTech and enhancing the overall digital transformation ecosystem, coupled with supporting entrepreneurs and tech startups, while opening new growth opportunities and horizons to develop their entrepreneurship and enhance their operational efficiency.

### Solutions Reflecting Added Value in Customer Experience

To reinforce the bank's strategic approach towards improving its business environment and to empower local entrepreneurs, Boubyan gave the business banking customers an unlimited cashback benefit up to 1.5% on using their business banking Visa card, in addition to offering them a new package of exclusive solutions, as well as newly introduced and updated benefits to enhance their banking experience and to make it more exceptional.

Furthermore, the bank concluded its 2024 summer credit cards' campaign, which achieved a great success and saw great participation with the announcement of 20 winners of Boubyan's credit and digital cardholders, who made purchase transactions inside and outside Kuwait or through online shopping or

### Adel Al-Majed

- Q3's profits promise an outstanding year of financial results, reinforcing the confidence of our shareholders
- We take pride in Boubyan Group's expansion at the levels of banking, investment, insurance, and wealth management services
- Ranking as the third largest bank domestically brings more challenges in terms of offering the best service levels and quality of products
- The bank's leadership has been reinforced by a group of outstanding international banking awards globally, regionally, and locally

digital wallets' payments.

### Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility "CSR"

Boubyan reaffirms its commitment to offering a model to follow in CSR, which reinforces its mission that emanates from its identity as a leading banking institution in CSR.

The calendar of Boubyan's CSR events and contributions during Q3, 2024 saw a significant activity across all levels. The bank concluded the 5th edition of Boubyan FC 24's E-CUP; the largest tournament in Kuwait that is approved by Kuwait Olympic Committee. It saw the participation of 1,000+ participants, where 3 winners received valuable cash prizes in addition to an opportunity for the winner of the first place to represent the Kuwaiti National Team for Electronic Games.

As regards sports and fitness, Boubyan WHOOP Showdown continued through the "Recovery Challenge" to encourage participants to improve their fitness performance numbers, and to simulate the body functions to recover, which helps change the lifestyle of users.

Additionally, there were also other events that stood as optimal opportunities to engage with the public and to interact with them such as Boubyan Escape Room and Boubyan Mind Games, which saw instant prizes and valuable gifts offered by the bank, while participants of various age groups enjoyed the events.

### Enriching Human Resources

Boubyan managed to maintain its status as a banking institution that is keen on attracting the best national cadres and striving to improve its business environment, evident by receiving the Award for "Excellence in Manpower Nationalization", awarded to the bank for its success and excellence in increasing the percentage of national manpower across the Kuwaiti banking sector in 2024, where the bank achieved 82% at the level of empowering and recruiting national manpower, as it supports and instills this social culture in a real and sustainable manner, which reflects positively on the future job market and reaching the desired results.

Boubyan's human resources are one of its key pillars since they are the main driver for ongoing success. Boubyan spares no effort to improve communication with them through listening to their views and studying all their proposals, while taking into account the possibility of execution by employing the best scientific and technical approaches in a manner that contributes to instilling more loyalty to the bank in the employees.



Key financial indicators until September end 2024.



Bank’s booth attracted a large number of visitors

Gulf Bank concludes sponsorship, participation in ‘Watheefti’ career fair

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Demonstrating its commitment to nurturing young talent and attracting top local expertise, Gulf Bank successfully concluded its sponsorship and participation in the third edition of the “Watheefti” career fair. Held from October 17 to 19, 2024, at the Arena located within 360 Mall, the event brought together over 100 companies from a wide range of sectors.

The three-day career fair offered a variety of workshops focused on job market trends, professional consultations, CV writing strategies, and interview preparation, along with other interactive activities. Throughout the event, Gulf Bank representatives showcased the essence of the banking profession as practiced at the bank, providing job seekers with in-depth information about banking careers and the growth opportunities available at Gulf Bank.

The bank’s booth attracted a large number of visitors eager to explore its various departments and work culture. Many attendees took the opportunity to submit job applications, motivated by Gulf Bank’s strong reputation as a top employer in Kuwait known for attracting young talent.

On this occasion, Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, emphasized the bank’s dedication to recruiting young talent across various fields, viewing them as the generation capable of keeping pace with modern advancements and rapid technological innovations in the banking sector, both locally and globally.

“We are pleased to participate in the “Watheefti” career fair for the third consecutive year, which provides a valuable opportunity for companies to attract young talent and help them make critical decisions regarding their career paths and future,” said Al-Hajjaj.

Al-Hajjaj reaffirmed Gulf Bank’s dedication to supporting Kuwait’s vision, which focuses on boosting employment in the private sector and empowering Kuwaiti youth to grow and thrive. She noted the increasing number of national employees at Gulf Bank in recent years as a testament to this ongoing commitment.

“Our employees are the driving force behind our success and the key to what sets us apart,” Al-Hajjaj stated. “We are committed to continually improving our systems and processes to empower our team to thrive and advance in their careers, ensuring that Gulf Bank remains a top choice for both employees and job seekers.”



Salma Al-Hajjaj and Bader Al-Ali in a group photo with the bank team.



Minister of Higher Education and Acting Minister of Education Dr. Nader Al-Jalal at Gulf Bank’s booth.

**Salma Al-Hajjaj:**  
■ The career fair is a valuable opportunity to attract young talent and help them make critical decisions regarding their career paths and future.



Young people are applying for jobs at Gulf Bank.

ECB cuts interest rates again

Bank sees no signs of recession ahead

LONDON, Oct 19, (AP): The European Central Bank, which sets interest rates for the 20 countries that use the euro currency, does not expect the bloc to slide into recession as it cut borrowing costs once again Thursday in the wake of recent data showing inflation across the bloc falling to its lowest level in more than three years, and economic growth waning.

The bank’s rate-setting council lowered its benchmark rate from 3.5% to 3.25% - its third reduction since June - at a meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, rather than its usual Frankfurt, Germany, headquarters, and said the “disinflationary process is well on track.”

According to revised figures on Thursday, inflation across the 20-country eurozone, sank to 1.7% in September, the first time in three years that it has been below the ECB’s target rate of 2%.

In a statement accompanying the decision, the ECB predicted an inflation pick-up in the coming months, before a return to its target in the course of next year.



In this file photo, a light installation is projected onto the building of the European Central Bank during a rehearsal in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

In a press briefing following the decision, ECB President Christine Lagarde gave few signals that the bank would be cutting interest rates again at the next policy meeting in December, stressing that the governing council is “not pre-committing to a particular rate path.”

She insisted that decisions will “follow a data-dependent and meeting-by-meeting approach.” Lagarde did acknowledge that the

recent data on economic activity had come in “somewhat weaker than expected,” pointing to a contraction in manufacturing sector and weaker exports. Even though Germany, Europe’s powerhouse economy, saw output shrink in the second quarter, albeit by 0.1%, Lagarde said that she didn’t expect the eurozone economy overall to fall into recession.

“On the basis of the information that we have, we certainly do not see a recession,” she said.

Economists think mounting evidence of an economic slowdown in the eurozone, particularly in Germany, will pile pressure on rate-setters to consider another cut to help bolster growth by making it even cheaper for businesses and consumers to borrow.

In the second quarter of the year, the eurozone expanded by a modest quarterly rate of 0.2%.

“Although the ECB did not pre-commit to any specific rate path, we believe that downside risks to growth in a context of easing inflationary pressure will lead to more rate cuts starting in December and continuing in 2025,” said GianLuigi Mandruzzato, senior economist at EFG Asset Management.

China’s economy on steady course to realize targets

BEIJING, Oct 19, (Xinhua): The Chinese economy gained a firm footing in the third quarter (Q3) of this year in the face of mounting challenges at home and abroad, and authorities believe the country will remain on a steady course to achieve its full-year targets.

China’s gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.8 percent year on year to around 94.97 trillion yuan (about 13.33 trillion U.S. dollars) in the first three quarters of this year, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Friday.

In Q3, the economy expanded 4.6 percent from a year ago and went up 0.9 percent on a quarterly basis.

Despite a complicated external environment and emerging challenges at home, the Chinese economy has posted generally stable performance, Sheng Laiyun, deputy head of the NBS, told a press conference Friday.

In a breakdown, industrial output climbed 5.8 percent compared to the first nine months of the previous year,

as robust increases were seen in equipment and high-tech manufacturing industries. The service sector reported continued recovery with a 4.7-percent increase in added value.

Consumption maintained an upward trend during the period with retail sales of consumer goods up 3.3 percent from a year ago. Fixed-asset investment rose 3.4 percent, spurred by vibrant capital influx into high-tech industries.

The job market was stable as the surveyed urban unemployment rate on

average stood at 5.1 percent in the first three quarters, down from 5.3 percent a year ago. The nominal growth of per capita disposable incomes of urban and rural residents came in at 5.2 percent.

**Stable trend unchanged**  
According to the NBS data, the third quarter’s growth was slightly down from 4.7 percent in the second quarter and 5.3 percent in the first. Despite this dip, authorities noted that the overall stability of the economy has remained intact.

Company sponsored third edition of Watheefti career fair

Bourisli: upskilling national talent in emerging technologies a core pillar of Zain’s strategy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Zain announced its sponsorship of the third edition of Watheefti – the largest career gathering in Kuwait, which took place over the weekend at The Arena under the patronage and presence of H.E. Dr. Nader Al Jalal, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education.

The opening ceremony was attended by Zain Kuwait Chief Purpose and Human Resources Officer, Nawal Bourisli, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Hamad Al Marzouq, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, Waleed Al Khashti, along with senior HR executives from organizations participating in the event.

Nawal Bourisli commented: “Attracting national talent to the private sector and enhancing their skills is a cornerstone of our strategy, particularly in emerging technologies and digital innovations, which are at the heart of what we do in Zain.”

She added: “Zain has adopted a comprehensive purpose and human resources strategy focused on investing in our people. We continuously work to enhance our employees’ skills and talents across various domains to ensure sustainable career growth,

especially in technologies like digital transformation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, big data, and more.” Bourisli further explained: “Boosting the presence of national talent in the private sector contributes to achieving the country’s developmental goals, enhancing competitiveness, diversifying the economy, and fostering sustainable growth. This is why we remain committed to supporting initiatives like Watheefti that energize the job market and bring together major organizations from various vital sectors to showcase career opportunities to graduates and job seekers.”

As the official sponsor, Zain supports over 15 engaging sessions and more than 40 workshops held alongside the event, covering crucial topics such as the use of AI in interviews, workplace ethics, time management, CV preparation, career path planning, leadership skillsets, building career loyalty, success in the private sector, corporate culture, career development, and much more.

Watheefti is the largest career fair in Kuwait and was held over the past weekend at The Arena Kuwait, with the participation of dozens of companies and employers from various vital sectors, catering to thousands of job seekers.



Dr. Nader Al Jalal with Nawal Bourisli, Hamad Al Marzouq and Waleed Al Khashti during the opening ceremony.



Zain team at the event.

Wealthier Americans driving retail spending & powering US economy

WASHINGTON, Oct 19, (AP): It’s a trend that has surprised many: Why, despite being squeezed by high prices, have Americans kept spending at retail stores and restaurants at a robust pace?

One key reason is a relatively simple one: Wealthier consumers, boosted by strong gains in income, home equity and stock market wealth, have increasingly driven the spending.

That trend, documented by Federal Reserve research, represents something of a shift from the pre-pandemic period. And it suggests that consumer spending, the primary driver of the U.S. economy, could help sustain healthy growth this year and next.

Lower-income consumers, by contrast, have been disproportionately squeezed by higher-priced rent, groceries and other necessities, leaving them less able to spend on discretionary items, like electronics, entertainment and restaurant meals, than they were before the pandemic. Though their spending is starting to rebound as inflation-adjusted incomes rise, it could be years before their finances fully recover.

The disparities help explain the gap between gloomy consumer sentiment and widespread evidence of a healthy U.S. economy - a major dynamic in the presidential race that is now in its final weeks. Only a portion of the American population is fueling most of the growth that is evident in government economic data.

The trends also help illustrate how the economy has managed to keep expanding at a solid pace even though the Federal Reserve, until last month, kept its key interest rate at its highest level in more than two decades. Despite the much higher borrowing costs for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards that resulted from the Fed’s rate hikes, inflation-adjusted consumer spending rose 3% in 2022 and 2.5% in 2023. And it increased at a 2.8% annual rate in the April-June quarter, the government said last month.

On Thursday, the Commerce Department reported that retail sales in the United States rose 0.4% from August to September, a solid gain that suggested that shoppers are confident enough in the economy to continue spending freely. Restaurant sales jumped 1%, a particularly encouraging sign because it meant that many people felt they could spend on meals outside the home. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta now estimates that the economy grew at a strong 3.4% in the July-September quarter.

