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ONE-VEHICLE RULE FOR EXPATS UNDER NEW TRAFFIC LAW

Kuwait traffic fines set to skyrocket



Photo by Samer Shiher

Vehicles navigate Kuwait's roads under a gloomy Thursday sky, as overcast conditions and scattered rain showers create a drizzly atmosphere across the country.

- KD 75 fine for phone use while driving
- KD 30 fine for seatbelt violation
- KD 150 fine for parking in disabled spots
- Up to KD 5,000 for DUI-related injuries, deaths

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): The overhaul of the traffic regulations as seen in the new draft law aims at preventing recklessness while driving as well as to lower the number of deadly accidents in Kuwait, said an official at the Ministry of Interior on Thursday.

Speaking to KUNA in an interview, Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operation Affairs Major General Yusuf Al-Khadda said that the new law, reviewed by judicial bodies in Kuwait, was sent by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah to the Cabinet last week for approval. It would be then referred to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

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Rain, thunderstorms set to drench Kuwait this weekend

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Some parts of the country experienced light to moderate rain on Thursday despite the autumnal atmosphere with moderate temperatures, spreading clouds and active southeasterly winds.

Meteorology Department Director Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi confirmed that a wave of dispersed thunderstorms started at noon and lasted until the evening hours. He said there were rainshowers and winds of up to 50 kilometers per hour, particularly in some desert and marine areas.

He said the rain gradually decreased towards evening,

indicating the country will witness intermittent rains at dawn Saturday until dawn Sunday in varying amounts -- light to moderate.

He stated the department predicted that the weather will be generally mild and partly cloudy during the weekend; with moderate to cold temperatures at night and the possibility of sporadic, occasionally thundery rain starting from Saturday until Sunday morning.

He explained the nation is witnessing gradual waning of high air pressure on the Earth's surface, coupled with low air pressure in the upper atmosphere. This contributes to the formation of low and medium clouds and the possibility of scattered rain, with light to moderate, occasionally

active northwesterly winds, he added.

He revealed Friday's weather will be moderate, with northwesterly to variable winds, light to moderate speeds of eight to 28 kilometers per hour, while temperatures will range from 25 to 28 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate, with waves ranging from one to three feet. The weather at night will be moderate to cold, the clouds will gradually increase and the winds will be northwesterly to variable in direction, light to moderate in speed -- eight to 30 kilometers per hour, with a chance of scattered rain that will be thundery later. The expected temperatures

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Pay travel bans and fines through Sahel

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Ministry of Justice announced Wednesday, the enhancement of several payment services available through the government application Sahel, including the payment of travel ban orders, rent, and fines, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, the ministry explained that these services have been integrated with applicants' case files.

This allows individuals to easily view and select the cases for which they need to make financial payments, whether for travel bans, fines, or rent.

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2 Truck weighing system to be fixed on major Kuwait roads

8 Boursa general index dips 0.02%, closes at 6,981.53



HEISCO celebrates 50 years of excellence at Grand Hyatt 360 Hotel



'The World of Tim Burton' ... goes on display in London

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwaiti International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) has concluded the project "kawader," graduating 100 promoters of the Islamic culture, with 25 individuals converting to Islam in El-Salvador.

The IICO said in a press release on Thursday that the USD 56,400 project had been launched in response to the great need for promoting the Islamic culture among the Muslims and other segments of the society in El-Salvador.

A number of fresh scholars had been prepared to spread the moderate message of Islam, it said, adding that five mosques were readied to host the new cadres for promoting Islam. (KUNA)

■ ■ ■
COPENHAGEN: A train running along Norway's northern coast with at least 50 people on board derailed Thursday, police said, but initial reports suggested there were no serious injuries.

Train operator SJ said 90 tickets for the train had been sold but it could not immediately say how many people were on board. "Early information indicates that there are no serious injuries among the 90 passengers on board the train," SJ said. (AP)

Kuwait supports UN efforts

UN needs reform for effective crisis response: Kuwait envoy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): On the occasion of the United Nations Day, which falls on October 24, Kuwait on Thursday reiterated support for all efforts led by the UN Secretary-General to enhance the organization's ability to address the unprecedented challenges facing the world.

These challenges include areas such as international peace and security, poverty eradication, the achievement of sustainable development goals, combating terrorism, and disarmament, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry expressed the country's pride in its longstanding strategic relationship and over-six-decade partnership with the UN. It pointed out Kuwait's commitment to a proactive and leading humanitarian and developmental diplomacy for supporting UN agencies and specialized programs across various fields, particularly in line with the organization's three fundamental pillars: maintaining peace and security, promoting sustainable development, and upholding human rights.

It added that Kuwait affirms that the UN remains a cornerstone of multilateral international efforts, with the UN Charter and its principles and goals serving as the solid foundation for regulating relations between states.

Meanwhile, in New York, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai



Al-Banai

emphasized on Thursday the urgent need for reform within the UN system to ensure it can adapt to global developments in light of the growing challenges facing the world.

In a statement to KUNA on the occasion of United Nations Day on October 24, Ambassador Al-Banai highlighted the UN's achievements and its contributions to fostering peace, security, and international cooperation.

Al-Bannai reaffirmed Kuwait's belief in the importance of enhancing the efficiency of the UN system and improving its operational structures to ensure broader and more equitable participation among member states.

He stressed the need for greater transparency in decision-making and quicker responses to global crises, and emphasized the importance of empowering developing nations and giving them a more significant role in shaping international decisions, while also reaffirming the need to adhere to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter in maintaining international peace and security.

Al-Banai reiterated Kuwait's unwavering support for the UN's efforts in addressing various global and regional challenges, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals.

He also affirmed Kuwait's commitment to advancing international peace and security, supporting the UN's ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation, resolve conflicts through peaceful means, and support humanitarian activities aimed at alleviating the suffering of vulnerable populations worldwide.

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Kuwait reaffirms support for Lebanon

PARIS, Oct 24, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Thursday re-affirmed its support for Lebanon with respect to the measures Beirut may take to preserve the country's security and stability and full restoration of state institutions.

The renewed Kuwaiti stand was expressed by the Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs, the Minister Plenipotentiary, Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah, during the international conference for supporting the Lebanese people and the country's sovereignty, hosted by the French capital.

Al-Jarallah, in his address, regretted the genocides executed by the Israeli occupation on the unarmed civilians in Lebanon and occupied Palestine, explicitly breaching all basic principles of

the international law and the international humanitarian law as well as the relevant resolutions that had been issued by the United Nations Security Council.

He expressed the State of Kuwait's utter condemnation of the Israeli occupation forces' attacks on the UN peacekeepers, disregarding the international law and the relevant UNSG resolutions namely Resolution 1701, stressing on the necessity of preserving security and safety of the UN personnel and respecting sanctity of the mission's facilities.

Moreover in this regard, the assistant foreign minister emphasized the necessity that serious action be taken to foil the culprits' bids for impunity and escaping accountability.

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US remains committed to Kuwait's security and sovereignty, says Ambassador Sasahara

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara has highlighted the long-standing and robust relations between the United States and Kuwait, reaffirming her country's unwavering commitment to Kuwait's security and sovereignty.

Speaking at the US Embassy's celebration of the 248th Independence Day, Wednesday, at the American Embassy, which was attended by Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya, senior officials, dignitaries, and heads of diplomatic missions, Ambassador Sasahara highlighted the strong and enduring bilateral ties between the two nations.

She emphasized that the US will continue to be a strategic partner to Kuwait in various fields, particularly



Photo by Samer Shiher
US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara speaks during an interview at the US Embassy's 248th Independence Day celebration on Wednesday.

in security, which underscores the US commitment to Kuwait's security and sovereignty.

Al-Fassam meets IMF, WBG officials

Kuwait targets diversification to meet Vision '35: finance minister

WASHINGTON, Oct 24, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait is eager to diversify its income and enhance regional and international partnerships to achieve the Kuwait vision 2035 goals.

The remarks came in a statement by Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Oil Noora Al-Fassam, during her speech at the Arab finance ministers meeting with the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva, as part of the annual meetings of the international finance institutes of IMF and the World Bank's Board of Governors in Washington late Wednesday.

Kuwait is currently executing a number of major economic reforms, said minister Al-Fassam, adding that the country is also committed to social, environmental and economic sustainability, in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

She expressed regret over the geopolitical tension in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen and Syria, calling on the international community to exert further efforts to achieve peace in the Arab World.

Meanwhile, the minister hailed the role of IMF in boosting cooperation between member-countries, hoping the fund would develop its training

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KUNA Photo
Kuwaiti Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, and Acting Minister of Oil Nora Al-Fassam meets IMF, WBG officials in Washington.



Kuwait Army photo
Troops engage in live combat exercises during the Kuwait-UK military drill, Iron Shield 2.

Kuwait and UK launch joint military exercise

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): The three-week joint military exercise 'Iron Shield 2' kicked off Thursday, with the arrival of the British infantry battalion (F Company, 3 RIFLES) that joined the Kuwait Armed Forces' 94 Saleh al-Mohammad Mechanised Brigade.

The Exercise Director Colonel Faisal Al-Jaber told KUNA that this cooperation aims to enhance bilateral relations, especially in the military and security fields, in addition to increasing efficiency and readiness for any emergency event, especially at the regional level.

Col. Al-Jaber explained that the joint exercise will include operating weapons, various military vehicles, and the use of drone technology to support ground elements especially in maneuvers, monitoring from pilot-less aircraft, and best ways to provide accurate information to the battalion commander.

He explained that the exercise will also include training on the use of modern armored vehicles, in addition to inspection and precaution methods for vehicles and individuals, clearing buildings, combating terrorism and riots, and

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:35	Asr	14:44
Sunrise ..	05:55	Maghrib ..	17:09
Zohr	11:32	Isha	18:27

Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Warm and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h.			
By Night: Mild to rather cold and partly cloudy with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h with a chance for scattered rain later on.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	25	15	
Kuwait Airport	27	20	

Abdaly	27	13
Bubyan	28	16
Jahra	28	18
Failaka Island	25	15
Salmiyah	28	21
Ahmadi	24	14
Jal Aliyah	29	15
Nuwaisib	28	21



Pictures taken during the inauguration of the exhibition.

Al-Ahmadi 2024 exhibition encourages small enterprises, supports economy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA) : Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Sabah underlined Thursday role of Al-Ahmadi 2024 exhibition and small enterprises in supporting national economy. While inaugurating the exhibition, Governor Al-Sabah remarked that this initiative encour-

ages innovation and creativity, and provides a platform for presenting new ideas.

The exhibition, organized by Al-Ahmadi Governorate in cooperation with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), is taking place over the span of three

days. KOC Chief Eng. Ahmad Al-Eidan said that this exhibition is in support of small enterprises, youth talents, and handicrafts.

He spoke of KOC's interest in such events, saying that it stems from its sense of social responsibility and supporting national talents.



Abdullah Al-Obaid

KUNA photo

Kuwait backs radiation use for 'benefit' of human race

NEW YORK, Oct 24, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait said Wednesday it attached special attention to use of radioactive materials that serve mankind for the objective of peace and development.

Abdullah Al-Obaid, Diplomatic Attache at Kuwait Mission to the UN, said destructive impacts of high radiation levels "compels us to find serious solutions" to prevent whatever harmed mankind and environment with harmful radiation.

Speaking before the Fourth Committee, meeting to discuss impacts of radiation, said radiation should be used for the benefit of human race and to take into consideration long-term consequences of radiation.

He urged member countries to facilitate scientific mandate of the committee by supplying its members with all information related to radiation.

Al-Obaid said a delegation from Kuwait Cancer Center reached an initial agreement recently to be a regional center for cancer treatment, part of an initiative launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Kuwait, he added, has been contributing to IAEA's program to develop its laboratories, peaceful use of nuclear power and the establishment of the nuclear fuel bank.

Kuwait, he went on, hosts three IAEA centers in fields of medicine, marine environment and radiation prevention.

Al-Obaid said the State of Kuwait was keen submitting national reports for the parties of the nuclear safety agreement.

Kuwait supports all projects and scientific research aimed at minimizing radiation effects on humans and environment.

News in Brief

'Wajjehni' guides youths to select career of choice

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): The Public Youth Authority is executing the "Wajjehni 2" program aimed at guiding fresh graduates to start a career. Dr. Ahlam Al-Darweesh, in charge of the program, said in a statement to journalists on Wednesday, marking its kickoff, that the program targets fresh graduates from universities, applied sciences and training academies and colleges.

It is designed to help them find adequate jobs that meet their ambitions and desires, she said, indicating that the activity also aids the juniors in sharpening their skills and identifying their potentials before being enrolled in the public or private sectors.

Moreover, Dr. Al-Darweesh has noted that the trainees are guided on business leadership, sound planning for startups and specifying the promising work realms. She called on the graduates to register for the activity, due until Dec. 10, on the website: (www.youth.gov.kw).



Boost in trade eyed: Kuwait assured its keenness to expand economic cooperation horizons between Arab countries and Austria on Wednesday.

This came about in a statement to KUNA by Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Talal Al-Fassam, during the 14th Arab-Austrian Economic Forum.

The forum presents cooperation and investment opportunities for businesspeople and organizations on both sides, added Al-Fassam.

Kuwait pays great attention to economic relations with Austria in many sectors, especially in the infrastructure, technology, renewed energy, and tourism sectors, he pointed out.

Al-Fassam expressed Kuwait's willingness for more fruitful cooperation that supports mutual economic growth.

Kuwait's participation in the forum highlights trade and investment opportunities that attract direct investment. (KUNA)



Protecting whistleblowers: Mohammad Al-Wasmi, Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and Chairman of the Permanent National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, has announced the launch of an "electronic report" service for human trafficking crimes on the Public Prosecution website, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This new service aims to protect the identity and confidentiality of victims and whistleblowers, making it easier to report such crimes while ensuring privacy and security of information.

Al-Wasmi emphasized that the initiative is part of the committee's broader efforts to combat human trafficking, protect victims and witnesses, and enhance judicial prosecution through a coordinated strategy with the Public Prosecution.

In related news, the Ministry of Justice also introduced developments in services on the government application "Sahel," including travel ban payment, rent payment, and fine payment.

Truck weighing system to be fixed on major Kuwait roads

69.4 % saved in timeline to signing 18 contracts



Families enjoying the cool weather by the seafront in Kuwait City.

KUNA photo

Other Voices

Awakened after years seemed like an eternity

By Ahmad alsarraf

After hundreds of articles and comments, the government has finally taken action, after often under external pressure chose to overlook the financial and administrative violations occurring in more than sixty charitable organizations and associations.

It was clear that the rise in their numbers wasn't driven by an increase in people devoted to charity or drawing closer to God, but rather by the desire or greed of those running them.

These individuals were entitled to deduct no less than 12.5 percent of donation funds, and even higher percentages in external projects -- figures that undoubtedly attracted many.

In response, the Ministry introduced a set of regulations, the most important being:

-- All charity associations must disburse aid solely through bank transfers with donations via checks allowed only in exceptional cases where transfers are not possible.

-- All financial transactions, including salaries and aid, issued by charity societies must be requested via the Ministry's automated management system. Once approved, transfers can be processed directly through local banks via an electronic link. Charities are notified of the approval through the system. Even the most committed charity organizations and associations, such as the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Friendship Society, known for its impeccable work, have been affected by the new regulations.

I have personally advocated for these changes for a quarter



alsarraf

of a century through hundreds of articles, enduring financial costs in the process.

Despite my efforts, our impact was minor compared to the undisciplined associations that the new regulations have dealt a serious blow too. These regulations have paralyzed some of their operations, potentially pushing them to engage in spending manipulations.

Some officials in these associations had been registering their domestic workers and employees formally under the association's name and paying their salaries from the organization's funds. This misuse of resources has now become extremely difficult to sustain.

Moreover, the ability of the associations to continue spending on projects within Kuwait has been severely restricted. The practice of benefiting financially from registering workers under the association's sponsorship, while they worked elsewhere, is now nearly impossible, as it requires transferring their residences to their actual workplaces.

Furthermore, any deductions made by association leaders now require ministry approval for every dinar spent.

While the "clean" associations may struggle somewhat to meet these new requirements, the others will face far greater challenges.

These stringent regulations highlight the growing "frustration" of regulatory authorities, both inside and outside Kuwait, particularly in the United States, with the near-chaos in how associations have been regulated.

If the government does not take firm action, we risk entering the danger zone, leading to possible sanctions.

In October 2025, government authorities will review the corrective measures taken in our charitable sector. Failure to comply will harm our international reputation, and by extension, our economy.



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Kuwait backs global efforts for fair, sustainable globalization

NEW YORK, Oct 24, (KUNA): Kuwait has reiterated determination to support international efforts to achieve a fair and sustainable globalization that ensures equal rights and opportunities for all countries.

Diplomatic Attaché Ahmad Sayyer, of the Kuwaiti Mission to the UN, said this on Wednesday at a special session of the UN Economic and Financial Committee on the issue of globalization in New York.

He argued that synergy and cooperation between world countries are necessary for tackling the numerous economic and geopolitical challenges facing the world.

Joint cross borders actions are also necessary to achieve social justice and sustainable development for all, Sayyer said.

The Kuwaiti diplomat pointed to Kuwait's efforts to contribute to building a more cooperative global system based on mutual respect for sovereignty and amid at realizing common interests.

Students safety priority as school trips restart Oct 30

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Two days after the Ministry of Education issued urgent directives to school principals to suspend all unscheduled school trips that were approved for the month of October, following the health issues experienced by several female students during a school outing, the ministry issued another circular in which it announced that unscheduled trips will resume from October 30.

In the circular sent to school principals, the ministry stated that this decision is made "in the interest of all male and female students".