Higher-income households have been fortified by huge gains in housing and stock market wealth since the pandemic. Home values have marched steadily up, fueled by high demand and an unusually low supply of houses. And the stock market has been consistently hitting new highs, with the S&P 500 index up a sizzling 22.5% for the year. Roughly 80% of stock market value is owned by the richest 10% of U.S. households. “It speaks to the ongoing strength of those Americans, which is still carrying overall spending,” said Michael Pearce, deputy chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Housing and stock values have soared in particular for the wealthiest one-tenth of Americans over the past four years. The value of their home equity has leapt 70% from the first quarter of 2020 through the second quarter of this year, according to Fed data - to \$17.6 trillion. Their stock and mutual fund wealth has jumped 86%, to just under \$37 trillion. Though inflation has eroded some of those gains, they are still quite substantial.

Such sharp growth in wealth has reduced the need for affluent Americans to save from their paychecks while still ramping up their spending. A report last week by Fed economists found that before the pandemic, retail spending had been rising for all income groups at roughly the same pace.

Italian autoworkers embark on industrial action

ROME, Oct 19, (AP): Workers in Italy’s troubled automotive sector are holding a national strike on Friday for the first time in 20 years, with a massive demonstration crossing the center of Rome. Tens of thousands of automotive workers marched through the capital’s streets,

waving the unions’ red flags and holding banners asking for better work conditions.

“We are working one to two days a week when it goes well. So, what we are saying today is that the (ecological) transition cannot be exclusively paid for by the workers,”

said Riccardo Falcetta, representative of the UIL metal-worker union in Bari. The sector’s three main unions in Italy are asking the government to defend employment in the sector and relaunch the future of the carmaking industry in Italy, beginning with global automaker Stellantis.



# What's On



Photos during the exhibition.

Al Arbash highlights ABK’s focus on talent recruitment

## ABK participates in ‘Watheefti’ job exhibition for third consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced its participation for the third consecutive year in the third annual Watheefti job exhibition held at The Arena from October 17 to 19. This initiative is part of the Bank’s ongoing commitment to engage with graduates and job seekers, reinforcing its responsibility as a key banking institution in Kuwait and supporting providing job opportunities for youth in the private sector.

The exhibition involved participation from numerous companies across various sectors, showcasing available job opportunities and discovering talent within the Kuwaiti market. ABK’s Human Resources team received numerous applica-

tions to recruit promising national cadres, thus further strengthening the Bank’s position as one of the best local employers in the private sector as a whole and the banking sector in particular.

On this occasion, Afrah Al Arbash, General Manager of Human Resources at ABK, stated, “Watheefti is one of the most prominent annual events we are keen to participate in. This reflects the great interest that the Bank places in attracting the best talents and enhancing its team with the top capabilities. This is part of our continuous commitment to investing in young talents and providing them with all forms of support.” She continued, “Participating in job fairs represents a starting point for



Afrah Al Arbash

graduates and university students to carve their career paths, effectively develop their skills, connect them

**Afrah Al Arbash:**

- Watheefti is one of the most prominent annual events we are keen to participate in.
- ABK is keen to recruit strong national candidates and strives to consistently support these talents.

with employers across all sectors, and contribute to preparing them for joining the labor market in the best possible way.”

Al Arbash added that ABK is keen

to recruit strong national candidates, which is evident in the Bank’s nationalization percentage – one of the highest in the banking industry in Kuwait. She emphasized that ABK strives to consistently support these talents, as well as Executive Management members, in developing their skills.

During the exhibition, ABK showcased its various job opportunities and highlighted the benefits it offers to employees. The Bank organized engaging activities and events for visitors, and its booth attracted a significant number of attendees. The team provided insights into the nature of work within the banking sector and specifically at ABK, detailing daily tasks across its divi-

sions, departments, and branches, along with the competitive employee benefits that position it as one of the leading employers in the Kuwaiti banking sector.

In conclusion, Al Arbash emphasized the Bank’s continuous efforts to develop its employment policies to attract and retain top talent within its workforce as well as ensure gender equality in the workplace. She also shed light on the Bank’s collaboration efforts with specialized institutions to provide online and live workshops and training courses that enhance capabilities. This ensures the delivery of innovative banking services, products, and solutions to its clients and improves its competitive position in the local market.



Fahad AlSaad, Khaled Al-Sayer, Abdullah Alshalabi, and the Tam team.

Broadcasted on Al Rai and V-Thru app

## V-Thru Show concludes its season in collaboration with Tam Digital Bank

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The first season of the reality cooking show, V-Thru Show, concluded with the announcement of its champion. The program, organized by V-Thru in collaboration with Al Rai Media Group and Tam Digital Bank, garnered favorable reception from both contestants and audiences.

The reality cooking competition, broadcasted on Al Rai digital platforms and the V-Thru app, was a thrilling and demanding program designed to identify and nurture Kuwait’s most promising culinary talents. As part of a broader initiative to support the ambitions of young Kuwaitis, four contestants battled for a cash prize of KD 10,000.

**Abdullah Alshalabi**

Abdullah Alshalabi, CEO of the V-Thru app, expressed his pride in the transformation of an idea into a reality show highlighting the national talents. He commended the Kuwaiti youth, contestants, and the V-Thru team for their dedication to this successful project, emphasizing their commitment to supporting local diners. He also extended his thanks to Tam Digital Bank, and all those involved in organizing this event. It was a professional and fulfilling experience, providing me with the perfect platform to share my culinary vision.”

**Tam Digital Bank**

KFH Senior Manager PR and Event Management, Fahad AlSaad said that Tam, the first Sharia-compliant digital bank in Kuwait, is proud to be a sponsor of the competition. He added that this sponsorship highlights Tam’s commitment to supporting the endeavors of Kuwaiti youth and aligns with their new identity and approach that aims to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and empowerment among young people. He highlighted that Tam Digital Bank has forged robust partnerships and actively supports youth projects, initiatives, and talented individuals.

**Amr Al-Refai**

Amr Al-Refai, the renowned owner of Solo Pizza restaurant, served as the head of the judging committee for the program, employing his expertise to elevate the competition. He reiterated his dedication to backing and motivating Kuwaiti talents. He also expressed his satisfaction with his participa-

tion in the V-Thru Show, noting the impressive passion and innovation displayed by young chefs in Kuwait. He eagerly anticipates observing the contestants’ abilities and the competition’s victor in the future, committing to supporting and assisting them in achieving success.

**Fatemah Al-Ali**

Fatemah Al-Ali, the co-owner of Brick Pizza, was awarded a prize of KD 10,000 in the competition. Competing against top chefs in Kuwait, Fatemah impressed the judges with her innovative pizza-making technique, securing her victory.

Despite Brick Pizza being in business for less than a year, Fatemah continues to create new and enticing dishes that have quickly made the restaurant a favorite among Kuwaitis.

In expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the competition, Fatemah stated, “Winning is a dream come true for me. I am thankful for the chance to showcase my love for pizza and have my hard work recognized. A big thank you to the V-Thru team, Tam Digital Bank, and all those involved in organizing this event. It was a professional and fulfilling experience, providing me with the perfect platform to share my culinary vision.”

**Khaled Al-Sayer**

Khaled Al-Sayer, CEO of Al-Rai International Marketing & Advertising Company, commended the success and engagement achieved by the V-Thru Show program, as well as the strong enthusiasm displayed by Kuwaiti youth participating in such initiatives to showcase their skills and creativity.

Al-Sayer said that: “Al-Rai Media Group is committed to supporting Kuwaiti youth. This commitment is rooted in its national and societal role. As part of this effort, we are exploring other similar initiatives for the future.” He also expressed pride in the Al-Rai team for effectively translating and executing the program with high standards and efficiency, with ongoing efforts to develop new and innovative ideas to collaborate with Kuwaiti companies and organizations in nurturing ambitious youth and launching promising projects.

## New design enhances guest experience

## JW Marriott Kuwait City wins ‘National Winner’ in 2024 MEED Projects Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait City has been honored as a ‘National Winner’ in the Re-fit Project of the Year – Kuwait category at the prestigious 2024 MEED Projects Awards. This accolade celebrates the Hotel’s remarkable transformation and refurbishment, and was jointly received by the project owners, the Salhia Real Estate Company, and the leading regional multidisciplinary consultancy firm Pace.

The MEED Projects Awards, in association with Mashreq, are widely regarded as one of the most prestigious honored in the Middle East’s design, construction and engineering sectors. The awards celebrate outstanding achievements across the region, recognizing projects that demonstrate exceptional planning, execution and innovation.

The refurbishment of the JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait City reflects Pace’s dedication to revitalizing iconic landmarks by blending historical preservation with modern design. Through adaptive reuse, the Firm extended the ground floor into a new public space and transformed the entrance lobby into a 2,000-square-metre retail area while maintaining the existing structure, significantly reducing the carbon footprint. Rekindling the architectural prominence of the Kuwait Downtown ‘Iconic Gate’ illustrated the Pace’s ability to reimagine cultural icons.

On this occasion, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Salhia Real Estate Company, Mr. Ghazi Fahed Alnafisi, stated “This award is a reflection of the success of the development efforts undertaken by Salhia Real Estate Company in the JW Marriott Hotel, the company’s latest development project. The award also serves as an incentive for our future goals aimed to achieve sustainable development across all the company’s properties and establishments. This aligns with the company’s comprehensive strategy to meet the evolving market needs with a modern vision that respects the environment while preserving the traditional architectural heritage of the buildings”.

Mr. Ghazi Fahad Alnafisi added that the complete renovation of JW Marriott Hotel, both internally and externally, aims to enhance the guest experience by offering a more luxurious and refined stay. He emphasized that the new design considers the hotel as one of Kuwait City’s iconic hospitality landmarks. The design is marked by its ability to remain competitive now and in the years to come, while integrating modern retail and hospitality services in a way that serves both current and future needs. Following the development, the project components are divided into sections: the commercial (ground floor and mezzanine), the offices (second to fourth floors), and the hotel (fifth to sixteenth floors).”

Expressing his excitement about the new recognition, Pace CEO Tarek Shuaib said, “We are incredibly honored to be named National Winner at the 2024 MEED Projects Awards. This recognition is a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation and sustainability in every project we undertake. The refurbishment of the JW Marriott is a shining example of our team’s hard work and dedication to transforming Kuwait’s architectural landscape. I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in the project. Together, we are not just building structures; we are creating legacies.”

The next phase of the Awards involves selecting the overall MENA winner for each of the over 12 categories, with evaluations led by the MEED Editorial team and a panel of independent industry experts. The MENA Winners and the Project of the Year will be revealed at the awards gala on



JW Marriott Hotel refurbishment honored for exceptional planning and innovation.

November 20, 2024, at the JW Marriott Marina in Dubai, UAE, marking a significant celebration of the region’s top achievements.

As Pace continues to expand its projects across the Middle East, these awards serve as a reminder of the Firm’s ongoing dedication to delivering transformative, sustainable, and innovative architectural solutions.

## Over 400 attendees celebrate Onam with community and cultural pride

## Keralite Engineers Association hosts inaugural Onam event ‘PAITHRIKAM’ 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Keralite Engineers Association in Kuwait, consisting of engineers educated outside Kerala, celebrated its Inaugural and Onam event - ‘PAITHRIKAM’ 24, on October 11, 2024, at Aspire International School in Abbasiya. The celebration began at 10 am, marking the launch of activities for the 2024-’25 year.

The ceremony started with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the women of the organization. Keralite Engineers’ Association President Ebey Samuel delivered the presidential address sharing the greetings to the assembled and shared the exciting events lined up for the year 2024-’25. The General Secretary Renju Abraham welcomed the attendees, while the Vice President



KEA inaugural event.

and Treasurer graced the occasion with their presence on stage. The

Arts Secretary expressed gratitude to all participants.

‘PAITHRIKAM’24 showcased the rich cultural heritage of Kerala,

featuring performances that highlighted various festivals and signifi-

cant landmarks from the southern to the western regions of the state. Attendees were treated to a nostalgic journey through Kerala’s unique art forms, including Thiruvathira, Margamkali, Oppana, and Aran-mulla Vanchippatt, as well as vibrant dance performances by children and adults and instrumental music by the youth.

A highlight of the event was a fashion show that unveiled traditional dress styles and art forms from Kerala, captivating the audience. The contributions of senior members Santhosh Kumar G and Marshall Jose were also recognized with special felicitations.

The Onam celebrations attracted over 400 plus attendees, wrapping up at 4 pm with a sense of community and cultural pride.