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Around 69.4 percent of time was saved in different stages of the procedures related to the 18 road maintenance contracts that the Ministry of Public Works signed recently.

Sources explained that 716 days were allotted for the preparation phase up to the point of signing the contracts, but only 219 days were spent until the ministry signed the contracts in fiscal 2023/2024.

Sources highlighted the crucial role played by entities that assisted in preparing the contract documents like Kuwait University, Legal Advice and Legislation Department, Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Central Agency for Public Tenders and Ministry of Finance.

Sources disclosed that the document preparation stage took 60 days, the tender stage took 74 days, the technical study took 60 days, the award stage took three days, the State Audit Bureau took 12 days, and the contract preparation stage took six days.

In a related development, sources said the weighbridges are included in the six highway maintenance contracts; indicating the weigh in motion system will be applied -- a technologically advanced system used in many countries. This system will enable the monitoring of trucks that violate the weight regulations for driving on highways, especially on the right lane. Violators will be referred to the Ministry of Interior to take the necessary measures with the aim of protecting highways from damage due to heavy trucks. The system will oblige everyone to strictly comply with the regulations for driving on highways, particularly the companies that own trucks. It will also ensure that violating trucks do not enter internal roads and residential areas, sources explained.

Sources added the system will be applied on the Sixth and Seventh Ring roads; King Fahad Road; Fahaaheel Expressway; First Ring Road; Third, Fourth and Fifth intersections; King Faisal Road; Salmi Road; Subiya Road; Jahra Road and Abdally Road.

Renting out camping tents under perusal

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Faisal Al-Otaibi, Chairman of the Spring Camps Committee at Kuwait Municipality, announced that the legal department is currently reviewing the latest amendments to the camps regulations.

These amendments will soon be presented to the Municipal Council for discussion and approval. The new regulations aim to establish conditions for licensing companies and owners of small projects and to permit the rental of camps in select locations for recreational purposes, similar to existing practices at the Ministry of Defense camp.

In a statement to Al-Seyassah, Al-Otaibi clarified that the implementation of these new regulations will depend on the Municipal Council's approval. If the amendments are approved during the current camping season, they will be put into effect; otherwise, their implementation will be postponed until the 2025-2026 season.



KUNA photo
Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard Lieut-Gen Eng. Hashem Al-Rifai in a group photo during the annual conference of the FIEP in Italy.

National Guard attends annual FIEP conference in Italy

Undersecretary of Kuwait National Guard Lieutenant General Eng. Hashem Al-Rifai, along with a delegation, participated in the 30th annual conference of the International Association of Gendarmeries and Police Forces with Military Status (FIEP), held in Italy.

During the conference, the President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella welcomed Al-Rifai who conveyed to the Italian president the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His High-

ness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Al-Rifai praised the strong bilateral relations between Kuwait and Italy, and Italy's efforts in hosting the conference and supporting security cooperation during its presidency of the organization.

In a statement released on Thursday, the National Guard noted that Kuwait has been a member of FIEP for five years and recalled Kuwait's successful hosting of the FIEP Human Resources Conference last year, which

saw participation from 14 member countries.

Al-Rifai noted that the conference saw the presidency transition from Italy to France, with the upcoming session focusing on addressing challenges posed by artificial intelligence, irregular migration, and environmental issues.

Al-Rifai expressed gratitude to the conference organizers and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly the Embassy of Kuwait in Italy, for their efforts in facilitating the National Guard's participation in the event. (KUNA)

Lawyer slams malicious lawsuits, calls to preserve family stability

1,772 traffic citations issued; man points gun at Bedoun



A memento being presented.

Mol photo

MJA, KIJS discuss collaboration

During a visit to the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (KIJS), Major General Awad Al-Hattani, Head of the Military Judiciary Authority (MJA), met with Counselor Hani Al-Hamdan, Director of the Institute, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The two leaders discussed mecha-

nisms for cooperation aimed at enhancing the legal system and coordinating on various activities and topics of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by advisors, deputy directors, members of the technical office at the institute, and directors of the Military Judiciary Authority (MJA).

Nazaha sends reminder to Dr Al-Fulaijawi

PAFN issues 36 citations ... 150 kg unfit food, expired products cited

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition's recent inspection at Al-Mubarakiya Center in Kuwait's Capital Governorate revealed several violations, leading to the issuance of 36 citations.

Inspectors discovered 150 kilograms of food unfit for human consumption, including expired products and items that had altered in color, shape, or smell, indicating they were spoiled or adulterated. The violations also included poor hygiene practices, such as displaying food outside facilities and neglecting general cleanliness.

One concerning issue involved a worker handling food despite having

visible wounds and not receiving medical clearance from the authorities.

Additionally, a food facility was operating without a license from the authority. These findings underscore the importance of strict adherence to food safety and public health regulations to protect consumers.

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Nazaha reiterates request for info: The Public Authority for Combating Corruption (Nazaha) has reiterated its request to Dr. Jassim Al-Fulaijawi for any information he may have concerning his statements about the salaries and bonuses paid to ministers.

The authority noted that more than three weeks have passed since the initial request, yet it has not received any information or documents from him.

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Various sectors of the Ministry of Interior continued their security campaigns, including a recent operation conducted by field sectors on the main expressways at dawn yesterday. This campaign resulted in the issuance of 1,772 traffic violations, and the arrest of three individuals for drug-related offenses, seven individuals in an abnormal condition, and 28 wanted persons.

Furthermore, 18 missing persons were located, 31 individuals with expired residency were detained, and 19 vehicles including 14 that are linked to outstanding cases were seized.

A total of 44 traffic patrol officers, 60 rescue patrol officers, 45 special security patrol officers, and 45 public security patrol officers participated in the campaign.

□ □ □

Immoral behavior criticized: Lawyer Alaa Al-Saeedi criticized the immoral behavior of some individuals who engage in family disputes by filing malicious lawsuits against their relatives, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

She warned that such actions contribute to increased domestic violence and family disintegration, calling for solutions to preserve family and societal stability.

Al-Saeedi highlighted a recent Misdemeanor Court ruling in which three of her clients were acquitted of malicious "domestic violence" claims filed by their relatives with the intent of causing harm.

She presented evidence to the court that demonstrated the baselessness of these allegations.

One case involved a citizen falsely accused by his son-in-law of assaulting his grandson, with the ulterior motive of removing custody from the child's mother, who resides in her father's home.

Another acquittal concerned a woman wrongfully accused of assaulting her mother over an inheritance dispute.

A third case saw a mother cleared of claims made by her ex-husband, who alleged she deprived him of visitation rights, despite evidence that she regularly took their children to the visitation center, where they refused to see him due to his abusive behavior.

Al-Saeedi emphasized that the judiciary remains vigilant in recognizing malicious lawsuits and ensuring justice is served, while urging families to resolve their disputes amicably to avoid escalation and unnecessary legal battles.

□ □ □

Bedoun assaulted at gun point: A Bedoun, in his 40s, filed a police report stating that an unidentified man assaulted, insulted and pointed a gun at him, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the Bedoun, his vehicle broke down on an undisclosed road when the accused, who was riding a horse, engaged him in a conversation.

However, they had a misunderstanding. He was surprised when the accused suddenly grabbed his beard, insulted him and pointed a gun at his neck.

A case was registered at Taima Police Station labeled as 'threat, slight assault, insult and slander.'



Alaa Al-Saeedi

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Constitutional freedoms key to strengthening public trust'

"BEHIND the structure of political responsibility enshrined in the Kuwaiti Constitution lies a key element often overlooked: the critical role of public opinion," columnist **Ahmed Yaqoub Baqer** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"As outlined in the Constitution's explanatory memorandum, democratic governance thrives when public opinion is respected and nurtured through guaranteed freedoms.

"These guarantees, in turn, foster political awareness, strengthen public trust, and form the backbone of a government's popularity.

"The Kuwaiti Constitution is explicit in its protection of these freedoms. Articles 30 through 34 safeguard various personal freedoms, while Article 36 enshrines the freedom of opinion, and Article 43 protects the right to form associations and unions.

"Together, these provisions create an environment where citizens can actively participate in the political process, contributing to the government's legitimacy and support. In such an atmosphere, political awareness naturally grows, and without these freedoms, discontent and dissatisfaction take root.

"However, recent developments have raised concerns about whether these freedoms are being curtailed. A case in point is the recent dissolution of the Red Crescent Society's board of directors by the Ministry of Social Affairs, as reported by Al-Jarida newspaper.

"Despite multiple requests by the society to hold a general assembly, the ministry -- referred to as "Affairs" -- remained silent, offering no explanation for its decision.

"Meanwhile, the National Brotherhood Society, which has similarly not held a general assembly for three years, continues to operate without any government intervention, despite founders citing legal violations and requesting dissolution.

"This lack of transparency has led to widespread speculation and concerns that the government may be selectively restricting freedoms.

"Some fear that attempts to limit civil society and certain opinions could erode public trust and, consequently, government popularity.

"Transparency and accountability are key to avoiding such discontent. As the Constitution clearly outlines, freedoms must be regulated by law, not repressed.

"These are not chaotic or unrestricted freedoms, but rights designed to empower citizens and ensure their active participation in governance.

"For any government to maintain popularity, as dictated by the Constitution, it must ensure transparency in its actions and decisions.

"Clear, convincing explanations should be provided in response to public concerns. A government's failure to communicate openly creates ambiguity, weakens public trust, and may ultimately undermine its standing.

"Popularity and reform are two sides of the same coin. As long as a government acts within the bounds of the law and in the public interest, transparency becomes the easiest and

most effective tool to maintain public support.

"By addressing inquiries and clarifying decisions, the government not only upholds constitutional principles but also strengthens its connection with the people -- ensuring both stability and popularity in the long term.

"Ensuring openness and public engagement will protect the government from the perception of undermining freedoms and allow for a cooperative, trust-filled environment between the state and its citizens."

Also:

"Twenty-three members of the National Assembly rejected a proposal to form a committee to investigate allegations of "citizenship forgery," which had been submitted by five MPs -- Al-Dallal, Al-Shaheen, Al-Fadhel, Al-Damkhi, and Omar Al-Tabtabaei," columnist and former Deputy Director-General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) **Iqbal Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The goal of the committee was to address concerns surrounding citizenship fraud. For those who are interested in the names of the members who rejected the proposal, they can refer to media reports and the official minutes of the parliamentary session held on April 15, 2019, as their names will not be published here.

"Omar Al-Tabtabaei pointed out that a similar proposal had been submitted earlier by MP Al-Mulla but had only garnered the support of eight MPs at the time.

"Ironically, after the 2019 proposal to form an investigative committee failed, one of its opponents -- who had voted against it -- claimed that forming the committee would be a "fraudulent" move.

"He stated: "Cooperation with the government, which we have maintained to keep the ship sailing for everyone, will be cut off irrevocably if it plays with fire, tampers with citizenship, and submits to a proposal that fragments the country."

"Imagine that investigating "citizenship forgery" back then, during the tenure of certain parliamentary sessions, was seen as "playing with fire, tampering with citizenship, and following a path that divides the country."

"It appears that these statements served as a warning to the government at that time. Unfortunately, the government did not rise to the occasion to address this serious issue or begin to untangle its complexities.

"For the record, the "Mama Government" in that session chose to abstain from voting, neither supporting nor approving the proposal, ultimately leading to its failure.

"Now that the reality of citizenship forgery has come to light, exposing the extent of negligence in this matter over the years, the Kuwaiti people can better understand why some MPs and officials feared opening this sensitive and deeply problematic file. The scandals tied to it are numerous.

"We can only stand by the concerned minister, as well as those who support and encourage him, and express our hope for the establishment of a "Public Authority for Nationality" that would fulfill its duties through institutional mechanisms, independent of individual actors, and grounded in the principles of the constitution and nationality law."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Mol to hold public auction for seized vehicles

KFF in co-op with Nazaha organizes confab on fire accidents

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) organized a conference on Tuesday with the cooperation of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha).

According to a press release issued by KFF, the conference highlighted the common causes of fire accidents, and ways to enhance fire protection and minimize their spread.

It emphasized the importance of acquiring safety and protective equipment.

During the event, video clips were played to show that a huge number of fire incidents are caused by children and electrical short circuits.

The aim of KFF's campaign is to raise social awareness about fire accidents and promote ways to prevent them, in order to ensure the safety of individuals and the protection of properties.

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Mol to auction vehicles: The Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior has announced that the General Traffic Department's 'Vehicles and Motorcycles Auction Sale Committee' has sold 69 vehicles from the Vehicle Impoundment Section in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The sale was previously announced in the "Kuwait Alyawm" newspaper on October 13.

Vehicle owners are urged to visit the General Traffic Department (Traffic Violations Investigation Department) for more information.

The remaining vehicles will be auctioned off publicly on Monday, November 4, at 4:00 pm at the Vehicle Impoundment Section in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, located next to the slaughterhouse.



A photo from the KFF conference.

KFF photo

Municipal Council pushes strategic storage plans and charity proposals



Al-Seyassah photo
Fahad Al-Khenin chairs the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Committee meeting in the presence of Nassar Al-Azmi and Eng. Farah Al-Rumi.

Committee backs Cabinet resolution

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: During the meeting of the Municipal Council's Mubarak Al-Kabeer Committee yesterday, led by Fahad Al-Khenin, adopted Cabinet's resolution No. 269/2024 yes-

terday in response to the report of the Government Performance Follow-up Agency (GPFA) on establishing strategic storage areas for food and other items.

To expedite the process, the committee forwarded member Fahad Al-Abdul Jader's proposal to the executive body for updating the data for street 8 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Block 1, plot No. 167. This proposal has been modified according to municipal regulations.

The committee also referred a request to the General Traffic Department for approval to change the use of plot No. 461 in Sabah Al-Salem Block 1.

In a related context, Dr. Hassan Kamal, a member of the Municipal Council, proposed that, following consultation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, charity organizations registered with the ministry must be allowed to operate in investment buildings under the existing building regulations.

In his proposal, Dr. Kamal explained that one of the requirements of the Ministry of Social Affairs for declaring a charity is to provide the organization with an independent headquarters of at least 250 square meters.

Currently, the municipality only permits charity organizations to be licensed in commercial buildings, as stipulated by the regulations. This restriction arises from the non-commercial, social, and charitable nature of their operations, making it challenging for these organizations to find the necessary space within commercial buildings.

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

Kuwait HH Amir congratulates Zambian Pres on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Thursday sent a congratulatory cable to Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema on the occasion of Zambia's National Day. His Highness expressed his best wishes for President Hichilema's good health and for continued progress and prosperity for the people

of Zambia. Additionally, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah each sent similar cables, extending their congratulations and well wishes to President Hichilema in celebration of Zambia's National Day.



Al-Seyassah photo
Chair of the University's Founding Board of Directors Dr. Moudi Al-Hamoud, Board Secretary Dr. Adel Al-Hussainan, other board members during the opening of the center.

Math Learning Center launched at Abdullah Al-Salem University

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Abdullah Al-Salem University inaugurated the mathematics center called the "Math Learning Center" in the presence of Chair of the University's Founding Board of Directors Dr. Moudi Al-Hamoud, Board Secretary Dr. Adel Al-Hussainan, other board members, and academic and administrative staff.

Acting Head of the Mathematics Program, stated that the center was established to serve as a leading mathematics resource for Kuwait and the Middle East region.

He explained that the center aims to

address the challenges faced by male and female students in the subject, and provide a supportive and integrated academic environment. This initiative is designed to enhance students' abilities and opportunities for success, ultimately creating a generation that is both passionate and distinguished academically and professionally.

The center aims to make a significant impact on the learning and teaching of mathematics by offering individualized lessons tailored to each student's needs. It provides a range of educational classes designed to develop skills, enhance information exchange, and offer an electronic library with visual resources that facilitate the learning process.

'Exhibition empowers homeowners with choices'

Governor lauds women's role at expo

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi emphasized the significant role of Kuwaiti women in shaping their homes and contributing to their design and construction, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

His remarks came during the opening of the fourth edition of the "My Home for Construction" exhibition at the Salil Jahra Hotel, where he praised the event's diversity and the participation of numerous companies, enabling citizens to freely choose and compare prices.

Khaled Al-Otaibi, head of the organizing committee, noted that the exhibition offers substantial discounts and gifts specifically for the residents of Al-Mutlaa.

He explained that the exhibition was initiated at the request of the community, aimed at bringing together all relevant companies to meet their needs under one roof.



Al-Seyassah photo
Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi during the opening of the exhibition.

October

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Empowering communities

Al-Najat launches 'Ebsar 8' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Director General of Al-Najat Charity Association Mohammed Al-Ansari says the association prioritizes human interest in its strategic direction, which represents the foundation for all its charity and humanitarian projects, reports Al-Anba daily.

This statement was made during his review of the final preparations for the "Ebsar 8" campaign aimed at treating eye patients. The campaign is set to launch on Friday, October 25, in seven countries for providing treatment to thousands of beneficiaries.

Al-Ansari stressed that the association's focus on human interest goes beyond delivering urgent aid, as it also encompasses support for education, health, and professional and personal development. This comprehensive approach contributes to empowering beneficiaries and improving their standard of living in a sustainable manner.

He said, "We are working on expanding the circle of beneficiaries of our educational and health programs by launching more development initiatives that target the most vulnerable groups. Focusing on building human beings and developing their skills is the key to achieving sustainability and societal progress."



Al-Seyassah photo
Photo during the launch of the 'SAD' platform for teaching Qur'an to teachers.

Kuwait launches platform for Quran education for teachers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The General Technical Guidance for Islamic Education and the Kuwait Society for Humanitarian Endowment and Development discussed the launch of the "SAD" platform for teaching the Qur'an for teachers in the Ministry of Education, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Abla Abdul Malik, Acting General Technical Supervisor of Islamic Education, highlighted that this educational development project includes electronic courses designed to benefit around 2,000 teachers from the Hawalli and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Districts.