## Star-studded ceremony honors fallen legends

## 2024 Rock &amp; Roll Hall of Fame induction has poignant vibe

CLEVELAND, Oct 19, (AP): The Rock & Roll Hall Fame induction ceremony on Saturday night promises to be starchy, jamming - and bittersweet. So many of the honorees this time have been lost.

Of the seven original members of Kool & the Gang, there is only one, Robert "Kool" Bell. There will be no living members of the MC5, which suffered the recent deaths of its two last original members, drummer Dennis "Machine Gun" Thompson and guitarist and singer Wayne Kramer.

Foreigner's original bassist Ed Gagliardi and multi-instrumentalist Ian McDonald have died and guitarist Mick Jones has been sidelined by Parkinson's disease. A Tribe Called Quest has lost Phife Dawg.

"I wish George was here and the rest of the other gentlemen - the other original members -

because they well deserve this recognition," said Hahn Brown, widow of Kool & the Gang drummer and songwriter George Brown, who died in 2023.

In many ways, the class of 2024 - which also includes Peter Frampton, Cher, Mary J. Blige, Ozzy Osbourne, Dave Matthews Band, the late Jimmy Buffett, Dionne Warwick and the late Alexis Korner, the late John Mayall and the late Big Mama Thornton - is a catch-up class, reflecting turnover in the hall's leadership.

"There's been a change over from some of the old guard in years past to you see artists like Rush and Kiss and Stevie Ray Vaughan and Randy Rhodes, the MC5 and Judas Priest getting in. Whereas before that might not have been the case," says Tom Morello, a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame guitarist for bands like Rage Against the

Machine and Audioslave.

Morello recalls bringing up the issue of membership with Jon Landau, Bruce Springsteen's manager and a former Rolling Stone critic, who was then chairman of the nominating committee.

He told him: "Myself and my friends, we don't think so much about the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame because none of our favorite bands are in it."

Now it will have a band Morello has long championed, the MC5, who paved the way for the Stooges, the Ramones, the Clash, the Sex Pistols, Rage Against the Machine and System of a Down.

Saturday's induction ceremony will be held at the Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland. It will stream live on Disney+. A special featuring performance highlights and standout moments

will air on ABC on Jan. 1.

Cher - the only artist to have a No. 1 song in each of the past six decades - and Blige, with eight multi-platinum albums and nine Grammy Awards, will help boost the number of women in the Hall, which critics say is too low.

Artists must have released their first commercial recording at least 25 years before they're eligible for induction. Nominees were voted on by more than 1,000 artists, historians and music industry professionals.

There had been a starry push to get Foreigner - with the hits "Urgent" and "Hot Blooded" - into the Hall, with Mark Ronson, Jack Black, Slash, Dave Grohl and Paul McCartney all publicly backing the move. Ronson's stepfather is Mick Jones, Foreigner's founding member, songwriter and lead guitarist.



Cher performs during the iHeartRadio Jingle Ball, Dec. 8, 2023, at Madison Square Garden in New York. (AP)

## Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** Actor and humanitarian **Jane Fonda** is adding the SAG life achievement award to her many accolades. The 86-year-old will be given the prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards in February, the guild said Thursday.

Fonda said in a statement that she was "deeply honored and humbled" that she was chosen.

"I have been working in this industry for almost the entirety of my life and there's no honor like the one bestowed on you by your peers," Fonda said.

In her over six decades in the business, Fonda has won two Oscars - for "Klute" and "Coming Home" - two BAFTA Awards, an Emmy and seven Golden Globes. With an activist spirit spanning back to her antiwar protests in the 1960s and 70s, she's also used her platform to advocate for gender equality, civil rights and environmental issues. Last year, Fonda spent her 85th birthday raising \$1 million for a non-profit in Georgia aimed at educating school-aged children to make healthy life decisions.

SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher called Fonda a "trail-blazer."

"We honor Jane not only for her artistic brilliance but for the profound legacy of activism and empowerment she has created," Drescher said. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** Jackie Chan's action comedy film "Panda Plan" opened Friday in a limited theatrical release in North America.

The film is released by Well Go USA Entertainment in Mandarin with English subtitles in over 30 selected theaters in 25 North American cities with a large overseas Chinese population, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, Las Vegas, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York, Vancouver and Richmond.

Directed by Zhang Luan, the 70-year-old legendary kung fu star plays a version of himself alongside a lovely panda bear co-star in the family-oriented film.

"Panda Plan" has grossed over 261 million yuan (about 36.8 million U.S. dollars) after being released in the lucrative week-long National Day holiday, starting on Oct. 1, in the Chinese mainland, according to the box office data compiled by Maoyan, a Chinese movie-ticketing and film data platform. (Xinhua)

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.:** Miami's 2 Live Crew helped redraw the legal landscape around what hip-hop could be, pushing the boundaries of free speech and taste with their provocative and sexually explicit recordings that led to landmark court decisions protecting the rights of artists.

But for decades the hip-hop legends haven't had legal control over their iconic discography, after giving up their rights to the records in bankruptcy proceedings that followed their legal fights in the 1990s.

Now a jury verdict is paying the way for surviving members of the group, and heirs of the two who have since died, to retake five of their early albums following a yearslong copyright dispute with a record company. The company is in the process of appealing. (AP)

**LONDON:** The onetime husband and wife team who designed Princess Diana's wedding dress have settled their dispute over the sale of the drawings for the gown.

David Emanuel had filed a lawsuit in the UK courts against his ex-wife Elizabeth Emanuel, claiming that she had infringed his copyright by reproducing drawings of the designs on which they had collaborated. The drawings, including those for Diana's wedding dress, were put up for auction without his consent, he said.

The pair announced Friday that they had settled the case "amicably." Terms of the settlement weren't released.

Diana's dress, created for her 1981 wedding to the Prince of Wales, was an iconic creation that will always be associated with the late princess. It was a time when big was in, and Diana walked down the aisle of St. Paul's Cathedral draped in yards of lace with a 25-foot train flowing behind her. (AP)



Angelina Jolie poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere for the film 'Maria' on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, in London. (AP)

## Film

## Keaton, Kunis go from strangers to family

## A story of healing, trust in 'Goodrich'

**LOS ANGELES, Oct 19, (AP):** Michael Keaton and Mila Kunis went from strangers to father and daughter in short order for the new film "Goodrich."

Before cameras started rolling, they were essentially only able to meet once. It was a dinner with their writer-director Hallie Meyers-Shyer, who just had a feeling they'd be great together.

And before they knew it they were off to the races, embodying two people with a lifetime of hurt behind them, wondering if a real relationship is even possible at this point: He's attempting to reconcile his absence in her youth and find a place in her life now, while parenting young twins from his second marriage; She's preparing to have a child of her own and wondering if she can trust her dad to be there this time.

But neither were particularly worried. The script, they said, was just that good.

"Hallie's writing was so honest and genuine and never felt forced," Kunis said. "It never felt fake and never felt anything other than the story of these people. Everything made sense. The dynamic was real. The relationships felt real."

Meyers-Shyer is the daughter of filmmakers Nancy Meyers and Charles Shyer, who not only got a film education at home, but also frequented her mother's sets and even appeared in several films as an extra. She made her directorial debut in 2017 with the Reese Witherspoon romantic comedy "Home Again" and started writing "Goodrich" soon after. She'd been thinking about a lot of things, about parenting in different decades and what that's like for an older father with young and adult kids, and about a complicated father-daughter relationship.

"In my personal life, my father remarried and had a second set of kids. And that was complicated for me," Meyers-Shyer said. "I felt like if that was something I was struggling with, it might be something other people struggle with."

But perhaps the biggest inspiration was Keaton himself, an actor she'd always dreamt of working with. So she got to work writing

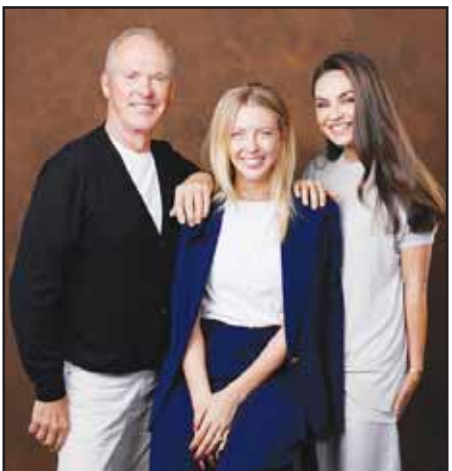
the character, a Los Angeles art gallery owner who is at a crossroads, with only him in mind. He was flattered, agreeing to star and executive produce the speedy 25-day shoot in LA. That meant both bringing production work back to the city Hollywood calls home and getting to wake up in their own beds.

## Distribution

"It's nice to bring some business back to Los Angeles and I'm really proud of the fact that we got to shoot an LA movie in LA," Meyers-Shyer said. "LA is hard to fake. It's a very special, unique place."

"Goodrich" is opening in theaters this weekend, from the indie production and distribution company Ketchup Entertainment, in a marketplace where it can be hard for a movie that isn't based on established intellectual property to make a splash - and even those aren't guarantees. But the mere fact that "Goodrich" is getting a theatrical release is notable, as opposed to going straight to streaming like many star-driven originals these days.

"It's sad that we're even talking about the fact that it's coming out in theaters," Kunis



Hallie Meyers-Shyer, center, writer/director of 'Goodrich,' poses with cast members Michael Keaton, (left), and Mila Kunis, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP)

said. "'A movie in theaters, isn't that a miracle?' What a time to be living in that that's like a 'congratulations.'"

Keaton is still a romantic about the theatrical experience too but doesn't get too hung up on where a movie might end up, as long as it gets made. Meyers-Shyer too saw "Home Again," which was a modest success in theaters, earning over \$37 million against a \$12 million budget get a nice afterlife on streaming.

"It's really difficult for movies like 'Goodrich' to get made and get to the finish line now. I'm so grateful that we have and it's being released in theaters," she said. "I wrote this movie in 2018 and it's coming out in 2024. It was a really long process."

This time, she also did it without her mother producing.

"We were never going to be a filmmaking duo," Meyers-Shyer said. "I had always asked that she produce my first film ('Home Again') and that was only going to be that one. And that was the right film for us to make together. We had such an incredible experience, and I couldn't possibly have learned more from her."

Plus, her mom was just a phone call away when needed.

"I would call her all the time and ask her a million questions," she said. "She's a great asset and so smart about filmmaking."

Kunis and Keaton both agree that Meyers-Shyer is standing on her own and distinguishing herself as separate from her parents. They loved her classic taste and touchstones, from Mike Nichols to Jim Brooks, Keaton said a film like "Kramer vs. Kramer," a big influence on "Goodrich," is a "recent reference" for her. Ernst Lubitsch is more her style.

"She's not her mom," Kunis said. "I think that she's carved her own way through this industry. She's really talented and has her own voice. And the same way that people watching a Nancy Meyers movie can put it on mute and they'll know visually that looks like a Nancy Meyers movie, I equate the same thing with Hallie. She has a different aesthetic but an aesthetic nonetheless."

## Obit

## Golden age icon

## Mitzi Gaynor dies aged 93

**LOS ANGELES, Oct 19, (AP):** **Mitzi Gaynor**, the effervescent dancer and actor who starred as Nellie Forbush in the 1958 film of "South Pacific" and appeared in other musicals with Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly, has died. She was 93.

Gaynor, among the last survivors of the so-called golden age of the Hollywood musical, died of natural causes in Los Angeles on Thursday morning, her long-time managers Rene Reyes and Shane Rosamonda confirmed in a statement to The Associated Press.

"As we celebrate her legacy, we offer our thanks to her friends and fans and the countless audiences she entertained throughout her long life," Reyes and Rosamonda said in a joint statement. "Your love, support and appreciation meant so very much to her and was a sustaining gift in her life."

Her entertainment career spanned eight decades across film, television and the stage, and appeared in several notable films including "We're Not Married!" and "There's No Business Like Show Business," but she is best remembered for her turn in "South Pacific."

The screen version of "South Pacific" received three Academy Award nominations and won for best sound, while Gaynor was a best actress nominee for a Golden Globe.

The role of the love-sick nurse Nellie, created on Broadway by Mary Martin, had been eagerly sought by Hollywood stars. Sinatra helped Gaynor land it.

She was starring with him in "The Joker Is Wild," when she had a one-day opportunity to audition for lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II. It was the same day she was scheduled for her biggest scene with Sinatra. When she explained her plight, he told her, "Don't worry, I'll change the schedule."

Hammerstein was impressed with Gaynor, who had already won the approval of director Josh Logan and composer Richard Rodgers. She was cast opposite Rossano Brazzi, about whom she sang "I'm in Love with a Wonderful Guy."