Dr. Bassam Al-Shatti, an advocate for the initiative from the Kuwait Society for Humanitarian Endowment and Development, emphasized that the project, spearheaded by Kuwaiti youth, has demonstrated success in enhancing Quranic education.

He noted that the initiative focuses on selecting a group of dedicated teachers, who are essential to improving the learning outcomes of students in this field.

Charities commend MoSA's efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Chairman of the Charities Union Saad Marzouq Al-Otaibi expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Social Affairs and Children and Family Affairs Amthal Al-Huwailah, Undersecretary Khalid Al-Ajmi, and Director of the Charities Department Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi for their efforts in organizing the recent meeting between the ministry and charity organizations.

In a press statement, Al-Otaibi highlighted that such meetings enhance communication between the ministry and charity organizations, and help in aligning viewpoints and developing charity initiatives for the benefit of society.

He said these initiatives provide an opportunity to exchange ideas, tackle obstacles, and make informed decisions.

Al-Otaibi affirmed the importance of implementing the recommendations made during the meeting to improve the environment for charity work.

He stressed the need to establish a law on charities to enhance transparency and governance, and reinforce the organizations' commitment to supporting the ministry, particularly in executing recommendations that boost Kuwait's reputation as a pioneering state in charity and humanitarian efforts.

Al-Otaibi reiterated the organizations' dedication to enhancing transparency and governance to build trust among donors and beneficiaries.



Saad Marzouq Al-Otaibi - Chairman of the Charities Union



Participants at the event.

LOCAL

Kuwait traffic

Continued from Page 1

He revealed that the current law, implemented since 1979, did not represent enough deterrence for violators, adding that the smallest fine such as illegal parking was set at KD 15 (around USD 48.9).

Major General Al-Khadda indicated that the country witnessed an average of 300 accidents a day with around 90 percent due to recklessness and also the use of cellphones while driving.

The fine for cellphone usage while driving would be hiked up from KD 5 (USD 16.3) to KD 75 (USD 244.7) according to the new law, he said, adding that the fine for not wearing seatbelts would increase from KD 10 (USD 32.6) to KD 30 (USD 97.9).

The security official said that fine for reckless driving would be hiked from KD 30 (USD 97.9) to KD 150 (USD 489.5).

The new law would see the fine for racing on public roads increased from KD 50 (USD 163.1) to KD 150 (USD 489.5), Al-Khadda pointed out.

He went on to say that the fine for run-down vehicles and cars causing excessive noise would increase from KD 10 (USD 32.6) to be at KD 75 (USD 244.7).

Parking in spots dedicated for the disabled would see a fine of KD 150 (USD 489.5) instead of the KD 10 (USD 32.6) previously, he affirmed, adding that speeding tickets, according to the new law, would increase from between KD 20 to KD 50 (USD 65.2 and USD 163.1) to between KD 70 and KD 150 (around USD 228.4 and USD 489.5).

Asked about driving in suspicious manner, the security official said that the new law would address the issue in three categories.

Category one, those attempting to drive or drove under the influence (DUI) -- i.e. drugs, and alcohol -- usually saw a fine of KD 1,000 (USD 3,263) previously, but with the new law, offenders would be paying no more than KD 3,000 (USD 9,791), Major General Al-Khadda asserted, adding that violators might face prison time of no less than a year to no more than two years.

He revealed that category two addressed those who drove under the influence and caused damage to public or private properties would face a fine of no less than KD 2,000 (USD 6,527) and no more than KD 3,000 (USD 16,318) with a possible prison sentence of no less than two years and no more than five years.

Major General Al-Khadda said that category three included those driving under the influence and caused injuries or deaths, indicating that such violators face a fine of no less than KD 2,000 (USD 6,527) and no more than KD 5,000 (USD 16,318) with a possible prison sentence ranging from no less than two years to no more than five years.

He revealed that Article 33 bis of the new law would allow the court to issue its own verdict or according to a request from the Interior Ministry, which would allow for vehicles impoundment if defendants proved guilty of any of the violations included in the article.

Violations include crossing red traffic light, driving recklessly, going beyond speed limits, racing on public streets, driving cars (buggies) in areas where the vehicles are not supposed to be, going against traffic flow, using handled devices while driving, operating unlicensed motor vehicles without licensed plates or damaged plates, and using private vehicles to transport passengers for a fee without permit.

He added that the new law included article 39 bis allowed the court to replace imprisonment with other punishments including community service without pay for no more than a year with no more than eight hours of work daily.

Perpetrators also may be sentenced to attend awareness and rehabilitation programs in various bodies according to the sentencing issued.

Major General Al-Khadda also indicated that the article allowed the court to force defendants to pay for damages resulting from the crimes or violations committed.

The official indicated that the new law would allow legal and security authorities to impose house impoundment for violating vehicles until the sentence is served.

When ratified, the new traffic law would be published in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Kuwait Al-Yawm (Kuwait Today) and there would be a period of three months to amend Interior Ministry programs and allow for media campaigns before implementing the new regulations.

When asked about the number of licenses in Kuwait, Major General Al-Khadda revealed that there were around 1.9 million licenses in Kuwait and 2.5 million vehicles, saying that residents, with the arrival of the new law, would be allowed to own one vehicle only with the Interior Minister setting guidelines in this regard.

Pay travel

Continued from Page 1

The ministry further clarified that once the full payment is made, any restrictions on transactions are immediately lifted, including the removal of travel bans and the release of any financial seizures.

This development is part of the Ministry of Justice's ongoing efforts to simplify and modernize legal and financial procedures for citizens and residents.

UN needs

Continued from Page 1

Ambassador Al-Banai highlighted Kuwait's deep commitment to the UN's principles, emphasizing its active contributions to promoting international dialogue, stability, and sustainable development for future

generations.

The ambassador also reiterated the longstanding cooperative relationship between Kuwait and the UN, which spans over 60 years, praising the tireless efforts of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in advancing the UN's goals and enhancing global cooperation.

Al-Banai renewed Kuwait's full support for UN personnel, particularly those who have lost their lives in humanitarian service, acknowledging them as the cornerstone of multilateral international efforts.

United Nations Day commemorates the anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945, with its ratification by a majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the UN was officially established.

Member states and NGOs observe the day through local and international events addressing global issues such as human rights, equality, and environmental protection, in addition to holding conferences and workshops aimed at promoting the UN's role and highlighting its goals.

The UN uses this day to remind the international community of its objectives, which include maintaining international peace and security through diplomacy and peacekeeping, promoting human rights by upholding principles of justice and equality, and eradicating poverty.

Some 79 years ago the United Nations was established as a global organization geared towards international cooperation, security, and development.

During the celebration, the UN would be marking all of the achievements since establishment in 1945, but also addressing current challenges whether political, economic, or related to security and peace worldwide with an eye always set on the future.

The UN was erected following WWII by 51 founding nations who signed the UN statute, which has organized affairs since then.

Rain, thunderstorms

Continued from Page 1

will be 17 to 23 degrees Celsius, and the sea will be light to moderate with waves of one to four feet.

On Saturday, the weather will be moderate and partly cloudy to cloudy, with northwesterly winds, light to moderate in speed, sometimes active -- 12 to 40 kilometers per hour, with a chance of scattered rain, sometimes thundery. Temperatures will range from 19 to 23 degrees Celsius. The sea will be light to moderate, with waves rising between two to six feet.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) urged the public to be alert and careful due to the unpredictable weather.

In a press statement, KFF advised anyone in need of assistance to call the emergency number 112.

Kuwait reaffirms

Continued from Page 1

Al-Jarallah renewed the State of Kuwait's demand for an immediate ceasefire, halt of all military operations, securing international protection for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, routes for delivering urgent aid in all the besieged regions and locations.

The State of Kuwait, he has continued, has always warned of the consequences resulting from the international community's abstention from deterring these violations that counter the international laws and charters.

He also indicated that the brutal practices in Gaza are being replayed in Lebanon "under the watchful eyes of the international community that has failed to shoulder its political, legal and moral responsibilities" in this respect.

The Kuwaiti assistant foreign minister has rebuffed the occupation-based authority's claims that its acts in Lebanon are in self defense, affirming that Tel Aviv is seeking to create chaos and instability, engaging in irresponsible practices that may lead to a regional war, prospected to cast its shadows all over the world.

The events currently happening in the region and the world constitute a "political and moral test of the international order," either there would be adherence to the international laws, respect for the international legitimacy and adherence to the UN charter, or there would be impunity for the forces undermining the joint international action, spreading violence and chaos, ramifications of which will affect every body, he warned.

He expressed deep gratitude to the friendly state of France for its gracious initiative, hosting this crucial conference aimed at supporting the brotherly people of Lebanon, bolstering the country's sovereignty and stability in the face of the systematic offensives that have left thousands of victims and have forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes.

The France-hosted convention for Lebanon kicked off earlier today.

Held in response to an initiative by French President Emmanuel Macron, the gathering groups 70 delegations and representatives of 15 international organizations. It aims at rallying support for a diplomatic solution and raising no less USD 400 million worth of aid for the afflicted country.

US remains

Continued from Page 1

Agency (KUNA) who holds a doctorate in mass communications from the Indiana University in the United States, for her leadership in combating misinformation.

Ambassador Sasahara also praised KUNA's efforts to verify news and counter rumors through modern

technology and artificial intelligence.

Turning to regional developments, particularly in Gaza and Lebanon, the Ambassador underscored that diplomacy is the only viable path to immediately halt violence and help displaced individuals rebuild their lives in peace and dignity.

She stressed the importance of taking irreversible steps toward establishing a safe and stable Palestinian state.

Ambassador Sasahara expressed hope for global peace, particularly in the Middle East, where ongoing violence has caused immense suffering, especially among innocent civilians.

Additionally, she remarked on the significance of 2024, a year marked by an unprecedented number of elections worldwide, highlighting the role that every individual plays in shaping the future of their country.

Kuwait targets

Continued from Page 1

centers in the future for more experience-sharing.

Kuwait is proud to have established an IMF training center since 2011, she added.

The meeting, also attended by Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Basel Al-Haroun, discussed developing the fund's support to its member-states in facing different challenges, as well as adopting policies to re-build institutions and enhance digitalization and governance.

They also discussed launching reform programs aiming to face poverty, climate change and other topics of mutual concern.

The IMF and World Bank autumn meetings kicked off last Monday, to discuss key topics including debts, achieving development and tackling different challenges.

Minister Al-Fassam held several meetings on Wednesday with officials from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Finance said that Minister Al-Fassam met, during her participation in the annual meetings of the IMF and the WBG, in Washington, with IMF's Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department Dr. Jihad Azour.

The meeting reviewed ways to enhance technical cooperation between the Ministry of Finance and the IMF in the field of public finance reform, the statement added.

Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Basel Al-Haroon and Deputy Director of the Middle East Department Zein Zidane attended the meeting.

The Minister of Finance also met with WBG's Vice President of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa Region Ousmane Di-

one. The meeting with Dione came as a continuation of the visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's representative, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, last September to New York City, the statement explained.

During that visit, His Highness the Crown Prince discussed with the President of the World Bank Ajay Banga ways to enhance joint cooperation in the field of advisory services provided by the bank, such as in the field of capacity building, developing the skills of national cadres and exploring opportunities.

It also added that Minister Al-Fassam stressed during the meeting the importance of increasing the number of Kuwaiti employees and trainees in the World Bank.

Executive Director of the World Bank Group Abdulaziz Al-Mulla, Director of the World Bank in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries Safaa Al-Kogali, Director of the International Economic Cooperation Department Saad Al-Rashidi, Director of the Financial Planning and Follow-up Department and the Acting Director of the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Policy Department Ahmad Al-Omran attended the meeting.

The fall meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank kicked off in Washington last Monday and would continue until Friday, where participants would discuss various issues including debt, achieving growth, and other various global challenges.

Kuwait and

Continued from Page 1

ways to secure various elements during the curfew if it is implemented.

Col. Al-Jaber stressed that cooperation on the exercise with the British side will be done periodically, with different skills, tools and mechanisms that each joint exercise focuses on.

In turn, UK Defense Attache Colonel Neil Marriott expressed in a similar statement to KUNA his pride in including the UK battalion in the exercise with the Kuwaiti forces.

Captain Marriott said: "Exercise Iron Shield is a great demonstration of the strong Kuwait-UK defense and security partnership that has now endured for 125 years," enabling soldiers from both countries to share knowledge and capabilities while testing their readiness to respond to a range of traditional and emerging shared threats.

It also underscores the UK's enduring commitment to upholding Kuwait's and the wider Gulf region's security and prosperity, he added.

This is the second Exercise Iron Shield to take place in Kuwait, while the first took place between 94 Saleh al-Mohammad Brigade and the UK's SCOTS GUARDS in October 2023.

Kuwait advances aviation cooperation at ICAN2024



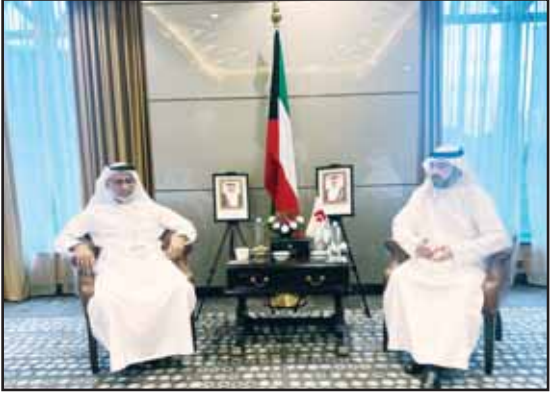
Chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah with Malaysian official.



Chief of Directorate General Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah with the civil aviation official of South Korea.



Left: Chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah with an official from Rwanda.



Right: Chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation with an Emirati official.

MoUs signed with Malaysia, South Korea

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 24, (KUNA): Chief of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Sheikh Humoud Al-Sabah engaged in four meetings on Thursday with officials from all of Malaysia, South Korea, Rwanda and the UAE.

The meetings were held during fourth day of ICAO's Air Services Negotiation (ICAN2024) Event in Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Sheikh Al-Sabah told KUNA that meeting with Malaysian Transport Ministry Undersecretary Mohammad Mazlan culminated in the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that encompasses a number of services including increase of flight numbers.

He stated that the meeting with South Korea's Head of Air Transport Department Ji Young Shim also resulted in the signing of a MoU and a protocol amending air trans-

port agreement in order to keep up with industry developments.

As for meeting with Emirati counterpart, Saif Al-Suwaidi, it included a discussion of regional and international topics as well as improving flight operations, Al-Sabah mentioned, adding that the meeting with Rwandan Deputy Chief of Civil Aviation, Winnie Ngamije, handled boosting coordination and cooperation between the two nations.

The annual conference, hosted this year by Malaysian Ministry of Transport, is taking place between the 21st to 25th of October with the attendance of civil aviation representatives from all over the globe and a number of regional and international organizations.

The conference, organized by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) grants participants the opportunity to engage in negotiations and bilateral talks concerning aviation services, as well as grants policy makers, organizational authorities, operators and service providers the chance to connect.

Bridging science and culture

Scientific Center signs MoU with NCCAL

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Scientific Center, a subsidiary of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), represented by its Director General Eng. Musaed Abdulaziz Al-Yassin has signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL), represented by its Secretary General Dr. Mohammed Khaled Al-Jassar in the presence of the Deputy Director General for Visitor Experience Mohammed Suleiman Al-Sanousi.

According to a press release issued by KFAS, this agreement aims to enhance cooperation and exchange expertise in various cultural, scientific, and environmental fields, as well as



Photo during the signing of the memorandum of understanding.

strive to achieve their common goals of developing programs and initiatives that serve the Kuwaiti community and contribute to building a sustainable future for the State of Kuwait.

The memorandum outlines aims to develop cooperation between NCCAL and the Scientific Center by organizing field visits to museums, exhibitions, and archaeological sites, as well as exchanging expertise in the maintenance of heritage ships.

It also calls for displaying scientific and environmental books at both the Scientific Center and NCCAL sites, participating in cultural, scientific, and environmental events, exploring the possibility of exchanging exhibits, both temporarily and permanently, sharing knowledge, providing mutual consultations of interest to both parties, and organizing joint training courses.

News in Brief

KBA celebrates 52nd anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: Kuwait Blind Association (KBA) celebrated its 52nd anniversary by honoring its benefactors with the theme, 'Heartfelt Gratitude', reports Al-Anba daily.

Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah sponsored the celebration, with Deputy Director General for Medical and Shelter Services at the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) Dr. Khalifa Al-Haila in attendance.

In his speech at the celebration, Chairman of the association's Board of Directors Fayez Al-Azmi shed light on the activities and milestones of the association. He expressed his gratitude to the benefactors and commended the efforts of charitable organizations in their global outreach programs and dedication in serving the Kuwaiti community.

He cited the remarkable projects of the association, such as the Braille printing press and prosthetic devices, which have greatly benefited individuals with disabilities.

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Outdoor expo kicks off: The second edition of the Kuwait International Outdoor Expo kicked off at the Mishref Exhibition Grounds, reports Al-Rai daily.

The expo will run for five days, with the participation of over 100 local and regional entities, and in the presence of Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali and Hawally Governor Ali Al-Asfar.

The Capital Governor Sheikh



Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Blind Association Fayez Al-Azmi during the honoring of representatives of the association's supporting bodies.

Abdullah Salem Al-Ali expressed his honor in attending the exhibition, emphasizing its relevance to citizens as it includes hobbies and sports that brings together adults, youth, and children.

He wished success to all participants of the exhibition.