## Television

"South Pacific" was not the turning point in her career that Gaynor had hoped it would be, and she shifted her focus from film to television, making early appearances on Donald O'Connor's variety series "Here Comes Donald," and on CBS' "The Jack Benny Hour." In October of 1959, she was the only woman to guest star alongside Sinatra, Crosby, Dean Martin and Jimmy Durante on ABC's "The Frank Sinatra Timex Show" special.

Later in her career, Gaynor reinvented herself as a performing entertainer. Working with her husband and manager Jack Bean, she starred in her own musical revue that was a big draw in theaters throughout the US, Canada, the UK and Australia.

She became the highest paid female entertainer in Las Vegas and was the first woman to be awarded the Las Vegas governor's trophy for "Star Entertainer of the Year" in 1970.

When touring with a full orchestra, a corps of dancers and backstage personnel became too unwieldy and expensive, Gaynor slimmed down the production, eventually making it a one-woman show. They continued touring every year until 2002 when Bean's illness required a hiatus.

"I love touring; I've been doing it much of my life," Gaynor said in a 2003 interview. "We go back to the same places; it's like visiting friends. After the show, people come backstage to the dressing room, and we renew friendships. We send out almost 3,000 Christmas cards every year."



Gaynor





Geoff Payne, the father of former One Direction singer Liam Payne, visits a memorial outside the Casa Sur Hotel. (AP)



Geoff Payne waves to fans as he visits a memorial outside the Casa Sur Hotel. (AP)



Fans of former One Direction singer Liam Payne grieve outside the Casa Sur Hotel. (AP)

1D bandmates and more mourn singer

Payne’s father arrives in Buenos Aires days after singer’s death

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 19, (AP): The father of former One Direction star Liam Payne arrived in Buenos Aires on Friday to arrange for the return of his son’s body to England two days after the famous boy band singer fell to his death from a hotel balcony.

After landing at the Buenos Aires International Airport in the early morning hours, Geoff Payne was photographed emerging in a blue suit from a downtown hotel accompanied by British consular officials. He was hustled by security officers into a sleek van with black-tinted windows.

Payne visited the Buenos Aires morgue to identify his son’s body before heading to the local prosecutor’s office, which is investigating the case as a matter of protocol, to organize the repatriation of his son’s remains, Argentine authorities said. He later stopped at the Casa Sur Hotel where Payne died to collect his son’s belongings, where throngs of distraught Argentines had gathered for the third straight day to pay their respects.

A chain of young fans with linked arms maintained effective crowd control as Payne squeezed past the flowers, photos and hand-written cards piled outside the hotel in tribute to his son. He paused at the makeshift memorial, leaning

down to pick up a photo of Liam before thanking everyone and disappearing into the hotel.

It’s the first time that any of Payne’s family members have been seen publicly since the star’s sudden death, which set off a global outpouring of grief and emotion from major pop industry figures and diehard One Direction fans. The shock hit particularly hard at home, with his family saying in a statement hours after his death that they “are heartbroken.”

Friends, collaborators and fellow musicians have expressed shock and sadness over the death of former One Direction singer Liam Payne, who died in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Wednesday at age 31.

“We’re completely devastated by the news of Liam’s passing. In time, and when everyone is able to, there will be more to say. But for now, we will take some time to grieve and process the loss of our brother, who we loved dearly. The memories we shared with him will be treasured forever.” - the surviving members of One Direction, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Harry Styles and Zayn Malik, in a statement.

“We are heartbroken. Liam will forever live in our hearts and we’ll remember him for his kind, funny and brave soul.

We are supporting each other the best we can as a family and ask for privacy and space at this awful time.” - Payne’s family, in a statement.

“Liam was not only a pop star and a celebrity, he was a son, a brother, an uncle, a dear friend and a father to our 7 year old son. A son that now has to face the reality of never seeing his father again. What is troubling my spirit the most is that one day Bear will have access to the abhorrent reports and media exploitation we have seen in the past two days. It is breaking my heart further that I cannot protect him from that in his future.” - Cheryl, the Girls Aloud singer and mother of Payne’s son Bear Grey Payne, on Instagram.

“Liam will forever live in our hearts and we’ll remember him for his kind, funny and brave soul,” it said. “We are supporting each other the best we can as a family and ask for privacy and space at this awful time.”

In media interviews over the years, Payne had expressed gratitude and affection for his auto mechanic father and nurse mother, describing them as hard-working and supportive. Both parents made cameos in “One Direction: This Is Us,” the 2013 concert documentary about the popular boy band.

“When I see him on stage I absolutely burst with pride, but we do miss him so much,” Payne’s mother, Karen, said at one point in the film.

The 31-year-old singer’s final hours at the Casa Sur Hotel in Palermo, a trendy neighborhood of Buenos Aires, remain murky as Argentine prosecutors say he appeared to have excessively consumed drugs and alcohol. The prosecution cited investigators who found Payne’s hotel room a mess with what appeared to be narcotics and alcohol strewn about broken objects and furniture.

It remains unclear whether Payne intentionally jumped or accidentally fell from the third floor. The autopsy performed a few hours after his death showed he died from the plunge, which caused “multiple trauma” and “internal and external bleeding” in the skull, chest and abdomen and limbs. The results of toxicology reports are pending.

Investigators said that there were no signs of anyone else being involved in his death, citing a lack of defensive wounds on Payne’s body that also indicates he did not try to protect himself from the fall. The prosecutor’s report said Payne could have fallen into a state of semi-consciousness or unconsciousness.

Television



This image released by NBC shows Reba McEntire in a scene from 'Happy's Place.' (AP)

‘Happy’s Place’ is cocktail of drama, comedy

Reba McEntire finds new on-screen family

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): Reba McEntire finds herself behind the bar in her latest return to network TV, making a series that’s a nicely calibrated cocktail of drama and comedy.

“The things that are most important in my life is love, hope, faith, happiness, energy, light. And that’s all of the things that are happening with this show,” the country music legend says.

NBC’s “Happy’s Place” - premiered Friday - finds McEntire’s character, Bobbie, inheriting a Tennessee tavern from her recently-deceased father and finding out in the first episode that he had a second family.

Even more alarming is the fact that her dad left ownership of the bar to both Bobbie and her newly-discovered sister, Isabella. Add to the tension is that the two women are divided by ethnicity and a generation or two.

“I’m shocked. I mean, I didn’t think Daddy could ever do anything like this, ‘cause he always said family was the most important thing,” Bobbie says. To which, Isabella replies: “Maybe that’s why he started two of them.”

Belissa Escobedo, who plays Isabella, says the new series can be seen as both sweet and sour, as these two women learn to make peace and move forward.

“I think Bobbie reacts to this news very differently than Isabella does, and the audience is able to see it and understand both sides. I love that Isabella kind of just inches her way into Bobbie’s heart,” says Escobedo.

In the series, Bobbie finally looks at Isabella and realizes what she’s done: “I’ve been looking at you like a person that has been forced upon me. Instead, I should be looking at you like a sister that’s been given to me.”

Escobedo, whose film credits include “Blue Beetle,” “Hocus Pocus 2” and who has been a series regular in TV shows like “The Baker and the Beauty,” says working with McEntire is a joy.

“She is an angel. She is so sweet, so down to earth. She does everything with a smile and comes in ready to work, but also ready to have fun.”

Reunion

The new series comes from TV veteran Kevin Abbott with a lengthy list of credits, including producing “Reba,” “Last Man Standing,” “Roseanne” and “Golden Girls.”

The show has a welcome “Cheers” vibe, another NBC stalwart set in a bar, which allows easy reasons for new stories through guest stars and room

for some oddball regulars to flourish, including a reunion with McEntire and Melissa Peterman, who shined together in “Reba” and Rex Linn, a frequent collaborator.

One of the early production ideas was to cast McEntire as a schoolteacher and have Peterman as the principal. But “Abbott Elementary” came out on ABC so that idea went out the window. The next proposal was exploring the idea of a secret family, inspired by 23andMe, the ancestry-tracing company. “A lot of people can relate to this - finding that you’ve got a third cousin you didn’t know. I think that’s what helps shows be successful is when they’re relatable. That happens with books, songs, movies: If you can relate to it, it’s going to be more successful,” says McEntire.

Alongside Reba, Escobedo and Peterman, the cast also includes Pablo Castelblanco (“Alaska Daily”), Tokala Black Elk (“American Primeval,” “1883”) and Rex Linn (“Young Sheldon,” “Better Call Saul”). It’s a multi-cultural set - Castelblanco is from Colombia, Linn is of Sioux descent and Escobedo has Mexican roots.

“To have that diverse cast has been interesting on screen and off screen for us because when we’re not doing something - when they’re rewriting or

we’re waiting on something or we’re at rehearsals - we sit and visit and talk about each other and learn from each other. It’s been an education for all of us,” McEntire says.

McEntire will be hoping fans of “Reba” will check it out. Over six seasons, “Reba” performed more than decently for The WB - and later The CW - but faced competition at the awards shows from the likes of “Everybody Loves Raymond,” “Friends,” “Will & Grace,” “Sex and the City,” “Desperate Housewives,” “Malcolm in the Middle,” “Ugly Betty” and “30 Rock.”

The indefatigable McEntire, who is also shooting “The Voice” for NBC and presides over clothing and footwear lines, teamed up with iconic songwriter Carole King to write the new show’s theme song.

In one powerful scene from the new show, a framed children’s drawing at the tavern falls and reveals that it was drawn by Isabella, proof their father cared about his secret child.

“I think the theme that we really explore, while also bringing comedy into it, is grief and what comes out of grief?” says Escobedo. “When one door closes, another opens - that’s one of the things that I think is not touched upon enough.”

Film

Luna, García Bernal reunite

‘La Máquina’ explores aging masculinity in boxing story

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Oct 19, (AP): Separately, Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal are highly regarded actors. Together, they are a force to be reckoned with since starring in Alfonso Cuarón’s 2001 cult classic “Y tu mamá también.”

They have embarked on another on-screen project, co-starring in Hulu’s first Spanish-language production, “La Máquina,” now streaming. That’s 12 years after working together on the 2012 film “Casa de Mi Padre.”

“Working with Gael is that. It’s returning to the familiar, to what has always been there,” Luna said at the series’ Los Angeles premiere. “We’ve continued this connection and maintained it very easily.”

“La Máquina” tells the story of an aging boxer (García Bernal) whose manager and close friend (Luna) secures him one last chance at a comeback. Their final shot at victory is challenged when mysterious forces threaten the fight and life itself. The show is produced by Searchlight Television, along with Luna and García Bernal’s production company El Corriente de Golfo.

On set, showrunner Marco Ramirez says the synergy between Luna and García Bernal had him replacing scripted lines for the duo’s playful banter.

“They were kind of born to work together and born to riff with each other,” Ramirez said. “I would be like, ‘This scene is fine. The writing is okay, but what they’re doing is so much better.’”

Luna and García Bernal spoke with The Associated Press about how the series deals with aging and body image, as well as the role activism plays in their lives as actors and producers.

The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Your characters explore the themes of body image and aging from different points of view. Why was it important for you to share your character’s perspective, and more broadly, a male perspective?

Luna: There is this monster we have to fight which is a pressure of like, ‘How do we look?’ We are on screens all the time and we are televised 24/7.

These two characters are struggling to let go and move into the next stage. It’s fascinating to create a parallel - and at the same time, make characters so different. This man, Andy, the guy that I portray, he’s a guy who wishes to be seen,

but he’s looking in the wrong places. It has to start from the inside, but he’s just looking at the outside - which is a metaphor for the world we’re living in, which stays on the surface so much. We’re so afraid of digging further or of going deeper.

García Bernal: In regards to Esteban, the concept of aging comes for men in sports, particularly in boxing, in these contact sports. For women it’s beauty and for men it’s sports, where it kind of manifests in a very natural way.

It’s incredible that at that point in your life - the athlete is finally enjoying what they’re doing. You’re finally starting to have fun - but that’s when the body is just not responding. It is a quite incredible process; you have your whole life in front of you but you have to step away from what you loved. You have to say goodbye - to success as well, which is really complicated. And sports is very, very cruel in that sense.

AP: How do you combat that as an actor? In Hollywood, you’re in front of the camera all the time. How do you keep yourself from taking on the mindsets these characters have about aging?

Luna: We are in a very luxurious position, where what we do gets better and better with time. The characters that I can do now are the ones that I’ve been wanting to do for a long time.

Just as life gets more complex, as maturity comes, your characters become more complex and interesting. There are some things I can do now that I’m a father. There’s just some relations I understand much better now that I went through a long relation with my father. I lost him. Now, I have a lot to say there. The line between the professional and the personal is blurry in this journey we have - as actors or as storytellers.