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Co-op elections resume: The Membership Affairs and Cooperative Societies Publication Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs has confirmed the resumption of the election of the board of directors of cooperatives whose fiscal year and the legal mandate of their members have ended, starting Thursday with the election of the board of Jaber Al-Ahmad Cooperative Society, reports Al-Jarida daily

quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the Cooperatives Sector has laid down a comprehensive plan for any cooperative election to ensure strict supervision of the entire process to prevent violations; with the aim of controlling the voting process inside the election committees while preventing gatherings or crowding outside these committees that could hinder the electoral process or affect results.

Sources confirmed that the ministry is closely coordinating with its interior counterpart to deploy the appropriate number of security forces in accordance with the number of voters in each cooperative to guarantee the safety of everyone, and organize the entry and exit of shareholders.



The Los Angeles Times newspaper headquarters is shown in El Segundo, California on Jan 23. (AP)

Los Angeles Times editor resigns

The editorials editor of the Los Angeles Times has resigned after the newspaper's owner blocked the editorial board's plans to endorse Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris for president, a journalism trade publication reported Wednesday.

Marisel Garza told the Columbia Journalism Review in an interview that she resigned because the Times was remaining silent on the contest in "dangerous times."

"I am resigning because I want

to make it clear that I am not OK with us being silent," Garza said. "In dangerous times, honest people need to stand up. This is how I'm standing up."

In a post on the social media platform X that did not directly mention the resignation, LA Times owner Patrick Soon-Shiong said the board was asked to do a factual analysis of the policies of Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump during their time at the White House. (AP)

With 2 women running, NH gov's race both close and personal

CONCORD, NH, Oct 24, (AP): One of the nation's most competitive gubernatorial races has also become intensely personal. None of the nation's 12 female governors are up for reelection, but five women are running as major party gubernatorial nominees in four states. Two of them are in New Hampshire, where Republican Kelly Ayotte and Democrat Joyce Craig are competing to succeed Gov Chris Sununu, a Republican who is not seeking a fifth two-year term.

While voters and the candidates themselves say their gender is a nonissue in a state with a history of electing women to top offices, it has influenced their approaches to the topic of abortion and reproductive health care. Both candidates have produced television ads in which they describe having miscarriages after medical appointments during which no fetal heartbeats were detected.

"I know what that feeling is like when you have your dream shattered, and you think, 'Wow, what if I can't have a baby?'" says Ayotte, a former US senator and state attorney general.

But while Ayotte's ad focuses on affirming support for in vitro fertilization, Craig's promises broader protections of reproductive rights.

"I was able to end my pregnancy



without interference," says Craig, the former mayor of Manchester. "I'm running for governor because these decisions belong to women, not politicians."

In Indiana, where Democrat Jennifer McCormick is the only woman in the race, she has highlighted her gender as she criticizes her Republican gubernatorial opponent, US Sen Mike Braun, for supporting their state's near-total

ban on abortion.

"I am the only person on this stage who's been pregnant, I am the only person on this stage who's given birth, and I am the only person on this stage who is a mom," she said in a recent debate. "I understand firsthand the complexities associated with pregnancy. I trust women, and I trust health care providers."

But the "trust women" slogan comes with an asterisk in New Hampshire, where Craig often highlights Ayotte's support for a federal abortion ban after 20 weeks of pregnancy and her role shepherding Justice Neil Gorsuch through his confirmation to the US Supreme Court, where he joined in overturning Roe v. Wade.

"We can't trust what she's saying right now because she has shown where she is on the topic of reproductive freedom," Craig said in an interview last week.

Ayotte insists she will veto any bill further restricting abortion in New Hampshire, where Republican majorities in 2021 made abortion illegal after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

"I'm not going to change our law," Ayotte said. "She can say all kinds of things about it, but I think I've been pretty clear on what my position is."

As for her trustworthiness, Ayotte emphasizes that New Hampshire voters sent her to the Senate and governors of both parties appointed her to be state attorney general before that.

"I've served this state," she said. "I've served the people of New Hampshire."

As a senator, Ayotte was part of the nation's first all-female congressional delegation, just one of New Hampshire's notable achievements in electing women. It also was the first state to have a female governor, state Senate president and House speaker at the same time, and the first to have a female majority in its Senate. In 2008, Jeanne Shaheen became the first woman in the country to have served both as governor and U.S. senator. Sen. Maggie Hassan became the second after defeating Ayotte in 2016.

That track record makes New Hampshire an outlier, said Linda Fowler, a professor emerita of government at Dartmouth College who has studied women in politics. She said research suggests voters have been more comfortable electing women as representatives because they view them as caring and good listeners, but they see governors as CEOs and believe the job demands a more masculine approach.



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump looks on at a faith town hall with Georgia Lt. Gov. Burt Jones at Christ Chapel Zebulon on Oct 23 in Zebulon, Ga. (AP)

Trump targets his base, Harris goes after moderates as early voting numbers rise

WASHINGTON, Oct 24, (AP): Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are embracing wildly different strategies to energize the coalitions they need to win as the campaigns enter their final sprint.

Harris says she believes Trump is "increasingly unstable and unfit to serve in office."

She said that in response to the first question, which was about what she would say to voters to convince them as to why they should not support Trump.

Harris characterized remarks from Donald Trump's former chief of staff, John Kelly, as a "911 call to the people" as to why the former chief of staff felt Trump should not return to the White House.

Harris said, "Yes, I do" when asked if she believes Trump is a fascist.

Adding to her comments, Harris said Trump "demeans people who have taken an oath to sacrifice their life for our country," referring to Trump's pre-

vious characterizations of members of the military. Harris cited a "legitimate fear" among former members of Republican administrations that Trump "will not obey an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Harris has taken the stage for tonight's CNN town hall, hosted by Anderson Cooper in Pennsylvania and with 32 registered voters who self-identify as undecided or persuadable.

Among the battlegrounds, Harris and Trump have visited Pennsylvania the most during the general election campaign.

The top election official in one of the nation's most politically important counties says she was forced out of her role just weeks before the November presidential election.

Donald Trump will travel to Austin, Texas, on Friday to make remarks focused on border security and migrant crime, his campaign says.

The announcement follows news

that Vice President Kamala Harris is heading to Texas on the same day to refocus her campaign on the issue of reproductive care, which Democrats see as a make-or-break issue this year.

The Trump campaign announcement says "the only leader who will secure our borders and put Americans first is President Donald J. Trump."

The Republican-leaning state is not viewed as one of the premier battleground races in this year's election, though Democrats say they are making gains. Harris will be joined Friday by Democratic Rep. Colin

Trump got a big cheer from this Georgia crowd when he promised to do away with all "mandates" for electric vehicles.

Trump's emphasis on fossil fuel markets puts him at odds with Georgia's Republican Gov. Brian Kemp. The governor has championed Georgia as a home base for the burgeoning electric battery and electric vehicle manufacturing sector in the U.S.

'Military assistance'

Russian lawmakers ratify pact with North Korea

MOSCOW, Oct 24, (AP): Russian lawmakers on Thursday ratified a pact with North Korea envisioning mutual military assistance, a move that comes as the US confirmed the deployment of 3,000 North Korean troops to Russia.

The lower house of the Russian parliament, the State Duma, voted quickly to endorse the "comprehensive strategic partnership" treaty that Russia's President Vladimir Putin signed with North Korean leader King Jong Un on a visit to Pyongyang in June. The upper house is expected to follow suit soon.

The pact obliges Russia and North Korea to immediately provide military assistance using "all means" if either is attacked. It marked the strongest link between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War.

The US said Wednesday that 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are training at several locations, calling the move very serious and warning that those forces will be "fair game" if they go into combat in Ukraine.

Russia and North Korea have previously rejected assertions by the US and its allies that Pyongyang has given Moscow ballistic missiles and millions of artillery shells for use in Ukraine.

Asked in June whether North Korean troops could fight alongside Russian forces in Ukraine under the pact, Putin said there was no need for that but he also announced for the first time that Russia could provide weapons to Pyongyang.

Observers said that in exchange for military support Moscow could share sophisticated weapons technologies with Pyongyang to help improve its

ballistic missile and satellite capabilities.

Meanwhile, a Russian man who supported his country's war in Ukraine has been charged with murder over the fatal stabbing in Germany earlier this year of two wounded Ukrainian soldiers who were recovering from operations there, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The 57-year-old suspect, whose name wasn't released in line with German privacy rules, was arrested shortly after the stabbing in the small Bavarian town of Murnau on April 27.

Prosecutors in Munich said the suspect and the two victims knew each other loosely from previous meetings. On the day of the stabbing, the

three men were drinking together and argued about the situation in Ukraine, "as a result of which the accused felt that his national pride was hurt," they said in a statement.

The suspect "decided to kill the two strongly intoxicated Ukrainians in a surprise attack," prosecutors added, and fetched a knife from his nearby apartment. One of the Ukrainians was killed immediately and the other died later of his injuries.

Prosecutors said that "as a supporter of an exaggerated Russian nationalism, (the suspect) supports unreservedly the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine." The two Ukrainians had been brought to Germany for treatment after being wounded in the war.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (right), and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un smile during their meeting at the Pyongyang Sunan International Airport outside Pyongyang, North Korea, on June 19. (AP)



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban speaks during the meeting to mark the 68th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian revolution, at the Millenaris Park, in Budapest, Hungary on Oct 23. (AP)

Orbán claims EU seeks to topple govt

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán claimed in a speech on Wednesday that the European Union seeks to topple his government and install a puppet regime in the Central European country, an escalation of open hostility toward the bloc by the member considered to have the warmest ties with Russia.

Speaking before thousands of supporters in Budapest, Orbán was marking Hungary's national holiday commemorating a 1956 armed uprising against Soviet repression that began in the capital and spread across the country before being crushed by the Red Army.

Orbán has often used the holiday, which looms large in Hungarians' memory as a freedom fight against foreign domination, to draw parallels between past occu-

pying forces like the Soviet Union and Ottoman Empire and the EU of today.

"Independent Hungarian politics are unacceptable to Brussels," Orbán told the crowd, referring to the EU headquarters in Belgium. "That is why they announced in Brussels that they will get rid of Hungary's national government. They also announced that they wanted to hang a Brussels puppet government around the country's neck."

Orbán gave no evidence to support his claims. There was no immediate public reaction from the EU.

"Do we bow to foreign will, this time to the will of Brussels, or do we resist it?" Orbán continued. "I propose that our answer be as clear and unambiguous as it was in 1956." (AP)

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America

Kentucky mom pleads guilty: A Kentucky woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to fatally shooting her two young sons last year.

Tiffany Lucas entered guilty pleas to murder charges in Bullitt County Court, news outlets reported. She had previously entered a not guilty plea by reason of insanity and was scheduled to stand trial in December before changing her plea.

Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 22. Judge Rodney Burress said that each charge carries a sentence of 20 to 50 years, or a life sentence.

Deputies responding to a report of a shooting in Shepherdsville, Kentucky, in November 2023 found the children, ages 6 and 9, with gunshot wounds, authorities said. The children were taken a hospital in Louisville, where they died.

A witness at the scene identified Lucas as the shooter and a gun was found inside the same room as the children, according to an arrest citation. (AP)

□ □ □

'Turn over assets': Rudy Giuliani has to get his stuff together.

The former New York City mayor has been ordered to turn over his Manhattan apartment, a Mercedes and a variety of

other personal possessions - from his television to a shirt signed by Joe DiMaggio - to two Georgia election workers who won a \$148 million defamation judgment against him.

So how will that work? Does he gather up his prized possessions and send them in a truck to a place of the workers' choosing? Or do the workers - Ruby Freeman and her daughter, Wandrea "Shaye" Moss - have to send their own truck to pick them up?

Here's how the property turnover may work, according to lawyers involved with the case and Tuesday's order by a federal judge in New York.

Giuliani has been ordered within seven days to hand over a variety of property to Freeman and Moss to help pay some of the \$148 million judgment. Besides the New York City apartment, 26 luxury watches and the 1980 Mercedes once owned by movie star Lauren Bacall, he

also must relinquish a shirt and picture signed, respectively, by Yankees legends Joe DiMaggio and Reggie Jackson, a signed Yankee Stadium picture, a diamond ring, costume jewelry and money in certain bank accounts. (AP)

□ □ □

Media tycoon charged: A Venezuelan media tycoon was charged Wednesday in federal court in Florida for what authorities say was his money laundering role in a conspiracy to siphon more than \$1 billion from the oil company owned by the South American country's government.

A federal grand jury in Miami returned an indictment charging Raul Gorrin in an alleged scheme to launder funds he obtained from Petróleos de Venezuela S.A., also known as PDVSA, in exchange of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribery payments to Venezuelan officials, the U.S. Justice Department said in a press release.

Gorrin, 56, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. If convicted, he could face up to 20 years in prison. He was previously charged in another other federal case and is considered a fugitive by the U.S. (AP)

Venezuelan opposition leaders Machado, González win EU's top human rights prize

BRUSSELS, Oct 24, (AP): Venezuelan opposition leaders Maria Corina Machado and Edmundo González Urrutia have won the European Union's top human rights honor, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced Thursday.

Machado ran as the democratic opposition candidate in Venezuela's contested 2024 presidential election, but she was disqualified by the government, so González took her place. He had never run for office before the presidential election.

The lead-up to the poll saw widespread repression, including disqualifications, arrests, and human rights violations. Machado went into hiding, fearing for her life. A Venezuelan court issued an arrest warrant for González, who moved to Spain and was granted asylum.

"In their quest for a fair, free and peaceful transition of power, they have fearlessly upheld values that millions of Venezuelans and the European Parliament hold so dear: justice, democracy and the rule of law," Metsola told



Opposition presidential hopeful Maria Corina Machado gives a press conference at her campaign headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela on Dec 15, 2023. (AP)

democratic future of their country," she said, adding: "We are confident that Venezuela and democracy will ultimately prevail."

Machado's group maintains that it has evidence that González won the July 28 presidential election by a wide margin against Venezuela's authoritarian incumbent president, Nicolás Maduro, despite his claim to have won.

Maduro's victory was contested by independent observers, including the United Nations. In a resolution last month, the EU parliament recognized González as Venezuela's legitimate president.

The EU award, named after Soviet dissident Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honor individuals or groups who defend human rights and basic freedoms.

The winner is chosen by senior EU lawmakers from among candidates nominated by the European Parliament's various political groups. The assembly says the award is "the highest tribute paid by the European Union to human rights work."

EU lawmakers.

"This parliament stands with the people of Venezuela and with Maria and Edmundo in their struggle for the

‘All people are very excited’

Charles gets warm welcome on his first visit as king to Samoa

SIUMU, Samoa, Oct 24, (AP): In the dark, dozens of people lined a narrow road near the Samoan fishing village of Siumu, gathering near a sign bearing a portrait of King Charles III and waiting excitedly for a glimpse of the real monarch.

A buzz surged through the crowd as a motorcade appeared Wednesday, bearing the first British king to visit a Pacific Island nation.

Hands waved briefly from rolled-down windows and those standing in just the right spot managed to catch a glimpse of the king's face. Then the monarch and his wife, Queen Camilla, were gone. The royals had arrived earlier Wednesday evening from a visit to Australia.

"All people in Samoa are very excited," said Numio Faoagali, a garbage collector from Siumu who had spent three days cleaning and decorating his house with a Union flag and bunting. He hoped that Charles, who is staying at a resort nearby, might see it.

"It's the first time to see the king. We've only seen him on the TV, not here in Samoa," he said.

Charles was expected to helm a major meeting of leaders from Com-

monwealth countries in Samoa, including many that once had colonial ties to Britain. His presence is likely to prompt uneasy questions -- as it did in Australia -- about the role of the British crown in the histories and aspirations of its former territories.

But on Wednesday, his visit provoked delight too.

Locals were thrilled their village was picked to host the monarch and congregated two hours early on Wednesday to await his arrival. Madeleine A. Tofaeono-Galo said her cousin, who lived on the other side of the island, was travelling to Siumu "just to see the king."

As Apia, the capital, bustled with final preparations to welcome Charles, other world leaders and more than 3,000 delegates to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, enthusiasm focused on the global spotlight the monarch's presence might shine on the island nation of 218,000 people.

"We are excited as a one in a lifetime opportunity," the paramount chief of Siumu, Ataona Tusi Pafetai, told The Associated Press.

"We have pride in our core values, as in hospitality, respect and love and caring for our people," he added. "It's

a great opportunity for us to show the world that who we are and what we are as people and our identity as Samoan."

It's the first time a Pacific Island has hosted the biennial leaders' summit. More than half of the Commonwealth's members are small countries like Samoa, many of them island nations among the world's most imperiled by rising seas.

Climate change will occupy much of the summit's agenda. Charles has championed awareness of the problem for decades, and leaders are expected to agree to an Ocean Declaration pledging fresh, but as yet unspecified, commitments.

"We need support to properly lower the greenhouse effect over our Pacific islands," said Pafetai, the chief. The summit was not only for "unity and awareness", he added, but to "come up some solutions that will help us."

The forum will test the ability of the group of nations from across the globe, with divergent political interests and economic fortunes, to align on matters of substance. It is likely to face uncomfortable, existential questions too.

The Commonwealth is seen by some as a vestige of empire with an

uncertain mission in the 21st century, and discussions about colonization among its members have intensified in recent years. All three candidates to become the organization's next Secretary-General -- from Ghana, Lesotho and Gambia -- have urged financial reparations for the past enslavement of colonized people.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who is attending the summit, has faced pressure from some lawmakers in the governing Labour Party to consider the prospect. But his government says it is not up for discussion.

"Reparations are not on the agenda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting," Starmer's spokesman, Dave Pares, said ahead of the summit. "The government's position has not changed. We do not pay reparations."

Britain would not be offering an apology for slavery at the summit, Pares said. He also rejected suggestions that the Commonwealth's importance has diminished.

The summit would "bring together delegations from 56 countries representing a combined market for British business set to be worth \$19.5 trillion by 2027," Pares said.



Britain's King Charles III visits the Mangrove Restoration Project at Moata'a Village in Apia, Samoa on Oct 24. (AP)

Trash carried by N.Korea balloon again falls on presidential compound

South Korea's Yoon raises possibility of supplying Ukraine with arms

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 24, (AP): South Korea's president on Thursday raised the possibility of supplying Ukraine with weapons while stressing that his government "won't sit idle" as North Korea allegedly sends troops to support Russia's aggression toward its neighbor.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol spoke to reporters after a meeting with Polish President Andrzej Duda that came a day after U.S. and South Korean officials said they believe around 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are training at several locations. South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers that North Korea likely aims to send a total of 10,000 troops to Russia by the end of the year.

Yoon's meeting with Duda was focused on expanding defense cooperation between the countries amid the ongoing conflict. Poland has signed a series of arms deals with South Korea in the last two years to acquire tanks, howitzers and missile launchers in an effort to bolster its military capabilities following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Both Moscow and Pyongyang have denied the presence of North Korean troops.

Yoon said South Korea will work with allies and partners to prepare

countermeasures that could be rolled out in stages depending on the degree of military cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow.

Seoul's steps could potentially include sending weapons to Ukraine, which would mark a departure from a long-standing policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflict, Yoon said. He said North Korea's alleged troop deployment to Russia is a "provocation that threatens global security beyond just the Korean Peninsula and Europe."

"If North Korea dispatches special forces to the Ukraine war as part of Russia-North Korea cooperation, we will support Ukraine in stages and also review and implement measures necessary for security on the Korean Peninsula," Yoon said during a joint press conference with Duda.

"While we have maintained our principle of not directly supplying lethal weapons, we can also review our stance more flexibly, depending on the level of North Korean military activities," Yoon said.

Yoon's comments aligned with what a senior presidential official told reporters on condition of anonymity earlier this week. That official said South Korea is considering various diplomatic, economic and military options, including supply-



South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (right), and Poland's President Andrzej Duda, left, speak during a joint press conference at the Presidential Office in Seoul, South Korea on Oct 24. (AP)

ing Ukraine with both defensive and offensive weapons systems.

South Korea, a growing arms exporter, has provided humanitarian aid and other non-lethal support to Ukraine and joined U.S.-led economic sanctions against Moscow. It has so far resisted calls by Kyiv and NATO to directly supply Ukraine with weapons.

During their summit, Yoon and Duda agreed to "actively support"

additional deliveries of South Korean military equipment to Poland, including a new deal for Korean K-2 tanks the governments hope to finalize within this year, Yoon's office said.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have worsened since 2022 after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un used Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a distraction to accelerate the growth of his nuclear weapons and missile

program.

Seoul also worries as experts say the North may seek major technology transfers in return for sending troops, including Russian know-how on intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarines that would advance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear arsenal.

Experts say it's unclear how effective the North Korean soldiers would be in combat, considering their lack of active battlefield experience, outdated conventional weaponry and training experience with Russian forces. Kim may see the troop dispatch as a crucial opportunity to expose his soldiers to modern warfare and technologies, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

During a parliamentary hearing, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun said that North Korean troops would likely become "cannon fodder" when deployed in combat in Ukraine and denounced Pyongyang's leadership for "selling away its troops to an illegal invasion."

"Troop deployment is just a phrase, and it would be more appropriate to call them as mercenaries," he said. "The North Koreans are disguising themselves in Russian uniforms and operating under Russian

control with no operational autonomy, just simply following orders."

Meanwhile, trash carried by a North Korean balloon fell on the presidential compound in central Seoul on Thursday for the second time, raising concerns about the vulnerability of key South Korean sites.

The incident comes after the rival Koreas ramped up threats and rhetoric against each other over North Korea's claims that South Korea flew drones over its capital Pyongyang to scatter propaganda leaflets this month.

No dangerous items were found in the rubbish that was dropped on the ground when one of the North Korean balloons burst over the South Korean presidential compound on Thursday morning, South Korea's presidential security service said in a statement.

North Korea has sent thousands of balloons carrying bags of rubbish like plastic and paper waste into South Korea since late May in a resumption of a Cold War-style psychological campaign. The trash that fell on the South Korean presidential compound in July contained no hazardous materials as well.

It wasn't immediately known whether South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was at the compound during the latest incident.



Boats are moored on Hooghly River after ferry services were suspended due to the approaching Tropical Storm Dana, which is expected to make landfall late on Thursday and early into Friday, according to the Indian Meteorological Department, in Kolkata, India on Oct 24. (AP)

India evacuates hundreds of thousands as tropical storm nears

Indian authorities have shut schools, evacuated hundreds of thousands of people and canceled trains in parts of the country as rescue teams braced on Thursday for a tropical storm brewing in the Bay of Bengal.

Tropical Storm Dana is expected to intensify, bringing winds of 100-110 kph (62-68 mph) and gusts up to 120 kph (74 mph), as it pushes toward the country's eastern coastline, where it is set to make landfall late Thursday and early Friday, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

Climate scientists say severe storms are becoming more frequent in South Asia. Global warming driven by planet-heating gases has caused them to become more extreme and unpredictable.

The storm is expected to affect most parts of the eastern state of Odisha, which saw strong winds and

rain on Thursday morning. Authorities have closed schools, canceled more than 200 trains, suspended flights and warned fishermen not to venture out to sea.

Downpours also began lashing areas of neighboring West Bengal state, where some districts are also likely to be hit, prompting officials there to be on high alert.

Odisha's Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi told the Press Trust of India news agency that around 300,000 people have been evacuated from vulnerable areas, adding that three districts were likely to be severely affected. Authorities plan to evacuate over 1 million people from 14 districts. Several teams of aid and rescue workers have also been deployed to the state, which is prone to severe cyclones and storms.

"The government is fully prepared to tackle the situation. You are in safe hands," Majhi said. (AP)

‘Worst cost-of-living crisis’

Nigeria President Tinubu reshuffles his cabinet

ABUJA, Nigeria, Oct 24, (AP): Nigerian President **Bola Tinubu** has fired five ministers and appointed seven new ones in a major cabinet reshuffle aimed at making his administration more efficient, his office said Wednesday.

The shake-up comes during worsening economic hardship and frustration with the administration in Africa's most populous country.

Tinubu appointed new ministers for humanitarian and poverty reduction, trade and investment, labor and livestock development along with junior ministers for foreign affairs, education and housing, the statement said.

The ministers for education, tour-

ism, women's affairs and youth development and the junior minister for housing were fired.

Tinubu took office last year and introduced reforms meant to cut government spending and shore up dwindling foreign investments.

But more than a year later, Nigeria's inflation rate is at a 28-year high and the naira currency is at record lows against the dollar.

Frustration over the cost-of-living



Tinubu

crisis has led to several mass protests in recent months. In August, at least 20 people were shot dead and hundreds of others were arrested at protest demanding better opportunities and jobs for young people.

Despite being one of the top crude oil producers in Africa, Nigeria remains one of the world's poorest countries. Chronic corruption means the lifestyle of its public officials rarely mirrors that of the general population, while medical professionals often strike to protest meager wages.

Last year, Tinubu approved millions of dollars in spending for his presidential yacht and sport utility vehicles for his wife and top government officials.

Jailed former PM reiterates innocence

Najib apologizes for fund embezzlement scandal

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 24, (AP): Imprisoned former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak issued a rare apology Thursday over the looting of a state investment fund worth billions of dollars "under my watch" while reiterating his innocence.

Najib set up the I Malaysia Development Berhad state fund, or IMDB, shortly after taking power in 2009. Investigators allege more than \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by his associates to finance Hollywood films and extravagant purchases. The scandal upended Najib's government and he was defeated in the 2018 election. He faces a slew of legal cases and started serving time in 2022 after losing his final appeal in his first graft case.

The apology comes ahead of Wednesday's court decision that will either acquit or order him to enter his defense in a second main graft trial, in which he faces four charges of abusing his power to obtain over \$700 million from IMDB and 21 charges of money laundering involving the same amount.

"It pains me every day to know that



Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak, (center), leaves a court in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 28, 2020. (AP)

the IMDB debacle happened under my watch ... For that, I would like to apologize unreservedly to the Malaysian people," Najib said in a statement, adding he was "still in deep shock knowing

now the extent of the wretched and unconscionable shenanigans, and illegal things that happened in IMDB."

He also said he should have "acted differently" but was misled. He reiterated he didn't collaborate with Malaysian fugitive financier Low Taek Jho - identified by investigators as the mastermind behind the pilfering of the fund. Najib added he had been punished politically and should not also be "legally victimized".

"Being held legally responsible for things that I did not initiate or knowingly enable is unfair to me, and I hope and pray that the judicial process will, in the end, prove my innocence," he added.

Najib's current trial began in August 2019. It is the most significant as it ties him directly to the IMDB scandal that has prompted investigations in the U.S. and several other countries.

Prosecutors allege Najib embezzled billions of dollars from IMDB through an "elaborate charade" and then sought to cover his tracks. Najib says he was fooled into believing it was a donation from the Saudi Arabia royal family.

Lat/Am

Hurricane Kristy intensifies: Hurricane Kristy strengthened into a Category 4 storm in the Pacific Ocean on Wednesday and was expected to remain away from land as it churns in the Pacific Ocean, forecasters said.

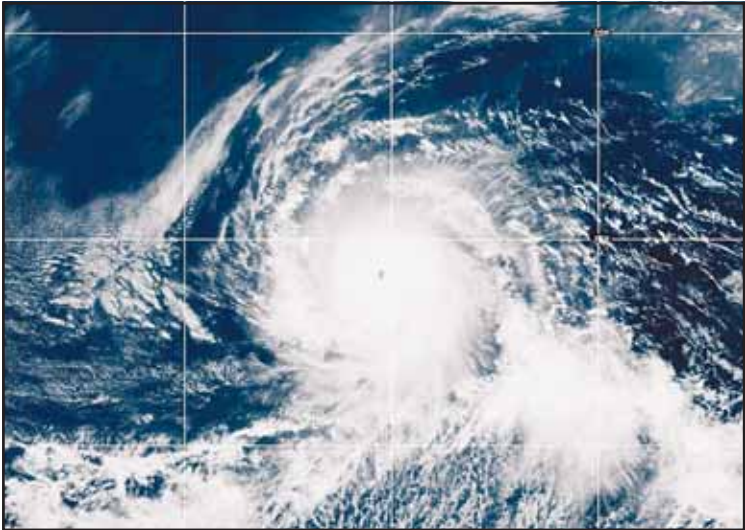
The major hurricane was 710 miles (1,140 kilometers) south-southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula of Mexico, and was moving west at 20 mph (31 kph). It had maximum sustained winds of 155 mph (250 kph), just shy of Category 5 status, according to the Miami-based National Hurricane Center.

Waves generated by Kristy will affect portions of the west coast of the Baja California peninsula late this week, the center said, and those are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions. (AP)

Chile school blast injures 35: A homemade firebomb exploded inside a public high school in Chile on Wednesday, igniting a blaze that injured at least 34 students and one teacher, with several in serious condition, firefighters said.

A group of students ages 15 to 18 at the school in central Santiago, the capital, were making Molotov cocktails in a bathroom to be thrown at a protest later when one exploded, said police Lt. Col. Fernando Albormoz. It was not clear what caused the blast. Police said they found bottles and fuel cans likely to make the explosives.

Fire department Capt. José Manuel



This satellite image provided by NOAA on Oct 23, 2024 shows Hurricane Kristy. (AP)

Estefane said 11 students at the prestigious Barros Arana National Boarding School were hospitalized in serious condition with burns affecting their respiratory systems. (AP)

Gunman kills 3 in Brazil: A 45-year-old man in southern Brazil barricaded himself in a house and killed his father, brother and a police officer in an hours-long shootout before he himself was fatally shot, authorities said Wednesday. Nine other people were injured.

The incident in Novo Hamburgo, part of the metro area of Rio Grande do Sul

state's capital Porto Alegre, started late Tuesday when the man's father called the police to report his son's aggressive behavior, authorities said at a news conference in Porto Alegre.

When police arrived, the son started firing, hitting officers in the process. The confrontation lasted almost 10 hours, dragging into the next morning, state military police said in a statement issued later in the day.

The injured included six military police officers, a municipal guard and the man's mother and sister-in-law, the police statement said. (AP)

Market Movements				24-10-2024			
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑ JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+38.43	38,143.29	↓ SAUDI	- TASI	-15.71	11,886.06
	- EGYPT	+138.77	30,552.82		- DFMGI	-0.19	4,464.00
	- PAKISTAN	+1,744.27	89,053.50		- PHILIPPINES	-83.87	7,283.79

Boursa general index dips 0.02%, closes at 6,981.53

Main market index rises 0.98% amid strong trading

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait concluded trading on Thursday with its general index down by 1.16 points, or 0.02%, finishing at 6,981.53 points. A total of 404.9 million shares changed hands across 19,660 transactions, amounting to KD 67.8 million (approximately USD 206.7 million).

The main market index saw an increase of 62.25

points, or 0.98%, reaching 6,446.17 points, with 341.6 million shares traded in 12,827 transactions valued at KD 44 million (around USD 134.2 million). In contrast, the premier market index fell by 18.04 points, or 0.24%, to settle at 7,460.50 points, with 63 million shares traded in 6,833 transactions worth KD 23.7 million (about USD 72.2 million). Additionally, the Main 50 index rose by 73.85 points, or 1.17%, closing at 6,363.53 points, supported by trading 299.13 million shares in 9,875 transactions valued at KD 39.3 million (approximately USD 119.8 million).

127 deals registered across all governorates

Kuwaiti real estate contracts reach 68.13 mln dinars from Oct 13 to 17

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Ministry of Justice reported that the total value of real estate contracts registered between October 13 and 17, 2024, amounted to approximately 68.13 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to statistics from the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department, a total of 127 contracts were recorded across all six governorates during this period.

The transactions included 92 contracts for private real estate valued at 33.7 million dinars, 22 investment properties worth 14.74 million dinars, and 11 commercial sector properties totaling 16.20 million dinars.

Additionally, one property in the warehouse sector was registered for 3.49 million dinars. Notably, there were no transactions involving exhibition, industrial, coastal strip, or bank properties during this time.

In comparison, the value of real estate contracts registered from October 6 to 10, 2024, was about 63.28 million dinars.

In the broader context, approximately 1,309 real estate deals worth 981 million dinars were recorded during the third quarter of 2024, marking a 38 percent increase from the 709 million dinars in transactions during the same period in 2023.

The highest value of real estate

deals was seen in Hawalli Governorate at 291 million dinars, followed by the Capital Governorate at 246 million dinars, Ahmadi Governorate at 182 million dinars, and Farwaniya Governorate at 98.88 million dinars.

The focus during the third quarter remained on purchasing residential real estate, with 918 deals amounting to 403 million dinars, accounting for about 41 percent of the total value of real estate transactions.

The investment properties also saw significant activity, with 337 deals valued at 336 million dinars, alongside 28 commercial property deals worth 146 million dinars.

Brent crude drops \$1.08

Kuwait crude oil surges to \$75.19 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil gained USD 1.52 during Wednesday's trading to reach USD 75.19 per barrel compared with USD 73.67 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Thursday.

Brent crude futures however dropped USD 1.08 to

USD 74.96 pb and West Texas Intermediate lost 97 cents to USD 70.77 pb.

This followed data released by the US energy information administration that crude stocks rose by 5.5 million barrels last week to 426 million barrels.

Kuwait holds 15% stake in Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company

SUMED signs contract with SPC for oil transport

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Arab Petroleum Pipelines Company (SUMED), in which Kuwait holds a 15 percent stake, has signed a contract for the transport, storage, and handling of crude oil and petroleum products with Sokhna Petrochemical Company (SPC), part of the Suez Canal Petroleum Project, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The SUMED pipeline, also known as the Suez-Mediterranean Pipeline, runs from the Ain Sukhna terminal in the Gulf of Suez, located north of the Red Sea, to the Sidi Kerir seaport in Alexandria on the Mediterranean Sea.

This pipeline offers an alternative route for transporting oil from the Arabian Gulf to the Mediterranean, bypassing the Suez Canal.

nean, bypassing the Suez Canal.

SUMED operates as a joint venture among several partners, including the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (50 percent), Aramco (15 percent), Mubadala Investment Company (15 percent), the General Investment Authority (15 percent), and Qatar Energy (5 percent).

According to the Gas and Oil website, the Sokhna Refinery and Petrochemical Company is a promising initiative and is expected to become one of the most significant petroleum and petrochemical projects globally.

It is strategically positioned to serve four key markets: Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Oil sector set for recovery, GDP growth to hit 5.0%

Saudi economic growth to accelerate in 2025 on oil output recovery

By National Bank of Kuwait

Economic growth is expected to accelerate further in 2025 on a recovery in oil output and higher investment and private consumption. A wider fiscal deficit is projected in 2025 as spending is set to rise in line with the government's ambitious development plan objectives while oil revenues decline on a lower oil price assumption, even while production is scheduled to go up as per OPEC+ policy. Higher than expected FDI and tourism helped by reform progress and the hosting of entertainment events are an upside risk to the outlook, while downside risks include a slowdown in project spending and weaker-than-forecast oil prices.