García Bernal: It is a privilege to be able to sublimate that as actors. Also, we had the fortune of growing up in very loving environments where we’re not forced to think about (the negative aspects of aging). We’re really far away from those concepts, but they might affect us in other ways. But there’s that moment that as friends, Diego and I have confessed to each other as friends like, ‘Man, I don’t play fútbol anymore. Why? Because I get hurt. And I cannot work if I’m -’ It’s a bit sad but it happens to everybody.

Luna: Now, I have to stretch in the mornings.



Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna pose for a portrait to promote the film ‘La Máquina’ on Oct. 3, 2024, in West Hollywood, Calif. (AP)

Variety

DOHA: The Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) announced on Thursday the names of winners of the 2024 Katara Prize for Arabic Novel.

The award, launched in 2014, aims to open new horizons for creativity and innovation, foster talented Arab novelists and promote the presence of Arabic novel on the regional and international levels, General Manager of the Foundation Dr. Khaled bin Ibrahim Al-Sulaiti said in a speech to the award-giving ceremony.

The ceremony took place as part of the week-long Katara Arabic Novel

Festival which continues until Sunday, October 20.

Today Katara, the City of Arabic Novel, is celebrating the World Novel Week, which was proclaimed at the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2021 and takes place every year between October 13 and 20, Al-Sulaiti noted.

The prize falls in six categories - published novel, unpublished novel, young adult novel, unpublished historical novel, critical



Al-Sulaiti

studies, and the Qatari novel.

The prize for published Arabic novel was co-shared by Alaa Hleihel, of Palestine, for his novel ‘saba’ rasael ila Umm-Kolthoum’ (seven messages to Umm-Kolthoum); Mohammad Tarzi, of Lebanon, for his ‘microphone katem li al-sout’ (muffled microphone), and Yousef Hussein, of Egypt, for his ‘bayadeq wa nishan’ (pawns and badges).

The prize for unpublished novel went to the Algerian Qwaider Maymouni’s ‘el mamino de la moirti,’ the Syrian Liza Khedr’s ‘haet al-fadiha’ (wall of scandal) and the Moroccan Yassin Kenni’s ‘abath.’

The prize for critical studies went to the three novel critics Abal-Qasem Ei-

sani, of Algeria; Bu-Yousef Al-Sawri, of Morocco; and Hashem Merghani, of Sudan. (KUNA)

WARSAW: A concert was held here on Thursday night as part of the annual tribute to composer and pianist Frederic Chopin, marking the 175th anniversary of his death.

The event took place at the Holy Cross Church, where Chopin’s heart is enshrined in a pillar on the left side of the church’s nave, symbolizing his enduring bond with his home country.

Thursday’s performance featured Ukrainian pianist Vadym Kholodenko, who played a historic piano from Chopin’s era. (Xinhua)



UNICEF warns over 3 mln in Sudan at risk of cholera

UNICEF activates emergency cholera response in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced Friday that it has activated its emergency cholera response with Lebanon's Health Ministry after the detection of a case in northern Lebanon amid increasing displacement across the country.

"The war in Lebanon is already putting children at grave risk, and now cholera and other contagious diseases have emerged as a new risk," said Edouard Beigbeder, UNICEF's representative in Lebanon.

Lebanon recorded the return of cholera cases in October 2022 after their disappearance since 1993. In June 2023, Lebanon's Health Ministry announced the end of the cholera outbreak in the country after taking several measures to combat the epidemic.

According to UNICEF, a multi-sectoral response was launched on Wednesday -- when Lebanon announced the detection of a cholera case in the north -- in high-risk areas to ensure that children and families have access to safe water, sanitation, and personal hygiene supplies.

"UNICEF is making significant efforts to support the Ministry of Public Health to help protect all children and families in Lebanon from the spread of cholera," Beigbeder said.

"A ceasefire is more important than ever to protect children from being killed and injured, to stem the growing humanitarian crisis on the ground, and to focus on making sure that basic services are functioning properly," he said.

Since Sept. 23, the Israeli army has been launching intensive attacks on Lebanon in a dangerous escalation with Hezbollah, causing great casualties and mass displacement.

Meanwhile, the UNICEF on Friday warned that over three million people are at risk of cholera in Sudan.

"3.1 million people, including 500,000 children under 5, are at risk of cholera," UNICEF said on social platform X.

According to UNICEF, the vaccination coverage in Sudan has plummeted to some 50 percent from 85 percent before the outbreak of the internal conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in April 2023.

More than 70 percent of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are non-operational, and frontline healthcare workers have not been paid in months, it said.

Since the outbreak of the civil conflict, epidemic diseases such as cholera, malaria, measles, and dengue fever have spread, leading to hundreds of deaths.

Sudan's Health Ministry declared a cholera outbreak in the country in August, attributing the spread of cholera to deteriorating environmental conditions caused by the conflict and the use of unclean water.

The death toll from an outbreak of cholera in Nigeria has risen from 359 earlier this month to 378, with suspected cases since the onset in January exceeding 14,000 across the most populous African country, a senior public health official said Thursday.

At least 14,237 suspected cases had been reported in 35 out of 36 states as of Oct. 13, with a case fatality rate of 2.7 percent, Jide Idris, head of the Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), told reporters at a news conference in Abuja, the capital.

"Cholera has remained a significant public health challenge, especially in states affected by flooding and poor water and sanitation infrastructure," Idris said, adding the five northern states of Borno, Adamawa, Jigawa, Yobe, and Kano had been identified as the epicenters of the outbreak.

He said that the NCDC deployed rapid response teams to affected areas and conducted reactive cholera vaccinations in internally displaced persons camps to combat the outbreak.

Cholera, a highly virulent disease characterized in its most severe form by a sudden onset of acute watery diarrhea, can lead to death by dehydration.

Ghana has confirmed nine cases of cholera in the country's southeastern Greater Accra Region, health authorities said late Monday.

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) said that it has received confirmation from the Ada East and Ada West districts that samples from patients tested positive for cholera.

The first case presented at a health facility with symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain a few days after attending a funeral in the Ada East District.

CDC reports 18,506 cases, most since 2014

Whooping cough at a decade-high level in US

MILWAUKEE, Oct 19, (AP): Whooping cough is at its highest level in a decade for this time of year, US health officials reported Thursday.

There have been 18,506 cases of whooping cough reported so far, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. That's the most at this point in the year since 2014, when cases topped 21,800.

The increase is not unexpected - whooping cough peaks every three to five years, health experts said. And the numbers indicate a return to levels before the coronavirus pandemic, when whooping cough and other contagious illnesses plummeted.

Still, the tally has some state health officials concerned, including those in Wisconsin, where there have been about 1,000 cases so far this year, compared to a total of 51 last year.

Nationwide, CDC has reported that kindergarten vaccination rates dipped last year and vaccine exemptions are at an all-time high. Thursday, it released state figures, showing that about 86% of kindergartners in Wisconsin got the whooping cough vaccine, compared to more than 92% nationally.

Whooping cough, also called pertussis, usually starts out like a cold, with a runny nose and other common symptoms, before turning into a prolonged cough. It is treated with antibiotics. Whooping cough used to be very common until a vaccine was introduced in the 1950s, which is now part of routine childhood vaccinations. It is in a shot along with tetanus and diphtheria vaccines. The combo shot is recommended for adults every 10 years.

"They used to call it the 100-day cough because it literally lasts for 100 days," said Joyce Knestrick, a family nurse practitioner in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Whooping cough is usually seen mostly in infants and young children, who can develop serious complications. That's why the vaccine is recommended during pregnancy, to pass along protection to the newborn, and for those who spend a lot of time with infants.

But public health workers say outbreaks this year are hitting older kids and teens. In Pennsylvania, most outbreaks have been in middle school, high school and college settings, an official said. Nearly all the cases in Douglas County, Nebraska, are schoolkids and teens, said Justin Frederick, deputy director of the health department.

That includes his own teenage daughter.

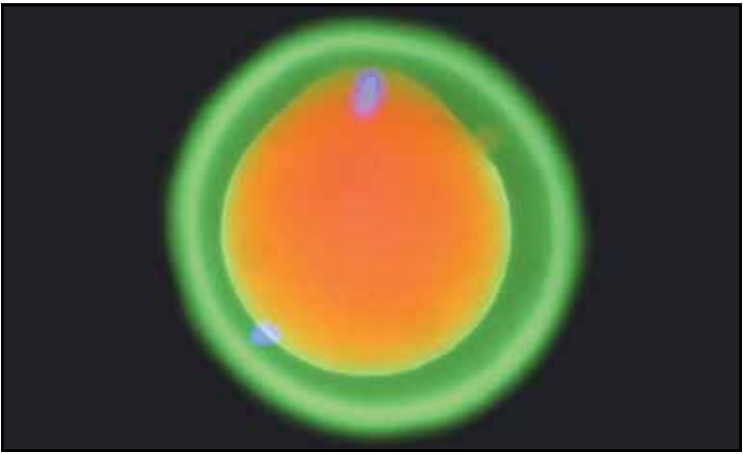
"It's a horrible disease. She still wakes up - after being treated with her antibiotics - in a panic because she's coughing so much she can't breathe," he said.

It's important to get tested and treated with antibiotics early, said Dr. Kris Bryant, who specializes in pediatric infectious diseases at Norton Children's in Louisville, Kentucky. People exposed to the bacteria can also take antibiotics to stop the spread.

"Pertussis is worth preventing," Bryant said. "The good news is that we have safe and effective vaccines."



This 2016 illustration provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention depicts Bordetella pertussis bacteria, which causes whooping cough, based on electron microscope imagery. (AP)



This microscope image provided by Osaka University and the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology in October 2024, shows the fertilization of a mouse egg marked in red and green. DNA is marked in blue, showing in the egg at the top and in a sperm cell at the bottom left. (AP)

Key proteins discovered

AI helps scientists discover key to fertilization process

NEW YORK, Oct 19, (AP): How a sperm and an egg fuse together has long been a mystery.

New research by scientists in Austria provides tantalizing clues, showing fertilization works like a lock and key across the animal kingdom, from fish to people.

"We discovered this mechanism that's really fundamental across all vertebrates as far as we can tell," said co-author Andrea Pauli at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology in Vienna.

The team found that three proteins on the sperm join to form a sort of key that unlocks the egg, allowing the sperm to attach. Their findings, drawn from studies in zebrafish, mice, and human cells, show how this process has persisted over millions of years of evolution. Results were published Thursday in the journal Cell.

Scientists had previously known about two proteins, one on the surface of the sperm and another on the egg's membrane. Working with international collaborators, Pauli's lab used Google DeepMind's artificial intelligence tool AlphaFold - whose developers were awarded a Nobel Prize earlier this month - to help them identify a new protein that allows the first molecular connection between sperm and egg. They also demonstrated how it functions in living things.

ADDIS ABABA, Oct. 19, (Xinhua): The death toll from Africa's ongoing mpox outbreak has reached 1,100, with a total of 42,438 cases, including 8,113 confirmed ones, since the beginning of 2024, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

During an online media briefing Thursday evening, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said that the African continent reported 3,051 new cases and 50 new deaths in the past week alone.

"For the first time, we have cases in Zambia reported on Oct. 8, and we have cases in Zimbabwe reported on Oct. 12. We also have additional cases in Uganda and Ghana. Unfortunately, we have the first death in Kenya," Kaseya said.

The Africa CDC said 18 African countries have been impacted by the mpox outbreak since the start of this year, with all five regions of the continent affected by the outbreak.

Data from the African Union's specialized healthcare agency showed that Central Africa is the hardest-hit region, accounting for 86.4 percent of all cases reported and more than 99 percent of all mpox-related deaths.

It said the number of mpox cases reported this year marked a staggering 380 percent increase compared to the total cases recorded in 2023.

The Africa CDC also expressed concern over new outbreaks in two prisons in Uganda, with cases having no travel history outside the country.

Mpox, also known as monkeypox, was first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958. It is a rare viral disease typically spread through body fluids, respiratory droplets, and other contaminated materials. The infection usually causes fever, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

In mid-August, the Africa CDC declared the ongoing mpox outbreak in Africa a public health emergency of continental security. Soon after, the World Health Organization also declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, activating its highest level of global alert for mpox for the second time in two years.

Marburg: The number of confirmed Marburg virus disease cases in Rwanda has risen to 62, with 15 deaths, Rwanda's Health Minister Sabin Nsanzimana has announced.