Non-oil growth rising on business, investment activity

Non-oil growth is expected to be steady in 2024 (3.7% y/y) before accelerating to 4.2% in 2025. Private sector activity has been robust (+4.2% in H1 24), backed up also by PMI readings pointing firmly to business expansion, and is expected to continue to benefit from positive government reform momentum and expansive fiscal policy, including higher on-budget and PIF investment spending on diversification projects, as well as by falling interest rates. Recent reforms to simplify and streamline business procedures should help attract greater volumes of FDI going forward, which could play an even more important role in achieving Vision 2030 goals in the context of fiscal pressures resulting from a lower oil prices. Important also to the growth story has been bank credit and especially corporate lending, which were up 9.3% y/y and 12% y/y in August, respectively. Implementation of the Saudi National Investment Strategy should further drive output gains in manufacturing, trade and hospitality, the latter being the fastest growing sector in recent years (+6.4% y/y in H1 24) and a significant contributor to Saudi employment gains. The citizen unemployment rate fell to a record low of 7.1% in August from 7.7% at the end of 2023.

Oil sector fortunes looking better

A recovery in Saudi oil output is on the cards with OPEC+ scheduled to begin restoring withheld supply back to the market from end-2024. Total production should rise by 1 mb/d to 9.6 mb/d by end-2025 in our baseline scenario, delivering a 6.7% y/y increase in oil GDP

		2022	2023	2024e	2025f
Nominal GDP	\$ bn	1,109	1,068	1,083	1,111
Real GDP	% y/y	7.5	-0.8	1.1	5.0
- Oil	% y/y	15.0	-9.0	-5.3	6.7
- Non-oil	% y/y	5.3	3.8	3.7	4.2
Inflation (average)	% y/y	2.5	2.3	1.8	2.0
Fiscal balance	% of GDP	2.5	-2.0	-2.7	-3.5
Government debt	% of GDP	23.8	26.2	27.8	29.0
Current account	% of GDP	13.7	3.2	1.5	0.3
Source: Official sources, NBK forecasts					

following a decline of 5.3% in 2024. Total GDP growth is expected at 5.0% in 2025 from an estimated 1.1% in 2024.

Inflation to edge up, but still muted

Falling unemployment, rising global food prices, and the expected pick-up in non-oil activity could see inflation tick up in 2025, but continued strong competitive pressures will help keep upward pressures limited. Housing rents growth – the main inflationary impulse recently – could ease as lower borrowing costs encourage a shift to mortgage demand over renting, but the rental market may remain tight on a strong influx of expat labor. Against this backdrop, we project a small rise in inflation to 2% in 2025 from an estimated 1.8% in 2024. On monetary policy, the Saudi Central Bank has begun its monetary easing cycle having cut the policy repo rate by 50 bps to 5.5% in September, tracking the US Fed as normal given the rial's peg to the US dollar.

Business



Warba team at Watheefti career fair.

Bank achieves 84% national talent recruitment

Warba Bank partakes in ‘Watheefti’ career fair for 3rd consecutive year

Al Rasheed

- Our participation reinforces our ongoing strategy for sustainable jobmarket, that aims at supporting national talents and encouraging their integration into the private sector.
- Warba is one of the leading institutions in engaging with the youth segment, specifically fresh graduates, who have demonstrated innovative and creative skills.
- Warba Bank enforced further its position today as one of the top preferred employers among young individuals, helping them to integrate into the job market by offering them opportunities that match their capabilities and aspirations.
- Alrasheed emphasized the importance of such career fairs as a direct communication channel for identifying talents and enhancing the skills of national candidates to boost their employability.

institutions. Additionally, this will enable building groups of specialised experts, reflecting positively on the quality of work and improving the quality of services provided to clients.”

Al-Rasheed added: “The bank has been able to position itself today as one of the favourite destinations for fresh graduates who are looking to enter the job market and find a job that aligns with their ambitions. We provide the best support to help them become part of the bank's success in the banking sector.”

She also noted that the bank is among the top private sector institutions when it comes to hiring national talents, currently exceeding 84%. Al-Rasheed revealed that the number of applicants during the bank's presence at the exhibition reached 3,548 individuals, including a distinguished group of advanced skills in their field.

According to Al-Rasheed, these applicants were eager to undergo interviews and tests to qualify for positions at the bank. She emphasized that the bank's participation in such events reinforces its role in supporting national labour and enhancing their capabilities to become future leaders who possess the necessary skills and can make decisions to support the bank's strategic plan, which aims to develop our country by preparing a new generation of leaders.

It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank has achieved significant successes and continues to achieve steady growth in a short period, recently ranking first in providing innovative digital banking services compliant with Islamic Shariah principles for individuals and companies. The bank is also among the most widely held local banks in terms of shareholders, which reflects its strong connection to the broader community.

formance and meet their personal aspirations. This will lead to strong competitive results on both the local and regional levels.

Al-Rasheed concluded by saying: “Warba places its employees at the core of its foundation and considers them a primary engine for continuous success, which Warba Bank strives to achieve. It does this through reliance on an integrated set of programs and training plans that the bank seeks to implement with the best global

HH the Prime Minister patronizes event

HEISCO celebrates 50 years of excellence at Grand Hyatt 360 Hotel



Group photo of the ministers with Marzouq Nasser Al-Kharafi.



Marzouq Nasser Al-Kharafi



Marzouq Nasser Al-Kharafi with the Minister of Commerce, Khalifa Dhahi Al-Ajail Al-Askar.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding Company (HEISCO) celebrated its 50th anniversary or ‘Golden Jubilee’ at the Grand Hyatt 360 Hotel under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah; with Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Dhahi Al-Ajail Al-Askar, Minister of Electricity and Water Mahmoud Bushehri, and State Minister for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Hamed Al-Mishari in attendance.

Bushehri praised the company’s performance since its inception in 1974 till date. He pointed out the company is listed on the Premier Market of Boursa Kuwait. He highlighted the collaborative efforts of his ministry and the company in the fields of water desalination, gas turbine maintenance, electricity generation and power generation stations.

He wished the company continued growth and success, expressing his pride as a Kuwaiti due to the company’s outstanding performance overseas and the opening of its branches in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Board of Directors of HEISCO Marzouq Al-Kharafi revealed that “the company was listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange in 1984 and then upgraded to the Premier Market in 2023. This is a manifestation of the confidence of the company’s shareholders.”

He said the current market value of the company is approximately KD 140 million, while the value of work being carried out as a result of the contracts signed with the company is approximately KD 523 million. “In the company’s history, the number of maintenance and rehabilitation projects for water distillation and power plants with the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has increased at an unprecedented level.

Pride and honor over our achievements in the last half-century are entwined with optimism for the opportunities and challenges that the future holds on this special day, as we celebrate the golden jubilee. The fact that it has been 50 years since HEISCO, formerly known as Kuwait Shipbuilding and Repair Company, was founded on April 2, 1974, is a testament to our dedication, perseverance and capacity to accomplish goals.”

He emphasized that although the journey was not easy at first, they were able to overcome obstacles and realize the company’s vision because of Allah first, followed by everyone’s unending generosity and teamwork. “Through 50 years of hard work, constant progress and unstoppable development, we have had numerous accomplishments that are a source of pride and honor. Without the ongoing support from everyone and collaboration among the members of this group, we would not have been able to accomplish our goals and leave a lasting impression in the fields of ship repair and construction, engineering, procurement, construction, con-

tracting, mechanical maintenance and marine construction works. We are eager to develop our human resources and improve the work environment and conditions to support and encourage national workers, raise their efficiency and competitiveness, enhance ethical values and principles of social responsibility, and meet the aspirations and expectations of our customers. We work hard and diligently to continue the journey of success and excellence.”

Al-Kharafi expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who helped build this national structure -- the founders, devoted employees and strategic partners. He also thanked the company’s shareholders for their trust and to everyone who helped the company get to where it is now. He asserted that “we should look forward to the future with zeal and resolve despite the challenges under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. We are proud that HEISCO and its group of companies are essential parts of this beloved nation, which enjoys wise leadership and an ambitious vision to achieve development and prosperity in all fields.”

Al-Kharafi also confirmed the completion of numerous projects, including the South Kuwait Drilling, Transport and Treatment Project (Area Two) for the benefit of Kuwait Oil Company. This project aims to treat 3.5 million tons of crude oil-contaminated soil that resulted from the brutal destruction of oil wells during the country’s invasion, he explained.

He said the project was carried out in accordance with the work phase schedule in collaboration with the Chinese company ZAOPIN. He stated that the project is unique, because it involves a number of challenges and difficulties, such as the removal of live mines from an eight million square meter area, while upholding the highest safety standards. He affirmed this led to the treatment of more than million tons of contaminated soil using biological treatment and creative, eco-friendly soil washing methods. “We are pleased that our partnership is the first to utilize the soil washing machine and finish the pilot project. We were the first to use the biological treatment method to treat one million tons of soil,” he revealed.

He added the company will soon collaborate with EnerTech Company -- the first Kuwaiti technology company for cleaning contaminated soil; in addition to completing the extraction of live mines from the biggest and deepest oil lake. Kuwaitis created and developed this technology. The project is expected to be completed in early 2026, he disclosed.

He went on to say that in 2023, a contract was signed with Enppi Company -- a branch of the Engineering Company for Petroleum and Chemical Industries -- to implement a project for Saudi Aramco worth 500 million Saudi riyals for a period of 28 months. “Work is still ongoing according to the project stages to complete it as best as possible. A branch of the company was established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the latter part of 2021,” he added.

Putin praises BRICS growth

Russian leader eyes new payment alternatives

KAZAN, Russia, Oct 24, (AP): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday presided over a closing session of a summit of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, hailing its role as a counterbalance to the West.

The three-day summit in the city of Kazan covered the deepening of financial cooperation, including the development of alternatives to Western-dominated payment systems, as well as settling regional conflicts and moving to expand the BRICS group of countries.

The alliance that initially included Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa has expanded to embrace Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have formally applied to become members, and several other countries have expressed interest in joining.

Speaking during Thursday’s session, which included countries that consider joining the grouping, Putin said they all “share similar aspirations and values and a vision of new democratic global order.”

The summit was attended by 36 countries, highlighting the failure of U.S.-led efforts to isolate Russia over its actions in Ukraine. The Kremlin touted the summit as “the largest foreign policy event ever held” by Russia.

Russia has specifically pushed for the creation of a new payment system that would offer an alternative to the global bank messaging network SWIFT and allow Moscow to dodge



Minister Abiy Ahmed and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira attend Outreach/BRICS Plus format session at the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024. (AP)

Western sanctions and trade with partners.

In a joint declaration issued Wednesday, the summit participants voiced concern about “the disruptive effect of unlawful unilateral coercive measures, including illegal sanctions” and reiterated their commitment to enhancing financial cooperation within BRICS. They noted the benefits of “faster, low-cost, more efficient, transparent, safe and inclusive cross-border payment instruments built upon the principle of minimizing trade barriers and non-discriminatory access.”

China’s President Xi Jinping has

emphasized the bloc’s role in ensuring global security. Xi noted that China and Brazil have put forward a peace plan for Ukraine and sought to rally broader international support for it. Ukraine has rejected the proposal.

Putin and Xi had announced a “no-limits” partnership weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. They already met twice earlier this year, in Beijing in May and at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kazakhstan in July.

Russia’s cooperation with India has also flourished as New Delhi sees Moscow as a time-tested partner since Cold

War times despite Russia’s close ties with India’s main rival, China. While Western allies want India to be more active in persuading Moscow to end the fighting in Ukraine, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has avoided condemning Russia while emphasizing a peaceful settlement.

Putin, who held a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit, was set to meet Thursday with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who is making his first visit to Russia in more than two years. Guterres’s trip to Kazan has drawn an angry reaction from Kyiv.

Asia retreats

World shares are mixed after Wall St logs third straight loss

BANGKOK, Oct 24, (AP): Shares were trading higher in Europe after a retreat Thursday in Asia following a third straight day of losses on Wall Street as its long, record-breaking rally lost more steam.

Oil prices gained more than \$1. Germany’s DAX climbed 0.8% to 19,525.36 and the CAC 40 in Paris also gained 0.8%, to 7,557.30. Britain’s FTSE 100 was likewise up 0.8%, at 8,322.03.

The future for the S&P 500 was up 0.5% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1% lower.

In Asian trading, Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 shed larger early gains, ending 0.1% higher at 38,143.29 as purchasing manager indexes showed worsening conditions in Japan for both manufacturing and services. The overall composite PMI compiled by au Jibun Bank fell to a two-year low.

“Japan’s private sector fell into contraction territory at the start of the fourth quarter of the year,” Usamah Bhatti, an economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said in a commentary. “Confidence about business activity growth in the next 12 months softened in October and was the least pronounced since August 2020.”

Chinese markets declined, with Hong Kong’s Hang Seng losing 1.3% to 20,489.62, while the Shanghai Composite index shed 0.7% to 3,280.26.

In Seoul, the Kospi gave up 0.7% to 2,581.03 and Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.1% lower to 8,206.30.

Taiwan’s Taiex lost 0.6% and the Sensex in India edged 0.1% lower.

Bangkok’s SET declined 0.2%.

“A cocktail of worries about China’s economic outlook and a contentious U.S. presidential election weighed heavily on market sentiment,” Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management wrote in a commentary.

On Wednesday, the S&P 500 sank 0.9%. Its recent pullback follows six straight winning weeks, its longest such streak this year.

Stocks are sagging under rising pressure from Treasury yields. Higher yields can make investors reluctant to pay high prices for stocks, which critics say already look too expensive after they rose faster than corporate profits.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1%, while the Nasdaq composite tumbled 1.6%. Nvidia and other Big Tech stocks were among the market’s heaviest weights.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose again to 4.23% from 4.21% late Tuesday and from just 4.08% Friday.

Treasury yields have been climbing after a raft of reports have shown the U.S. economy remains stronger than expected. That’s good news for Wall Street, because it bolsters hopes that the economy can escape from the worst inflation in generations without the painful recession that many had worried was inevitable.

In other dealings early Thursday, U.S. benchmark crude oil gained \$1.27 to \$72.04 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent crude, the international standard, surged \$1.23 to \$76.19 per barrel.

Apple CEO Cook pledges to increase investment in China

BEIJING, Oct 24, (Xinhua): Apple CEO Tim Cook on Wednesday pledged to increase investment in China during his Beijing visit, which analysts believe highlights the importance of the Chinese market to the American tech giant.

In his second trip to the Chinese mainland this year, Cook met with China’s Minister of Industry and Information Technology Jin Zhuanglong on Wednesday, discussing topics including Apple’s development in China, online data security management and cloud services.

Cook said Apple is keen to seize the opportunities presented by China’s opening up and will continue to increase its investment in the country, thus contributing to the high-quality development of the industrial and supply chains.

On Tuesday, Cook met with Yang Jie, chairman of telecom giant China Mobile. The two sides exchanged views on further advancing cooperation in 5G applications, music and VR videos, building on existing cooperative programs in areas such as digital content, according to a China Mobile statement.

Cook also met with Chinese college students at a “science and technology backyard” in Beijing’s Shunyi District to learn how they are using Apple devices to help farmers adopt more efficient and sustainable practices.

In August 2023, the China Foundation for Rural Development set up a project to help “science and technology backyards” with social support. Apple was the first company to support

the project.

Li Huimin, a student at China Agricultural University, and her research team have been developing an iOS app to provide extreme weather alerts, pest identification and pest warnings to raise fruit yields.

The app has been approved for testing and will be available after further improvements.

“The projects I just saw are amazing, and the students I met today are really motivated to make a positive impact for rural communities. I loved seeing how they’re using technology to help farmers increase production,” Cook said.

Chinese developers have thrived on the App Store. In 2022, roughly as in previous years, China accounted for 51 percent of the billings and sales facilitated by the App Store ecosystem, according to a study by Analysis Group.

During his Beijing trip, Cook also visited an Apple retail store in downtown Beijing, and met with developers at Chinese gaming company Gala Sports.

In his visit to Shanghai in March, Cook reiterated the company’s long-term commitment to the Chinese market when he opened Apple’s biggest retail store on the Chinese mainland.

“There’s no supply chain in the world that’s more critical to us than China,” Cook said, noting that Apple will strengthen its long-term cooperation with its Chinese supply chain partners and work closely with them on green and smart manufacturing to achieve win-win results.

US home sales slowed again in September

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP) :Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes slowed in September to the weakest annual pace in nearly 14 years even as mortgage rates eased and the supply of properties on the market continued to climb.

Existing home sales fell 1% last month, from August, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.84 million, the National Association of Realtors said Wednesday. That marks the second straight monthly decline and the slowest annual sales pace since October 2010 when the housing market was still in a deep slump following the late-2000s real estate crash.

Sales fell 3.5% compared with September last year. On a regional basis, sales fell in the Northeast, South and Midwest last month from a year earlier, but rose in the West.

Overall, the latest home sales were short of the 3.9 million pace economists were expecting, according to FactSet.

“The factors that would drive higher home sales -- such as mortgage rates meaningfully lower now compared to one year ago, inventory beginning to increase and, of course, jobs con-

tinuously being added to the economy -- and yet home sales are stuck at low levels,” said Lawrence Yun, the NAR’s chief economist.

Despite the slower sales pace, home prices increased on an annual basis for the 15th consecutive month. The national median sales price rose 3% from a year earlier, to \$404,500.

While the rate of price growth has been slowing, the latest median sales price is 49% higher than it was five years ago, before the pandemic. By comparison, wages grew 25% in the same period, Yun noted.

Years of soaring home prices have helped put homeownership out of reach of many Americans, making housing a key political issue for voters in next month’s election.

The U.S. housing market has been in a sales slump dating back to 2022, when mortgage rates began to climb from pandemic-era lows. Existing home sales sank to a nearly 30-year low last year as the average rate on a 30-year mortgage surged to a 23-year high of nearly 8%, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac.