Marburg cases reach 62 in Rwanda

Death toll from mpox in Africa surges to 1,100



A man receives a vaccination against mpox, at the General hospital, in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024. (AP)

"Cumulatively, we have confirmed 62 cases of the Marburg virus disease in Rwanda. We have recorded 38 recoveries and 15 deaths," Nsanzimana said Thursday evening during a special online media briefing on the multi-country mpox outbreak in Africa and the Marburg virus disease outbreak in Rwanda, alongside Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Director-General Jean Kaseya.

Nsanzimana noted nine people are currently receiving medical treatments in health facilities, with most showing signs of improvement.

With a case fatality rate of around 24 percent, Nsanzimana emphasized that medical treatments and preventive measures are being intensified to reduce fatalities and curb further transmission. He highlighted Rwanda has seen consecutive days with zero fatalities, and recoveries in the past week outpaced deaths.

The Marburg virus disease outbreak, which was first declared in Rwanda on Sept. 27, coincides with Rwanda's ongoing response to manage the mpox outbreak.

Despite the challenges, Africa CDC has urged countries not to impose travel bans or movement restrictions in response.

Marburg virus disease is a severe and often fatal hemorrhagic illness transmitted from fruit bats to humans. Human-to-human transmission occurs through direct contact with an infected person's bodily fluids or contaminated materials. There is currently no vaccine or specific treatment for the virus, and supportive care must be administered immediately. Infection prevention and control protocols similar to those used for Ebola are essential to limiting its spread.

Malaria: Nigeria on Thursday rolled out a new malaria vaccine that will be given free to recipients, a historic step in the fight against the deadly disease that has killed thousands of children under the age of five in Africa's most populous nation.

Nigerian Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Ali Pate, said 846,200 doses of the vaccine have been procured in partnership with global vaccine group Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Some 153,800 more doses are expected for delivery before the end of this month, totaling 1 million doses of the vaccine, he added.

The new R21 vaccine was developed by scientists at Oxford University and made by the Serum Institute of India and Novavax.

Pate said ahead of the national rollout, the first phase of the vaccine's rollout will begin next month in the northwestern state of Kebbi and the southern state of Bayelsa, where malaria prevalence has been particularly high. It will be administered as part of the West African country's routine immunization schedule for children under one year of age, with over 800,000 doses set to be distributed during this phase.

"The arrival of the malaria vaccine is a monumental step in our national efforts to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality," the health minister told reporters.

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Marchand demonstrates his prowess in men’s individual medley

China’s Qin wins 50m breaststroke gold at Swimming World Cup

SHANGHAI, Oct 19, (Xinhua): China claimed two gold, four silver and two bronze medals at the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup in Shanghai.

Held in a short-course format, the tournament comprises three legs - in China, South Korea and Singapore - all of which serve as qualifiers for the World Short Course Swimming Championships in Budapest this December.

Liu Yaxin triumphed in the women’s 400m freestyle with a time of three minutes and 58.45 seconds, with Li Bingjie and Tang Muhan taking second and third respectively.

“I am pleased with my time,” Liu expressed. “Having five Chinese swimmers in the 400m freestyle final felt like competing with friends, which made it less pressured.”

The men’s 100m breaststroke saw world champion Qin Haiyang claim gold in 55.73 seconds, while his compatriot Sun Jiajun captured bronze.

In the women’s 200m butterfly, 17-year-old Chen Luying earned a silver for China, clocking at a new junior world record of 2:02.71. America’s Regan Smith secured gold in 2:01.85.

Olympic champion Zhang Yufei secured a silver in the women’s 50m freestyle, finishing just 0.18 seconds behind the winner, Poland’s Katarzyna Wasick.

China’s Yu Yiting narrowly missed the women’s 100m medley gold, settling for silver after a close race with Olympic champion Kate Douglass of the United States, who also won the women’s 200m breaststroke.

“It’s my first time swimming the 100m med-

ley in short course, so I’m very excited,” Douglass shared.

France’s Olympic champion Leon Marchand dominated the men’s 100m medley with a time of 50.65 seconds. Chinese veteran Wang Shun finished fourth, while Olympic 100m freestyle champion Pan Zhanle came in sixth.

“I felt great,” Pan said, reflecting on his performance. “I’ve improved my personal best by one second.” Pan also expressed his admiration for Wang, stating, “It’s my first time competing with him, and I learned a lot.” The star-studded World Cup attracted 200 swimmers, including 19 Olympic champions, and marked the first international competition for China’s swimming team since the Paris Olympic Games.



Charlie Clark (left) of the United States and Benjamin Goedemans of Australia react after the men’s 1500m freestyle final at the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2024 in Shanghai, China. (Xinhua)

Beijing, Changchun secure wins

China kicks off U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers with win over Bahrain

DALIAN, Oct 19, (Xinhua): China got off to a promising start in its AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifying campaign with a 2-0 win over Bahrain in Group C on Saturday.

Forward Aibibula Nueraji put China ahead with a deft chipped goal in the second minute, before midfielder Bian Yulang’s strike on the hour mark sealed the win for the hosts.

Another Chinese midfielder Yao Junyu, who came on in the second half, hit the crossbar with a free kick in the 78th minute.

Bahrain struggled under the relentless attack from China, failing to create any convincing chance throughout the game.

China take on Bhutan in its next group game on Wednesday, before facing the Maldives and South Korea.

A total of 43 teams were divided into 10 groups in the qualifiers, and the group winners along with the best five second-placed teams will join hosts Saudi Arabia for the finals, scheduled from April 3 to 20, 2025.

□ □ □

The Chinese Super League (CSL) saw dominant displays on Saturday as Beijing Guoan thrashed Qingdao Hainiu 6-0, and Changchun Yatai cruised to a 4-0 victory over Qingdao West Coast.

Forward Fabio Abreu was the star

of the show for Beijing, delivering a masterful performance with one goal and an impressive four assists.

The 31-year-old Angolan set the tone early, heading the ball to Cao Yongjing in the 18th minute to break the deadlock. Abreu scored a header from Lin Liangming’s cross eight minutes later, and just before halftime, he returned the favor with a sublime pass that allowed Lin to make it 3-0.

Abreu continued pulling the strings in the second half, providing another two assists for Cao and Lin. Cao was on the verge of a hat-trick, but VAR disallowed his 61st-minute goal. The rout was completed in the 89th minute when Qingdao’s Liu Jiashen turned the ball into his own net, capping a miserable evening for the visitors.

In Saturday’s other match, overseas players powered Changchun to a resounding win over Qingdao West Coast.

Defender Stoppila Sunzu’s maiden goal for Changchun opened the scoring in the 43rd minute, and the second half saw Robert Beric score twice, while Serginho added another to seal a commanding victory.

Changchun’s relentless pressure limited the visitors to just one shot on target throughout the match.

The final two matches of the 28th round will take place on Sunday.

Recovered from injury

Neymar is available for Al-Hilal next week

SAO PAULO, Oct 19, (AP): Neymar is available to play for Saudi Arabia club Al-Hilal in an AFC Champions League Elite match next week after one year on the sidelines due to injury.

His marketing company NR Sports said in a statement on Saturday that the Brazilian’s love for soccer and his hope to play in the next World Cup were bringing him back to action.

“Though there’s no final decision for his return, the number 10 will be able to play on Monday to carry on with his remarkable trajectory,” the statement said, in a reference to Al-Hilal’s match against Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates.

Neymar signed for the Riyadh team in August 2023 and played just five games when he underwent surgery after rupturing his meniscus and anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee while on international duty in October last year.

“These were days of pain, anguish, and a lot of longing for soccer, which were overcome with the help of family and friends, always present for our number 10. And all the fans around

the world who gave him all support in social media networks,” the statement added. “The wait is over.”

A social media posting also published on Saturday showed the 32-year-old speaking about his recovery and displayed footage of his efforts to come back.

“Every time I get injured, I come back. But I don’t come back halfway,” a tearful Neymar said in a video.

Neymar returned to training in July, but in September his club coach Jorge Jesus dampened expectations of an immediate comeback. The Portuguese coach did not confirm Neymar will play on Monday.

Neymar, whose two-year contract ends next August, is eligible to appear in AFC Champions League Elite matches as the continental competition has no restrictions on the number of foreign players allowed. That is not the case in the Saudi Pro League, which will see him back only in January.

If fit, Neymar could return to Brazil’s national team in two rounds of South American World Cup qualifying scheduled for November.

Best of the Rest

**Reign’s tops Dash:** Nérilia Mondésir became the first Haitian-born player to score in the National Women’s Soccer League with her winning goal in the Seattle Reign’s 2-1 victory over the Houston Dash on Friday night.

The Reign (6-14-5) snapped a five-game losing and scoreless streak with the win.

Olivia Athens got things started for the Reign in the 22nd minute. After a corner kick was cleared to her at the top of the box, Athens hit a hard shot into the near-post corner.

Barbara Olivieri equalized for the Dash three minutes later, scoring on a penalty kick after getting taken down in the box.

Mondésir, in her first start since signing with the Reign in August, pounced on a loose ball in the box and shot through the legs of goalkeeper Jane Campbell in the 65th minute.

Houston (5-15-5) remained in last place. Both teams had already been eliminated from playoff contention before Friday’s match. (AP)

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**Nadal to play in China:** Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal on Thursday expressed his anticipation of returning to China in the future and possibly even playing some matches, saying he is confident he will reunite with fans there.

Nadal made these remarks during the “Six Kings Slam” exhibition tennis tournament on Thursday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. While participating in the tournament, Nadal greeted his Chinese fans during an interview with Xinhua. “I had great memories from China. I played all those years. Unfortunately, the last couple of years I was not able to be there because of the injuries,” he said.

Nadal recently announced his intention to retire from professional tennis after the Davis Cup finals in November. Reflecting on his decision, he said, “Yes, I will retire from professional tennis. I will be happy to be back in China in the future, and hopefully playing some good tennis too.”

After losing to fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz in the semifinals of the tournament on Thursday, Nadal thanked his fans worldwide. He noted that, “they help me in every single way when I was in rough moments, in positive moments. (Xinhua)

Lynx forces Game 5 of Finals



Minnesota Lynx guard Kayla McBride (21) drives to the basket against New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu during the second half of Game 4 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series in Minneapolis. (AP)

Carleton’s free throws help Minnesota beat Liberty 82-80

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 19, (AP): With their season on the line, the Minnesota Lynx did just enough to stave off elimination and force a decisive Game 5 of the WNBA Finals.

Bridget Carleton made two free throws with 2 seconds left, and the Lynx beat the New York Liberty 82-80 on Friday night. The teams will meet Sunday night in New York in the first Game 5 of the Finals since 2019, when Washington topped Connecticut.

“Last 40 minutes of the season, it could be anywhere, really, it doesn’t matter. We’re going to be out there together going to war and I’m pumped,” said Kayla McBride, who led the Lynx with 19 points.

Courtney Williams added 15 points for Minnesota, which forced Liberty stars Breanna Stewart and Sabrina Ionescu into poor shooting nights. Ionescu’s heave at the buzzer didn’t hit the rim.

“I think we’re excited,” Napheesa Collier said. “It’s a Game 5 of the Finals. We have to go out and execute.” Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve is no stranger to winner-take-all games. She coached Minnesota in three straight ones from 2015-17, winning two.

“I don’t think about the other ones,” Reeve said. “I feel very blessed in my career to have a chance to be a part of so many. I haven’t won them all. ... What I’m thrilled about is that this group gets to ex-



Minnesota Lynx guard Courtney Williams, left, goes up to shoot as New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) defends during the first half of Game 4 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series in Minneapolis. (AP)

perience the Game 5.” Unlike the first three games of the series, when one of the teams built a double-digit lead, this one was tight throughout. There were 14 lead changes and 13 ties, and neither team led by more than six.

“It’s a close-out game. Their backs are against the wall and we are trying to win,” said Jonquel Jones, who led New York with 21 points. “It was going to be that type of game tonight where we are both trying to claw and both teams are trying to figure out whatever to do to get over the hump.” With the game tied at 80-all with 18 seconds left, Williams dribbled to run the clock down and missed a jumper with a few seconds left. Carleton got the

rebound in the lane and was fouled by Ionescu.

“She got the shot off and missed it perfectly for me,” Carleton said. “We talked about it after. She wanted to get it high and off the rim.” The 27-year-old Canadian calmly made both free throws, and Ionescu was unable to duplicate her heroics in Game 3, when she made a 28-footer with 1 second left to give the Liberty a 2-1 series lead.

“I was pretty confident. I’m a confident free-throw shooter,” Carleton said.

Leonie Fiebich added 19 for New York. Stewart, who scored 30 points in Game 3, had 11 points on 5-of-20 shooting, and Ionescu was 5 of 16 from the floor and scored 10.

Minnesota stands one victory away from a record fifth WNBA title, which would break a tie with the Houston Comets and Seattle Storm. The Liberty are looking for their first title and have lost in the Finals five times. The team was one of the original eight franchises when the league began in 1997 and is the only one left of that group not to have won it all.

New York lost to Las Vegas in last season’s Finals. Friday night marked the one-year anniversary of the Game 4 clincher last season for the Aces.

The Lynx reached the Finals for the first time since 2017, when they won the last of four championships in seven years.

Minnesota built a 77-72 lead with 3:14 left on Carleton’s 3-pointer before New York scored eight of the next 11 points, including a three-point play by Jones with 1:10 left that tied it at 80.

Both teams had chances before Carleton’s free throws. McBride missed a layup with 56 seconds left, but the Lynx forced a shot-clock violation on the other end when Stewart’s shot in the lane missed with 18 seconds left.

“We wanted to get it done tonight. But like (coach) Sandy (Brondello) said, our fans are like no other, and to be able to go into our environment on Sunday, know they have our backs,” Stewart said. “So whenever there are tough situations, whenever we’re fighting through all of this adversity, we know we have the crowd behind us. That’s just going to continue to motivate us. Yeah, can’t wait for Sunday.”

Monaco remains top in France

Valladolid strikes late to secure 3-2 victory at Alaves

MADRID, Oct 19, (AP): Two goals in the last 20 minutes gave Real Valladolid only its second win of the Spanish league season with a 3-2 victory at Alaves.

The result featured a penalty in each half for the visitors and takes Valladolid into 18th spot in the 20-team La Liga with eight points from 10 games.

Alaves is four places above with 10 points from 10 matches.

The home side was raring to go in its first game after the international break and took the lead five minutes into the match.

Mario Martin gave away possession midway through his own half and Toni Martínez took advantage. The former Porto striker charged

forward and struck a low shot from 30 yards out that bounced before going into the bottom corner of the net.

Mamadou Sylla equalized for Valladolid 11 minutes later when he converted a penalty against his old club.

After the break, Valladolid looked more dangerous as the second half went on and it secured all three points with goals in the 72nd and 76th minutes.

The first was Selim Amallah’s penalty kick and the second came after Sylla and Anuar combined in a sleek counterattack. Sylla fed Anuar from the left and the Moroccan midfielder converted with his right foot.

Substitute Kike García got a goal

back for Alaves in the sixth minute of second-half stoppage time and then was sent off seconds later for dissent.

Monaco remains top of the French league after a 0-0 draw at home to Lille on Friday but made life difficult for itself by having to play the last half hour with 10 men.

One of the form sides in France this year, Monaco is unbeaten in all competitions and has 20 points from eight games.

In addition to six wins and two draws in the league this season, the club from the principality is now unbeaten in its last 11 home games in the French league - its longest such run since August 2018.

The scrappy match rarely threat-

ened to catch fire with goal opportunities few and far between for both sides.

In the first half, Jordan Teze had the best chance for Monaco but he fired over the bar from close range.

The Dutch defender’s night went from bad to worse after an hour when he was shown a red card for a clumsy challenge on Gabriel Gudmundsson.

Denis Zakaria should have secured all three points for Monaco in stoppage time but goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier did well to turn his shot around the post after a quick counterattack.

Lille is in fourth place with 14 points from eight matches.



# Kuwait volleyball team heads to Cairo for 10-day training camp ahead of the Arab Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: The Kuwait national volleyball team will travel to Cairo today for a 10-day training camp, as part of their preparations for the 23rd Arab Men's Volleyball Championship, set to take place in Bahrain from October 29 to November 11.

The delegation, headed by Hamoud Al-Badali, Assistant Treasurer of the Volleyball Federation, includes team manager Mohammed Al-Balushi and a technical staff led by Argentine coach Julian Alvarez. His support team consists of assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi, fitness trainer Kozak Germoral, statistician Lux Al-Burg, and physiotherapist Ahmed Al-Aqrabi. The roster features 14 players: Saud Al-Duwaisan, Mohammed Suwaid, Abdullah Fares, Rashid Anbar, Fahd Saad Yaqoub, Ahmed Al-Munais, Ibrahim Mandeel, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawa, Ali Saadoun, Mishaal Al-Omar, Abdullah Bouffin,



A file photo of Kazma and Al-Qurain players battling for the ball.

## Al-Qurain looking to pull off upset against leader Kazma

By Khaled Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Due to the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex being occupied by the Public Authority for Sports, the Handball Association has moved the League "merger" matches for the senior category. The third and fourth rounds will now take place at the Kuwait Club Hall in Kaifan, with matches returning to the "Al-Saad" Hall starting from the fifth round on the 29th of this month.

Today's schedule for the third round includes two matches. At 5:00 pm, Al-Qurain, currently in tenth place with no points, will face Kazma, the league leader with four points. This will be followed at 6:30 pm by a match between Al-Fahaheel, ranked seventh with two points, and Kuwait Club, in third place with four points.

The round concludes on Monday, with Al-Tadamon, last place with

no points, taking on Burqan, who is eighth with two points. Additionally, Yarmouk, currently twelfth with no points, will meet Al-Qadsiya, in eleventh place, also without points, in a match that will secure the first win for one of the teams.

Today's matches promise to be highly competitive. Despite losing its first two games, Al-Qurain will not be an easy opponent for Kazma, who lead the standings by goal difference over Al-Salmiya, Kuwait Club, Al-Nasr, and Al-Arabi. Al-Qurain may pull off a surprise by either winning or securing its first point in the league. On the other hand, Kazma is aiming to extend its winning streak and maintain its position at the top. The second match is equally important. Al-Fahaheel, with one win and one loss, will face a strong challenge from Kuwait Club, who is determined to continue collecting points to defend its title, which it has held for 12 consecutive years.

Tadamon and Fahaheel draw

## Al-Arabi looks to bounce back

By Hassan Mosa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Today marks the conclusion of the seventh round of the Zain Premier League, featuring two exciting matches. In the first match, Al-Arabi faces Al-Yarmouk at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:40 Ppm, while the second match sees Kazma take on Khaitan at Al-Sadaka and Al-Salam Stadium at 8:00 pm.

Al-Arabi, currently with 15 points, is eager to bounce back after suffering its only defeat of the season, a 0-2 loss to Kuwait Club in the last round. A win today is crucial for Al-Arabi to stay close to the league leader and to boost team morale ahead of its upcoming participation in the Asian Challenge Cup, where it will host the second group competitions starting next Saturday.

Conversely, Al-Yarmouk, sitting at the bottom of the standings with just 3 points, is in search of its first victory this season after drawing three matches and losing three others.

In the other matchup, Kazma, currently in eighth place with 4 points, is determined to secure a victory to restore its balance and distance itself from the danger zone. It aims for its second win of the season after four losses, one draw, and just one victory.

The "Orange" team has struggled to find consistent form since the start of the competition, delivering underwhelming performances in

most of their six previous matches. Meanwhile, Khaitan, positioned seventh in the standings with 5 points, seeks to capitalize on Kazma's struggles and clinch its second victory of the season, which would help it avoid slipping further into the danger zone.

In the opening match of the seventh round, Tadamon managed to come back from a two-goal deficit to draw 2-2 with Fahaheel.

With this result, Fahaheel increased its points tally to 11, while Tadamon now has 8 points.

Fahaheel took an early lead through a fortuitous own goal by Khaitan player Mohammed Alian in the fourth minute. Abdul Mohsen Al-Ajmi's attempt to pass to William Baroy inadvertently deflected off Alian and found its way into goalkeeper Dawood Al-Khalidi's net.

Abdullah Mawi extended Fahaheel's lead in the 17th minute with a powerful long-range shot that found the back of Al-Khalidi's net.

Tadamon had a chance to equalize earlier in the match, but Fahad Al-Rashidi missed a penalty kick. However, they managed to reduce the deficit in the 37th minute when they headed a cross into goalkeeper Ahmed Aadi's net.

Senegalese forward Ibrahim Jay capitalized on a pass from Syrian teammate Ahmed Al-Dali just before halftime, dribbling past Fahaheel's defense and scoring the equalizer. saw both teams play cautiously, resulting in a 2-2 draw.



Al-Fahaheel striker Vitor Silva is obstructed by Al-Tadamon player Hamed Al-Rashidi.

Adhbi Malik Al-Enezi, Omar Abdulrahman Al-Enezi, and Abdulaziz Najm. During the camp, the team will play 3-4 friendly matches before heading directly to Bahrain.

Assistant coach Zaid Al-Kazemi confirmed that the team has completed its local preparation phase under an integrated training program, overseen by coach Julian Alvarez. The program focused on enhancing the players' physical, technical, and skill development. The team also played friendly matches against Burgan and Al-Sulaibikhat, both reinforced by professional players.

Al-Kazemi emphasized that the coaching staff is working with a blend of young talent and experienced players, in coordination with the Federation, aiming to build a competitive team for the future. He praised the players' commitment during the preparation period, which demonstrates their dedication to improving and representing Kuwait at a high level in the upcoming championship.



Kuwait volleyball players preparing for a training session.

# India collapses in first test

New Zealand on verge of historic win

BENGALURU, India, Oct 19, (AP): New Zealand needed 107 runs to win its first test on Indian soil since 1988 after the home side collapsed in the final session Saturday despite a tremendous fightback from Sarfaraz Khan and Rishabh Pant.

At stumps on rain-affected Day 4, the Black Caps were yet to open their account in their second innings when darkness stopped play.

India lost seven wickets for just 54 runs in its second innings, collapsing to 462 all out in 99.3 overs. Pacer Will O'Rourke picked 3-92, while Matt Henry took 3-102 to end the Indian threat.

The fightback was centered around a 177-run partnership between Khan and Pant. Khan scored his first test century - 150 runs off 195 balls - while Pant was bowled for 99 runs.

India had been bowled out for its lowest score in tests on home soil - 46 - in the first innings. New Zealand

had replied with 402 runs, a lead of 356 runs.

After lunch, when India was



New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra reacts after bowling a delivery to India's Rishabh Pant during the day four of the first cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

placed at 344-3, there was another rain delay and 24 overs were lost.

When play resumed, Khan and Pant continued their unbeaten 113-run partnership.

Khan became the third Indian batter to score a duck and 150-plus runs in the same test. He achieved this feat in the second innings off 194 balls.

Earlier, he had reached his maiden hundred off 110 balls, sparking celebrations. He had resumed from overnight 70 not out and throughout counter-attacked the New Zealand bowling.

Overall, Khan hit 18 fours and three sixes, while Pant smacked nine fours and five sixes.

That ended as New Zealand took the second new ball before tea and got the breakthrough.

Tim Southee had Khan caught in the 85th over, but the big moment came when O'Rourke bowled Pant in the 89th.

It ushered in India's collapse, with the lower-middle order unable to resist the new ball.

O'Rourke had Lokesh Rahul caught behind for 12, while Ravin-

dra Jadeja was out for five.

Henry trapped Ravichandran Ashwin lbw for 15 and then removed the tailenders in the space of six deliveries. India lost its last six wickets for 29 runs across 68 deliveries.

Rain prevented any further play after just four deliveries in the Kiwi innings. Jasprit Bumrah had a loud lbw shout turned down against Tom Latham as India lost a review.

The lowest India has defended to win a test on home soil is 107 runs against Australia in Mumbai in 2004.

India leads the World Test Championship standings, and a 3-0 win in this series against New Zealand would all but assure its spot for the final at Lord's next June. India recently beat Bangladesh 2-0.

New Zealand has already been on a long subcontinental tour. It began with a washed-out test against Afghanistan in Greater Noida, India, followed by a 2-0 series loss in Sri Lanka.

The second match in the three-test series will be played in Pune starting next Thursday and the final one in Mumbai from Nov. 1.



India's Sarfaraz Khan plays a shot during the day four of the first cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

## South Africa looms in Women's T20 World Cup final

# NZ survives anxious last over to reach final

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 19, (AP): Suzie Bates held her nerve in the final over as New Zealand advanced to the Women's T20 World Cup final for the first time in 14 years with an eight-run victory over West Indies.

Bates (1-6) bowled her only over with West Indies needing 15 more runs to win the semifinal match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The right-arm medium conceded a four off the first delivery before taking a wicket and conceding only two runs in the rest of the over.

Eden Carson took 3-29, while Amelia Kerr picked up 2-14 in four overs, as New Zealand restricted West Indies' chase to 120-8 in 20 overs. This was after 2016 champion West Indies had bowled well enough to restrain New Zealand to a competitive 128-9 after the White Ferns chose to bat first.

New Zealand is twice runners-up in this tournament - 2009 and 2010.

It will now take on South Africa in Sunday's final at Dubai, where a first-time champion will be crowned.