Mortgage rates mostly eased since

July in anticipation of last month’s move by the Federal Reserve to cut its main interest rate for the first time in more than four years and to signal further cuts through 2026. While the central bank doesn’t set mortgage rates, its policy pivot cleared a path for mortgage rates to generally go lower.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage fell to 6.08% four weeks ago -- its lowest level in two years -- but has edged higher since then, reaching 6.44% last week.

“Falling mortgage rates in July and August were expected to bring more buyers into the market, but some home shoppers may be holding out for rates to fall further,” said Lisa Sturtevant, chief economist at Bright MLS. “Others may be taking a wait-and-see approach in the lead up to the presidential election.”

Economists generally expect mortgage rates to remain near their current levels, at least this year. Fannie Mae projects the rate on a 30-year mortgage will average 6.2% in the October-December quarter and decline to an average of 5.7% in the same quarter next year.

As sales have slowed, the inven-

tory of homes for sale has kept ticking higher. There were 1.39 million unsold homes at the end of September, up 1.5% from August and 23% from September last year, NAR said.

That translates to a 4.3-month supply at the current sales pace, up from a 3.4-month pace at the end of September last year. Traditionally, a 5- to 6-month supply is considered a balanced market between buyers and sellers.

Another factor helping lift the inventory of homes on the market: Properties are taking longer to sell than a year ago.

Homes typically stayed on the market for 28 days last month before they were sold, up from 21 days a year earlier.

“Even with the recent increase in inventory one can say that’s helping loosen up the market, but it’s still far short of what would be considered a more normal inventory level,” Yun said.

Still, in a plus for home shoppers, fewer homes are receiving multiple offers. Some 20% of the homes that sold last month were bought for more than their original list price, down from 26% in September last year.

Exclusive 50% discounts for female customers at health centers in October

Gulf Bank hosts seminar on women’s health for breast cancer awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: In its ongoing efforts to support and empower women, Gulf Bank organized a seminar titled “Your Health Always Comes First” in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event was held in collaboration with Royal Hayat Hospital and featured a distinguished lineup of renowned doctors and nutrition specialists.

As part of this initiative, Gulf Bank is offering exclusive discounts of up to 50% for its female customers at various hospitals, health centers, and fitness facilities throughout October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Gulf Bank is committed to actively participating in a range of awareness initiatives and events each year, aimed at promoting health education about breast cancer and encouraging women to undergo regular screenings for early detection of the disease.

The seminars and events organized by the bank serve as a call to action for its female employees and customers, highlighting the importance of early detection and motivating



Part of the seminar.

ing other women to take proactive steps towards their health, ultimately protecting the community from the

dangers of this disease. Gulf Bank prioritizes the health and well-being of its employees, re-

inforcing its commitment to sustainable practices within the community through ongoing social responsibil-

ity programs that encompass social, economic, and environmental aspects.

October is recognized globally for extensive campaigns aimed at raising awareness about breast cancer, which is the most common type of cancer among women worldwide. Early detection plays a critical role in the successful treatment and recovery from this disease.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait’s leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, “New Kuwait,” and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each

KFH announces winners of Al-Rabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AlRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 40th and 41st weeks of 2024, additionally, KFH announced Khaled Al-Majroub as the monthly winner of 1 kilo Gram of KFH Gold for the month of September 2024 and the bank also announced Hesham Kamoura as the winner of the 3rd quarter draw of a prize worth 25,000 K.D.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Ali Al-Harbi, Saud Al-Otaibi, Saud Al-Ajmi, Mustafa Shalaby, Abdulaziz Maarafy, Fahad Al-Muraikhi, Shouq Al-Shammari, Haya Al-Ebrahim, Suad Al-Enezi, Abdullah Al-Hussaini, Abdulrahman Al-Mutawtah, Meshari Abbas, Rizwan Rafique, Mustafa El-seesy, Hamed Al-Enezi, Estabraq Al-Rashed, Amira Zeid, Afrah Al-Mutairi, Samyah Al-Meajel, Mazen Abdelwahab.

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

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

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

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



The campaign visual

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

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

Next Alfouz draw set for 28 October

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait announces Shukriya Sahan AlEnezi as Alfouz weekly draw winner

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is excited to announce Shukriya Sahan AlEnezi as the winner of the Alfouz KD 10,000 weekly draw on Monday, 21 October 2024. The draw took place in the presence of a Ministry of Commerce and Industry representative, ensuring transparency.

From the highly coveted mega annual draw of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for 10 years to its KD 10,000 weekly prize, the account has attracted significant attention in the Kuwaiti market. Based on the account’s great success, ABK decided to go above and beyond to reward customer loyalty.

By introducing a KD 100,000 quarterly draw, in addition to an exciting KD 20,000 monthly draw, the Alfouz account continues to surpass expectations and deliver even more customer satisfaction.

To top it off, ABK has simplified the ability to open the account and win! Customers can enter the draws and get extra entry chances for every KD 10 deposited. The more you save, the higher your chance to be the next Alfouz winner!

ABK encourages everyone to



ABK’s Alfouz Account

open an Alfouz draw account or increase their balance to participate in the upcoming draw, which is scheduled to take place on Monday, 28 October, 2024.

Open an Alfouz account today and enjoy increased opportunities to win the lifestyle you’ve been waiting for!

To learn more about the Alfouz account and its range of exciting draws and prizes, please follow ABK’s Instagram account @abk_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank’s branches across Kuwait.

Celebrating nearly four decades of business collaboration and community impact

AmCham Kuwait hosts 39th Annual Gala and Excellence Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The American Chamber of Commerce Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait) celebrated its 39th Annual Gala and Excellence Awards on October 22nd, bringing together distinguished guests, esteemed members, and industry leaders for an evening of recognition, networking, and celebration. The event at Hyatt Regency Al Kout supported by major sponsors.

The evening opened with welcoming remarks from Ola Saab, Chair of the Events Committee at AmCham Kuwait, who extended a warm welcome to VIPs, government officials, diplomats, and members. Among the honored guests were the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy, the Belgian Ambassador, the Vietnamese Ambassador, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Electricity and Water, CITRA, and the Ministry of Health.

“The Annual Gala not only commemorates the founding of our Chamber but also celebrates the many accomplishments we’ve achieved together over the past year,” said Saab. “This evening, we honor the individuals and companies who have contributed to our continued success, making AmCham Kuwait what it is today.”

Following the national anthems of Kuwait and the United States, AmCham Kuwait’s Chairman of the Board, Pete Swift, took the stage to highlight the organization’s evolution and achievements. Swift emphasized the importance of collaboration between the U.S. and Kuwait in fostering economic diversification and advancing Kuwait’s Vision 2035. He acknowledged the pivotal role that Kuwaiti government entities and private sector partners have played in driving AmCham’s initiatives forward.

“As we celebrate 39 years, we reflect on both the challenges and the successes that have brought us here,” Swift remarked. “Our partnerships with U.S. military partners, local business councils,



Photos during the event.

and key focus groups have led to impactful initiatives, such as our first-ever Diversity and Inclusion Summit and our continued work in the ICT sector.”

Throughout the evening, AmCham Kuwait recognized its corporate partners and sponsors who have been instrumental in the organization’s success. Kuwait & Gulf Link (KGL), a Champion and Diamond Sponsor, was honored for their unwavering support, along with other key sponsors including Kuwait Resources House and Saudi Arabian Chevron, IFA International Travel and Tourism and Turkish Airlines who were celebrated for their contributions.

The Excellence Awards portion of the evening honored individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the chamber’s mission. Awardees included standout focus group chairs, most engaged members, and corporate social responsibility partners. Awardees for each category are listed below for 2024:

- 1. Corporate Social Responsibility Partners:**
 - Gulf Insurance Group (GIG)
 - Kuwait and Gulf Link (KGL)

- Kuwait Resources House (KRH)
- 2. Most Active Focus Group Chairs:**
 - Dr. Arezou Harraf (Chair of the Women in Business Focus Group)
 - Mohamed Najia (Chair of the Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism Focus Group)
 - Omar Ben Naji (Co-Chair of the Disabilities Focus Group)
 - Ebrahim Al Kandari (Co-Chair of the Disabilities Focus Group)
 - Talal Al Wazzan (Chair of the Food and Beverage / FMCG Focus Group)
- 3. Most Active New Focus Group Chairs:**
 - Ahmad Bastaki (Chair of the Banking and Finance Focus Group)
 - Douglas Hurst (Chair of the Defense, Safety, and Security Focus Group)
 - Lama Chalhoub (Chair of the Healthcare Focus Group)
- 4. Most Supportive Raffle Sponsors:**
 - Easa Husain Al Yousifi and Sons
 - Seleo - Gulf Cryo
 - Union Trading Company
- 5. Most Supportive Travel and Tourism Partner:**

- IFA International Travel and Tourism
- 6. Most Engaged Member Awards:**
 - Ahmad Bastaki
 - Dr. Arezou Harraf
 - Louise Bray Al Hamad
 - Rt. Gen Musaed Al Hawli
 - Ola Saab
 - Omar Ben Naji
 - Talal Al Wazzan
- 7. Most Active and Supportive Volunteers:**
 - Debra Clark
 - Marci Siler
- 8. Diplomatic Partners:**
 - U.S. Commercial Services, U.S. Embassy
 - Office of Military Cooperation Kuwait (OMCK), U.S. Embassy
 - Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy
- 9. Business Council Partners:**
 - British Business Forum
 - Canadians in Kuwait
 - Indian Business & Professional Council
 - German Business Council Kuwait
 - Lebanese Business Council Kuwait
 - Portuguese Business Council Kuwait



- 10. Champions of AmCham Kuwait for 2024:**
 - Saudi Arabian Chevron (newest Champion)
 - Lockheed Martin
 - KGL Holding
 - Kuwait Resources House
- The Gala concluded with an exciting raffle draw, featuring a variety of prizes generously provided by AmCham members. The first prize vouchers from Best Al Yousifi, followed by two dining vouchers from our Chairman’s Club Member, Crowne Plaza Hotel, offering a complimentary lunch or dinner at Shabestan and Al Ahmadi restaurants for two. Empress Catering awarded three winners with vouchers for their catering services, while Hampton Inn provided three breakfast-for-two vouchers. Hyatt Regency Al Kout, the evening’s host, contributed two types of prizes: two vouchers with 20,000 bonus points each, redeemable at any Hyatt around the world, and two vouchers for themed nights for two. A gift voucher from Jack Wills, The House Stores, was also up for grabs, with all attendees receiving a 20% discount voucher as well. Additional prizes included

hampers from Nagwa, a free pair of shoes from New Balance, luxurious spa service vouchers from Geneve Beauty, two soda makers from SELEO (Gulf Cryo), five 25 KD cards from Sultan Center, an air fryer and blender from UTC, and a perfume gift set from Victoria’s Secret. The grand prizes included an economy ticket to the USA from Turkish Airlines and the final prize: an economy ticket to the USA or Canada, courtesy of AmCham Kuwait’s Chairman’s Club Member, IFA Travel & Tourism.

As the event drew to a close, Doug Hurst, Vice Chair of the Events Committee, reflected on AmCham Kuwait’s journey from its humble beginnings in 1985 to its current role as a key player in strengthening U.S.-Kuwait relations through business. “We are proud of what we’ve achieved together over the past 39 years and look forward to many more milestones to come,” said Hurst.

The 39th Annual Gala and Excellence Awards not only celebrated past achievements but also set the stage for future collaboration and growth within the U.S.-Kuwait business community.

A tribute to his legendary career

Samuel L. Jackson lauded at MoMA benefit by family, friends

NEW YORK, Oct 24, (AP): The Museum of Modern Art was filled with expletives and laughter Wednesday evening as Samuel L. Jackson's family and friends celebrated the actor and director's storied career of box office hits, larger-than-life characters and explosive one-liners at the annual film benefit.

Jackson, known for his infamous F-bombs, stuck to a more sentimental speech at the benefit while his friends and family honored him with some of his choicer one liners.

"I've been fortunate enough to play a wide array of characters where I have learned something new about the human experience with each and every one, and I always carry a piece of them as I carry on," he said.

At 75, Jackson has built a Hollywood legacy that stretches across 40 years. From playing in action packed blockbusters as Mace Windu in "Star Wars" or Nick Fury in the Marvel universe to the iconic Quentin Tarantino characters of the foulmouthed Jules in "Pulp Fiction" and Ordell in "Django Unchained," Jackson has shown time and time again that he can effortlessly transform himself with each new role. His versatility is what has catapulted him into movie stardom.

But Jackson's career is not only defined by acting on screen in movies and T.V. He has lended his cinematic tal-

ents to Broadway where he played Martin Luther King Jr. in "The Mountaintop" and Doaker Charles in "Piano Lesson."

In between the clips from Jackson's illustrious career, an intimate circle of Jackson's family and friends going back to his college days at Morehouse took to the stage to honor him.

His wife LaTanya Richardson Jackson joked at the benefit how she questioned Jackson's acting abilities up until the point she saw him in "Pulp Fiction." Before he decided on acting, she said, Jackson was studying to be a marine biologist.

"Fast forward, I saw Pulp Fiction and I sat in that theater, and I started crying," she said. "I said my life is over, he's going to be a movie star."

Actor Denzel Washington first worked with Jackson in 1979 and has since marked 45 years of friendship with the actor. He recently produced the August Wilson adaptation of "The Piano Lesson" for Netflix, which features his long-time friend. At the event, Washington said he remembers learning from and watching Jackson perform onstage as a lead in a play while he was once the understudy.

"I wish I was half the character actor that he is," Washington said.



Honoree Samuel L. Jackson, (right), and wife LaTanya Richardson Jackson attend the 16th annual Museum of Modern Art Film Benefit, presented by Chanel, honoring him on Wednesday, Oct. 23, in New York. (AP)

Filmmaker Spike Lee first saw Jackson acting with his wife on their former college campus. Since their college

days, Lee has gone on to cast Jackson in "Jungle Fever", "Do the Right Thing" and "Chi-Raq."

"I was blown away by their talent," he said of Jackson and Richardson Jackson. "I knew that if god willing if I became a filmmaker that these great artists would be in my films."

Actress Brie Larson and filmmaker George Lucas both sent in video messages, praising Jackson's incredible catalog and his loving personality. Other speakers of the night who shared kind words and a handful of F-bombs for Jackson included Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon and actor Walton Goggins.

As the latest MoMA film benefit honoree, Jackson joins past recipients including Martin Scorsese, Tom Hanks, Julianne Moore, Cate Blanchett, Quentin Tarantino. The New York museum's 16th annual benefit, presented in partnership with Chanel, raises money to preserve and bring movies into the museum's collection.

"As we celebrate film tonight, let's remember the power it has to change lives and inspire future generations that benefit from MoMA's acquisition and preservation of films like the ones that ignited the dreams of a little black kid sitting in the segregated Tennessee movie theater that is standing before you now," Jackson said in his speech.

Variety

NEW YORK: It is official. **Lana Del Rey** and alligator swamp tour guide Jeremy Dufrene did marry in Louisiana last month.

After a few weeks of speculation about the status of their relationship, Del Rey and Dufrene's marriage license was signed and returned to the Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court, where it was filed on Friday.

The document, obtained by The Associated Press, lists Los Angeles pastor Judah Smith, who has been



Del Rey

Justin Bieber's pastor, as the officiant. The fifth track on Del Rey's 2023 album, "Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd" is titled "Judah Smith Interlude," on which Smith is a credited co-writer.

TMZ initially reported on Sept. 26 that the singer, born Elizabeth Woolridge Grant, and Dufrene had obtained a marriage license. The Associated Press confirmed a license had been obtained from the Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court on Sept. 23, but it was not immediately returned and processed.

In the state of Louisiana, marriage licenses are meant to be returned by the officiant to the issuing office within 10 days of the ceremony, but exceptions are made, the clerk's office said. The license was due to expire on Wednesday. (AP)

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THE HAGUE, Netherlands: The Netherlands will join the next Eurovision Song Contest in Switzerland but the flamboyant singer and rapper Joost Klein, booted from this year's competition after a backstage altercation, has declined to represent the Dutch.

Dutch broadcaster AVROTROS announced on Wednesday it was satisfied with new rules agreed to by event organizer the European Broadcasting Union that were demanded after this year's edition in Sweden was marred by the dramatic expulsion of Klein.

A female member of the production crew accused Klein of making threats during the semi-finale in Malmo. The matter was turned over to Swedish authorities, who ultimately declined to prosecute. Klein, a favorite to win, was banned from rehearsal and did not participate in the final competition.

Klein long pondered whether to step up to the challenge again. "My team and I had everything ready, but it just doesn't feel good," he said in a statement. "I need to give myself more time to heal."

But for Dutch Eurovision fans, the magic is back on since the nation will not pull out of the 2025 edition. (AP)

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NEW YORK: Harvey Weinstein's retrial on sex crimes charges in Manhattan won't start until at least next year - and his lawyer plans to hire a private investigator to look into a new allegation against the movie mogul that will now be part of the case.

The new details came as Weinstein appeared in court Wednesday for a pretrial hearing.

Weinstein was already facing retrial on two sex crime charges after the state's highest court overturned his 2020 conviction earlier this year. Then in September, he was hit with a new charge accusing him of another assault. He has pleaded not guilty.

On Wednesday, Judge Curtis Farber granted a prosecution request to consolidate both cases and said he'll decide on a new trial date by Jan. 29, 2025.

The trial had been tentatively scheduled to open on Nov. 12, but Weinstein's lawyers said they needed more time after the new charge was added, asking for a date in March or April.

"We're going to need some time to investigate the case, hire a private investigator and dig more into discovery," said Weinstein's lawyer Arthur Aidala.