South Africa stunned defending champion Australia in the first semifinal on Thursday, winning by eight wickets to reach its second straight final.

Earlier, Bates had led a fine opening charge with 26 runs off 28 balls, and put on 48 off 50 with Georgia Plimmer.

Plimmer top scored for New Zealand with a 31-ball 33, including her team's only six and three fours. After Bates' dismissal in the ninth over, Plimmer held the innings together as New Zealand lost Amelia Kerr (7) and skipper Sophie Devine

(12) cheaply.

West Indies' Deandra Dottin produced an all-round performance on the night, starting with 4-22 in four overs. She had sent back Kerr, and then claimed another three wickets through the lower-middle order.

Dottin had support from Afy Fletcher, who took 2-23, as the duo squeezed runs late into the New Zea-

land innings.

Brooke Halliday scored 18 off nine balls, while Isabella Gaze's 20 not out off 14 balls helped her team reach a defendable total.

In reply, West Indies looked for a quick start but it didn't happen as Carson bowled Qiana Joseph for 12. Lea Tahuu proved expensive overall (1-33 in three overs), but picked up the vital early wicket of skipper Hayley Matthews (15).

Off-spinner Carson didn't allow West Indies' big hitters to get going. Shemaine Campbell was out caught for three, while Carson bowled Stefanie Taylor for 13.

West Indies was 63-5 in the 14th over, when Dottin smacked 33 off 22, including three sixes, to deflate the opposition.

"When Dottin was pumping us, we believed and stuck it out to get over the line," said Carson, who was named player of the match. "We had to defend a below par total and get those early wickets because West Indies is a dangerous side."

It was Kerr who provided the turning point - Dottin holed out in the 17th over.

After a nervous start to the last over, Bates dismissed Zaida James off the third ball.



New Zealand's Isabella Gaze plays a shot during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final match between New Zealand and West Indies at Sharjah Stadium, United Arab Emirates. (AP)





Emirates Team New Zealand races during the Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup Day 6 race 9 in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

# Sports

Britain wait goes on

## Emirates Team NZ wins 37th America's Cup

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct. 19, (AP): Emirates Team New Zealand won the 37th America's Cup by clinching match point for a 7-2 victory over INEOS Britannia on Saturday.

New Zealand's eight-man crew embraced and cheered on the deck of the 75-foot Taihoro after holding Britannia off to win Race 9.

"It is just sinking in. What an amazing day, this team has been

amazing, what an amazing feeling," New Zealand skipper Peter Burling said after his America's Cup finals-record 22nd race win.

New Zealand secured a threepeat after also winning the oldest trophy in international sport in 2017 and 2021. It was the Pacific island nation's fifth cup in total.

Burling and the New Zealand team posed behind a winner's

banner as a fleet of fan boats gathered around and sounded horns in celebration.

"It has been a huge journey and I have loved every minute of it," New Zealand helmsman Nathan Outteridge said after his first cup title, compared to No 3. for Burling, his steering partner.

Britain has never won the America's Cup in its 173-year history. They were competing in their first final in six decades.

"A huge well done to Team New Zealand, what an amazing campaign and team," Britannia skipper Ben Ainslie said. "In my view they are the best team ever in the America's Cup.

New Zealand dominated the best-of-13 final off the Barcelona beachfront by sweeping the first four races.

Britannia bounced back with two wins on the same day in choppy waters and light winds,

but the Kiwis then ran off three straight victories to wrap it up.

The Brits put up a fight in the final race, pulling level midway through, only for Taihoro, which means "To move swiftly as the sea between both sky and earth," blocked their passing attempt and then sped off to win by a comfortable margin.

"We had our moments in the finals but at the end of the day the better team won," Ainslie said.



Everton's Vitaliy Mykolenko and Ipswich Town's Wes Burns, right, battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Ipswich Town and Everton at Portman Road, Ipswich. (AP)

# Man United eases pressure on Ten Hag

Tottenham routs West Ham with second-half scoring spree

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 19, (AP): Alejandro Garnacho scored from a brilliant volley as Manchester United fought back to beat Brentford 2-1 in the English Premier League on Saturday.

The Argentina international fired home from a tight angle when connecting with Marcus Rashford's cross just after halftime.

It sparked a comeback that saw Rasmus Hojlund hit the winner to secure United only its third league victory and ease the pressure on manager Erik ten Hag.

It looked like being another disappointing day for United and Ten Hag, who was angered when Ethan Pinnock opened the scoring for Brentford in contentious circumstances in first half added time.

United defender Matthijs de Ligt was ordered off for medical attention because his head was bleeding following an earlier collision. It left the home team a man down as Brentford prepared to take a corner and Pinnock headed over the line in the fifth minute of added time.

United responded quickly after the break thanks to Garnacho's goal in the 47th.

Hojlund flicked past Brentford goalkeeper Mark Flekken in the 62nd. Tottenham scored three times in eight minutes in a 4-1 win over West Ham.

Spurs trailed to Mohammed Kudus' 18th-minute goal at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium but powered back with a brilliant second-half performance.

Dejan Kulusevski leveled in the 36th and after the break the home team took control. Yves Bissouma struck in the 52nd and Alphonse Areola scored an own goal



Manchester United's Casemiro, right, duels for the ball with Brentford's Keane Lewis-Potter during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Brentford at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

three minutes later.

Son Heung-min added a fourth on the hour mark.

West Ham was reduced to 10 men in the 86th when Kudus was sent off for pushing Micky van de Ven in an

angry confrontation.

The owner of Nottingham Forest was given a five-match stadium ban in the latest of a series of sanctions against the Premier League club in recent weeks.

Evangelos Marinakis was charged by the English Football Association for misconduct after Forest's 1-0 loss to Fulham last month in a match that was decided by a contentious, VAR-awarded penalty. The governing body claimed his behavior around the tunnel area after the match at Forest's City Ground was "improper" but did not give specific details of the incident.

An independent panel sanctioned Marinakis with a five-game ban. Forest said it would appeal.

Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo was given a separate punishment on Friday when fined 55,000 pounds (\$72,000) and banned from the touchline for two games after being sent off in his team's 2-2 draw with Brighton last month. He admitted using abusive and/or insulting words toward a match official. The FA said the sanction activated a further one-match touchline ban, which had been suspended, making three games in total.

Forest midfielder Morgan Gibbs-White was also sent off in that match and admitted using abusive and/or insulting words toward the fourth official. He was fined 20,000 pounds (\$26,000) and suspended for one match.

Brighton manager Fabian Hurler was also sent off, and he was fined 8,000 pounds (\$10,000) for acting in an improper manner.

Forest was fined 750,000 pounds (\$980,000) last week for an inflammatory post that got more than 46 million views. The club was found to have questioned the integrity of match officials in an "irresponsible" post on X in April following a 2-0 loss to Everton.



Al-Qadisiya diving team with officials after the honoring ceremony.

## Al-Subaie leads Al-Qadisiya to Kuwait Diving Champ'ship win

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 19: Al-Qadisiya Club secured first place in for the senior category, held at the Abdullah Al-Dakhil Aquatic Games Complex at Kazma Club, thanks to the impressive performances of its athletes. Bader Mishal Al-Subaie led the way, earning two gold medals in the 3-meter springboard and platform events, along with a silver medal in the 1-meter springboard competition. His teammate, Mishari Aref Qambar, added to the medal haul with three bronze medals in the same events. Al-Qadisiya's dominance in the competition placed them at the top of the overall rankings, followed by Kazma Club in second place, and Kuwait Club in third.

Vice Chairman of Al-Qadisiya Club, Sheikh Fahad Talal Al-Fahad, praised the club's diving team during a reception held after its victory.

He congratulated the athletes on their achievement and urged them to continue striving for further success to add to the club's legacy. Sheikh Fahad highlighted the importance of water sports at Al-Qadisiya, noting that the club has a strong tradition of excellence across swimming, diving, and water polo, which has consistently led to the General Excellence Cup. He attributed this success to the tireless efforts of the club's water sports management, led by Secretary-General and Director of Water Games, Hassan Abu Al-Hassan, and the administrative and technical staff. Hassan Abu Al-Hassan also expressed his gratitude to Sheikh Fahad and the Board of Directors, chaired by Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahad, for their continued support and praised the outstanding performance of the athletes.

### Best of the Rest

**Green keeps 2-shot lead:** Hannah Green of Australia shot a 2-under 70 on Saturday to hold a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the BMW Ladies Championship in South Korea.

Green shot 64 in each of the first two rounds. The second round was completed early Saturday after rain washed out much of the play on Friday.

Green has led outright or shared the lead at the end of each round. She is 18-under 198 overall.

Yu Jin Sung of South Korea soared up the leaderboard with her 9-under 63, the best score of the round at the Seowon Valley Country Club, and was two shots back.

Ashleigh Buhai of South Africa was three off the lead after a 71, and Haeran Ryu of South Korea and Ryann O'Toole of the United States were four off the pace after they both carded 68s.

The field is loaded with 17 of the tour's 18 winners this season. The one major absence is Nelly Korda, the LPGA's No. 1-ranked golfer. She withdrew before the event with a neck injury. (AP)

**Dallas Wings fire coach:** The Dallas Wings fired coach Latricia Trammell on Friday. Trammell went 31-49 in two sea-

sons with the Dallas Wings, including 2-3 in playoff appearances. This past season the team went 9-31 and missed the WNBA postseason for the first time since 2020.

"After an extensive review of our basketball operations department, which included interviews and conversations with stakeholders across our organization, I have made the decision to relieve Latricia Trammell of her head coaching duties with the Dallas Wings," said the team's President and CEO Greg Bibb. "On behalf of our entire organization I thank Latricia for her efforts and wish her well moving forward."

The Wings will also look to hire a general manager for the first time. Bibb handled the GM duties in the past.

"As part of our year-end review process, and in conjunction with our organizational long-term strategic planning, I have decided to expand and strengthen our basketball operations through the hiring of a general manager who will oversee the day-to-day operation of our basketball group," said Bibb. "The search for this individual has already begun and I hope to have more news on this hire soon. The general manager will lead the search for the next head coach of the Dallas Wings." (AP)

Leipzig blanks Mainz away

## Wirtz returns as Leverkusen edges in-form Frankfurt

BERLIN, Oct 19, (AP): Florian Wirtz returned from injury to help Bayer Leverkusen defeat in-form Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1 in the Bundesliga on Saturday, when the latter was aggrieved not to be awarded a penalty in stoppage time.

Hugo Ekitike looked set to score by heading the ball into an unguarded net after a mix up between goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky and Jonathan Tah, but Tah rushed back to put the airborne Ekitike off balance and miss the ball.

Frankfurt's protests went unheeded and Victor Boniface's 72nd-minute goal proved to be the winner for the defending champion.

Boniface had an early chance from the penalty spot but Kevin Trapp saved his poorly struck spot kick in the ninth minute.

Frankfurt's Omar Marmoush showed how it's done seven minutes later, firing a penalty inside the left post after a



Augsburg's Maximilian Bauer, left and Freiburg's Patrick Osterhage vie for the ball, during a German Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and FC Augsburg, in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. (AP)

clumsy challenge from Robert Andrich. It was Marmoush's ninth goal in seven Bundesliga games, and it stretched his six-game scoring run.

But Andrich atoned by equalizing in the 25th after playing a one-two with Amine Adli and then Martin Terrier before a cool finish inside the far post.

Boniface finally scored when Trapp deflected substitute Wirtz's cross kindly for a simple header.

Leverkusen said on Tuesday that Wirtz injured his ankle while on international duty with Germany.

Also, Xavi Simons starred for Leipzig to beat Mainz 2-0 away, Freiburg routed Augsburg 3-1 at home, Borussia Mönchengladbach defeated Heidenheim 3-2, and Hoffenheim defeated winless Bochum 3-1.

Serhou Guirassy scored late as Borussia Dortmund beat promoted St. Pauli 2-1 in the Bundesliga on Friday,

easing some pressure on the club before facing Real Madrid.

Substitute Jamie Gittens invigorated Dortmund's attack, beating a defender and crossing for Guirassy to head the winner in the 83rd minute, just five minutes after Eric Smith had equalized with a thunderous strike for the visitors.

Dortmund had dominated from the start but failed to turn possession into chances. St. Pauli goalkeeper Nikola Vasilj twice denied Guirassy when it seemed the Guinea star had to score.

Ramy Bensebaini broke the deadlock in the 43rd with a header to Pascal Groß' cross.

St. Pauli had a goal by Morgan Guilavogui ruled out through VAR for offside in the 30th.

Dortmund next visits Madrid in the Champions League on Tuesday. The two teams met in last season's Champions League final, which Madrid won 2-0.