Prosecutors said they were not opposed to that date, but are prepared to go to trial in January.

Weinstein was convicted on charges that he forcibly performed oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006, and rape in the third degree for an attack on an aspiring actor in 2013. (AP)

Film



This image released by Sony Pictures shows a scene from 'Venom: The Last Dance.' (AP)

A comedic chaos in 'The Last Dance'

Hardy's double act can't save 'Venom'

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP): For three films now, Tom Hardy has smushed Je-kyll and Hyde into one strange and slimy double act. In a Marvel universe filled with alter egos that cloak stealthy superpowers, his investigative reporter Eddie Brock doesn't transform. He shares his body with an ink-black alien symbiote (voiced with a baritone growl by Hardy), who sometimes swallows him whole, sometimes shoots a tentacle or two out, and always chipperly punctuates Eddie's inner monologue.

These have been consistently messy, almost willfully bad movies, but Hardy's performance has been a strangely compelling one-body buddy comedy. It's one thing to throw a cape on and jump the sky. It's another to run manically through the desert with an alien voice inside barking, as Eddie's inner-alien does in the new "Venom: The Last Dance," "Engage your core," and "Nice horsey."

The biggest dichotomy of these movies, though, isn't the Eddie-symbiote split. It's the contrast between Hardy's funny, sometimes oddly touching performance and all of the CGI mess around him. There were moments of fun in the first two movies, but if "The Last Dance," which is to open in theaters Thursday, is the swan song for this spun-off, half-formed franchise, it confirms that the "Venom" films never quite figured themselves out.

In "The Last Dance," Kelly Marcel,

co-writer of the first two "Venom" films, takes over directing, following Andy Serkis (2021's "Venom: Let There Be Carnage") and Ruben Fleischer (2018's "Venom"). We rejoin Venom (the fusion of Eddie and his alien-entity soulmate) in Mexico where they're on the run from the law. But a new threat is also emerging.

The movie opens with Knull (Serkis), the symbiote creator who, from some icky distant and dark corner of space, dispatches aliens to retrieve a "codex" found within Venom's spine that, if obtained, will lead to the annihilation of both humans and symbiotes.

Doomsday

To me, bringing a typical comic book-style doomsday plot is about the last thing a "Venom" movie needs. The best sequences in the first two movies are no more complicated than Venom craving lobster or ordering pizza. Smaller stakes better suit its warped comedy. The touchstone for these movies shouldn't be the Marvel playbook but old episodes of "The Odd Couple."

Instead, we're thrown into a pretty immediately boring Area 51 setting where an elaborate lab headed by Dr. Teddy Payne (Juno Temple) studies the symbiotes it has trapped with the help of a military division led by Rex Strickland (Chiwetel Ejiofor, lending more gravitas to the movie than it deserves). Once

the alien insect things arrive seeking the codex, there's plenty of running and fighting, with a UFO-enthusiast family in a VW bus (Rhys Ifans plays the dad) thrown into the mix. The ensuing battle ultimately, as the title promises, threatens to divide Venom for good.

But the promise of the "Venom" series, really, is that the mainline Marvel stuff would intrude less here. This is a B-movie realm of the multiverse with little appetite for solemnity, nobility or two-and-half-hour running times. They can feel a little like tossed-off knockoffs, which is both their appeal and their frustration.

I kept rooting for the surprisingly lifeless "The Last Dance" to pull way back on its save-the-world plot (and its CGI) and lean more into its most potent effect: Hardy's split-personality double act. If this is to be a last hurrah - which, granted is a dubious idea for anything even adjacently connected to "Spider-Man" - it's a shame that we never saw more of Venom in daily life. Eddie is a journalist after all. One can only imagine how he and the symbiote might have debated more pressing concerns than the fate of the universe, like Oxford commas.

"Venom: The Last Dance," a Columbia Pictures release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for intense sequences of violence and action, bloody images and strong language. Running time: 110 minutes. Two stars out of four.

Obit

Actor & mentor

Ron Ely, Tarzan of '60s TV, dies

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP): **Ron Ely**, the tall, musclebound actor who played the title character in the 1960s NBC series "Tarzan," has died at age 86.

Ely's daughter, Kirsten Casale Ely, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that her father died Sept. 29 at his home in Los Alamitos, California, an unincorporated community in Santa Barbara County.

While Ron Ely was not quite as well-known as Johnny Weismuller, the Olympic swimmer who played Tarzan in movies in the 1930s and 1940s, Ely helped form the image of the shirtless, loincloth-wearing character further immortalized by Disney.

"He was an actor, writer, coach, mentor, family man and leader," Kirsten Ely said in an Instagram post. "He created a powerful wave of positive influence wherever he went. The impact he had on others is something that I have never witnessed in any other person - there was something truly magical about him."

In 2019, he tragically returned to the news when his 62-year-old wife, Valerie Lundeen Ely, was stabbed to death at their Santa Barbara, California, home by their 30-year-old son, Cameron Ely, who was subsequently shot and killed by police. Ron Ely, who was home during the stabbing, challenged the prosecutor's report that his son's shooting was justified.

"If he didn't have a gun or he didn't have a weapon, what was the basis of shooting him?" Ely's attorney John Burris said in 2020. "They may have very well thought he was involved in some other activity involving the mom. But that's not a basis to shoot and kill him. You have to have a lawful basis to do that."

In the early 1980s, Ely was host of the Miss America pageant and met Valerie, a Miss Florida, there. They married in 1984. The couple had three children, and Ely retired from acting to focus on his family in 2001.

Acting

"Late in life I had a young family. I decided to stop acting and work at home, as an author, that way I could be with the kids all through school and be able to attend their sports games and things," he told London's Daily Express in 2013, expressing interest in the time at reentering acting. He would return briefly in the 2014 TV movie "Expecting Amish."

Ely's Tarzan didn't speak in the monosyllabic grunts often associated with the character, originally created by novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs. He was instead an educated bachelor who had grown sick of civilization and had returned to African jungle where he was raised.

Ely said in interviews that he did his own stunts on the show, working directly and precariously with the tigers, chimpanzees and other wild animals that were Tarzan's friends and servants.

"They first tried to cast a former American football player called Mike Henry but he didn't like chimpanzees and from the moment he got on set, things went south in a hurry," Ely told London's Daily Express in 2013.

A chimp attacked Henry and injured his jaw when the show's pilot was being filmed, and Ely was cast in his place at the last moment.

"I met with them on a Monday and when they offered me the role I thought: 'No way do I want to step into that bear trap. You do Tarzan and you are stamped for life,'" Ely told the Daily Express.



Mickey Hart, (from left), Bob Weir, and Bill Kreutzmann pose at the premiere of 'Long Strange Trip,' a documentary about the Grateful Dead rock group, during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival on Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, in Park City, Utah. (AP)

Rock band’s philanthropy and music legacy honored

Grateful Dead named 2025 MusiCares Persons of the Year

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP): MusiCares, an organization that helps music professionals who need financial, personal or medical assistance, will honor the Grateful Dead as its 2025 Persons of the Year.

MusiCares announced Wednesday that it will recognize original members Mickey Hart, Bill Kreutzmann, Phil Lesh and Bobby Weir for their philanthropic efforts, their unique ability to foster community through concerts and for their impact on American music on their 60th anniversary.

Over the years, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame members have supported causes across environmental conservation, mental health, music education, social justice and advocat-

ed to combat poverty, including with initiatives like Lesh’s Unbroken Chain Foundation and Garcia’s involvement with the Rex Foundation.

The Grateful Dead will be honored at the 34th annual Persons of the Year benefit gala at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Jan. 31, two nights before the 2025 Grammy Awards are held at the adjacent Crypto.com Arena. The ceremony will include posthumous tributes to one of the band’s founding and best-known members, Jerry Garcia. He died of a heart attack in 1995. The Grateful Dead disbanded afterward and launched into a series of spin-off projects.

“This honor is truly a testament to the legacy of the music, which has al-

ways been bigger than us - it’s about the connection between us, the crew, and all those who’ve been on this long strange trip,” Hart, Kreutzmann, Lesh and Weir shared in a joint statement. “It’s not just about what we create, but about making sure the people behind it, behind us every night, the ones who quietly make it all happen, get the support they need to keep going, no matter what life throws at them.”

The Grateful Dead formed in the Bay Area in the 1965, evolving to perfect a kind of hybrid approach to their improvisational, jam band style, a sound that spans acid rock, psychedelia, folk, jazz, Americana, Bakersfield country and beyond. They created their own counterculture centered around

their touring, a community known as Dead Heads, and have become one of the most in-demand live acts.

In 2007, the Grateful Dead received the Lifetime Achievement award from the Recording Academy.

In February of this year, The Grateful Dead broke the record for the most Top 40 albums to chart on the Billboard 200, then pulling out ahead of Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra with 59. Forty-one of the band’s 59 entries in the Top 40 have happened since 2012, thanks to the popularity of the series of archival albums compiled by David Lemieux.

In December, the band will be included in the 47th class of the Kennedy Center Honorees.

Exhibition

US director voices fear about AI

‘The World of Tim Burton’ ... goes on display in London

LONDON, Oct 24, (AP): The imagination of **Tim Burton** has produced ghosts and ghouls, Martians, monsters and misfits - all on display at an exhibition that is opening in London just in time for Halloween.

But you know what really scares him? Artificial intelligence.

Burton said Wednesday that seeing a website that had used AI to blend his drawings with Disney characters “really disturbed me.”

“It wasn’t an intellectual thought - it was just an internal, visceral feeling,” Burton told reporters during a preview of “The World of Tim Burton” exhibition at London’s Design Museum. “I looked at those things and I thought, ‘Some of these are pretty good.’ ... (But) it gave me a weird sort of scary feeling inside.”

Burton said he thinks AI is unstoppable, because “once you can do it, people will do it.” But he scoffed when asked if he’d use the technology in this work.

“To take over the world?” he laughed.

The exhibition reveals Burton to be an analogue artist, who started off as a child in the 1960s experimenting with paints and colored pencils in his suburban Californian home.

“I wasn’t, early on, a very verbal person,” Burton said. “Drawing was a way of expressing myself.”



Burton



A member of staff poses at The World of Tim Burton exhibition at the Design Museum, in London, Monday, Oct. 21, 2024. (AP)

Burton has lived for a quarter century. The show includes early drawings and oddities, including a competition-winning “crush litter” sign a teenage Burton designed for Burbank garbage trucks. There’s also a recreation of Burton’s studio, down to the trays of paints and “Curse of Frankenstein” mug full of pencils.

Alongside hundreds of drawings, there are props, puppets, set designs and iconic costumes, including Johnny Depp’s “Edward Scissorhands” talons and the black latex Catwoman costume worn by Michelle Pfeiffer in “Batman Returns.”

“We had very generous access to Tim’s archive in

London, stuffed full of thousands of drawings, storyboards from stop-motion films, sketches, character notes, poems,” said exhibition curator Maria McLintock. “And how to synthesize such a wide ranging and meandering career within one exhibition was a fun challenge - but definitely a challenge.”

Seeing it has not been a wholly fun experience for Burton, who said he’s unable to look too closely at the items on display. “It’s like seeing your dirty laundry put on the walls,” he said. “It’s

quite amazing. It’s a bit overwhelming.”

Burton, whose long-awaited horror-comedy sequel “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” opened at the Venice Film Festival in August, is currently filming the second series of Netflix’ Addams Family-themed series “Wednesday.”

These days he is a major Hollywood director whose American gothic style has spawned an adjective - “Burtoneque.” But he still feels like an outsider.

“Once you feel that way, it never leaves you,” he said.

“Each film I did was a struggle,” he added, noting that early films like “Pee-wee’s Big Adventure” from 1985 and “Beetlejuice” in 1988 received

some negative reviews. “It seems like it was a pleasant, fine, easy journey, but each one leaves its emotional scars.”

McLintock said Burton “is a deeply emotional filmmaker.”

“I think that’s what drew me to his films as a child,” she said. “He really celebrates the misunderstood outcast, the benevolent monster. So it’s been quite a weird but fun experience spending so much time in his brain and his creative process.”

“His films are often called dark,” she added. “I don’t agree with that. And if they are dark, there’s a very much a kind of hope in the darkness. You always want to hang out in the darkness in his films.”



Objects and creations are on display.



A person walks at The World of Tim Burton exhibition. (AP)



Objects and creations are on display. (AP)

Variety

NEW ORLEANS: In anticipation of three **Taylor Swift** concerts, which could draw around 150,000 visitors to New Orleans’ Superdome this weekend, state authorities on Wednesday began clearing a nearby homeless encampment.

Roughly 75 people who were living in tents beneath an overpass would be relocated roughly two blocks away, Louisiana State Police said. Advocates said the sweep would disrupt progress in finding long-term, permanent housing for those affected. Other people without shelter living in the historic, tourist-dependent French Quarter neighborhood would also be moved to the same location, officials said.

Gov. Jeff Landry’s spokesperson said the

move was taken to address homelessness and safety issues, linking the effort to the upcoming concerts and February’s Super Bowl.

“As we prepare for the city to host Taylor Swift and Super Bowl LIX, we are committed to ensuring New Orleans puts its best foot forward when on the world stage,” Landry’s communications director, Kate Kelly, said in a statement issued to local media.

Later, in a statement to The Associated Press, Kelly stressed that the move only involved a short distance and that safety was a concern.

“Only the most dangerous blocks - where



Swift

homeless regularly walk across busy streets - are being shut down,” she said. (AP)

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NEW YORK: Cardi B says she has been hospitalized with a medical emergency and will have to miss a Saturday night headlining performance at an Atlanta music festival.

“I am so sad to share this news, but I’ve been in the hospital recovering from a medical emergency the last couple of days and I won’t be able to perform at ONE MusicFest,” the Grammy-winning rapper wrote on Instagram. “It breaks my heart that I won’t get to see my fans this weekend.”

She added, “I’ll be back better and stronger soon. Don’t Worry.”

The 32-year-old New York native gave no details on her condition. (AP)

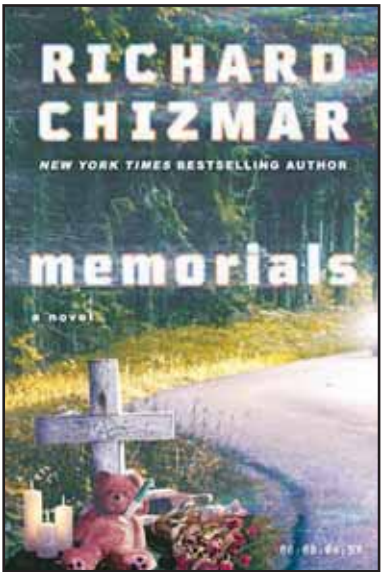
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NEW YORK: A new history of the USS Intrepid will be co-written by a former Navy man otherwise known for his long career as a daytime television host - Montel Williams.

“The Sailing of the Intrepid” will be published May 6, Hanover Square Press announced Wednesday. Written by Williams and David Fisher, the book will tell of the Intrepid’s initial combat voyage, during World War II, when the ship and crew survived a Japanese torpedo plane attack in 1944.

“This book is a tribute to the incredible bravery and ingenuity of the Intrepid’s crew, who refused to surrender in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Their story is one of true heroism and resilience,” Williams said in a statement.

Williams, 68, enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1974 and later completed officer training at the US Naval Academy. (AP)



This cover image released by Gallery Books shows 'Memorials' by Richard Chizmar. (AP)

Self-discovery trip

A sinister tale in ‘Memorials’

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP): Richard Chizmar, who co-wrote parts of the “Gwendy” trilogy with Stephen King from 2017-2022 (“Gwendy’s Button Box” and “Gwendy’s Final Task”), has written his longest novel yet and readers should not be surprised that it reads, at least somewhat, like something from the mind of Stephen King.

“Memorials” is set in 1983 as three students embark on a road trip through Appalachia, documenting roadside memorials for their American Studies 301 class at York College. We soon learn that Billy, Melody and Troy experienced personal loss prior to their college years, so the act of documenting sites where someone else’s loved ones lost their lives turns out to be both educational and personal. Chizmar intentionally gives the trio a very “Scooby Doo”-like vibe, even making their wheels, a “Volkswagen Westfalia pop-top camper,” reminiscent of the Mystery Machine.

The plot starts off slow as they meander the back roads, taking Polaroids and shooting VHS video of crosses and balloons and stuffed animals that mark the spots where people died. Chizmar employs a cool narrative trick, providing transcripts of the video footage as they interview locals and loved ones. “The camera zooms closer on his face. His brown eyes are somber but steady. He clears his throat and continues,” is how part of the transcript of Billy’s interview reads. Billy lost his parents in a car accident in Sudbury, Pennsylvania, and it’s when he returns home, visits their roadside memorial, and starts asking questions, that the novel gets more interesting.

□ □ □

Americans love road trips. Or at least American writers love them as metaphors of self-discovery. In Anna Montague’s beautiful, beguiling and slightly bonkers debut novel, “How Does That Make You Feel, Magda Eklund?” the main character does indeed jump into a car and head out on the highway to work out her issues. The twist is, the Magda of the title is not young and restless. She is a workaholic psychiatrist about to turn 70, prone to telling her anxious patients, “Let’s talk about how that makes you feel.”

What prompts her to undertake this improbable journey — even though she is a homebody, terrified to fly since 9/11 — is her grief over the recent, unexpected death of her dearest friend, Sara. Ever since that shocking turn of events, Sara’s husband, Fred — who has issues of his own — has been unloading Sara’s belongings on Magda, including the funeral urn with her ashes, seemingly unconcerned about their fate.

As Magda sorts through her belongings, she discovers the itinerary of a road trip that Sara had planned for the two of them to take to celebrate Magda’s 70th birthday. In an uncharacteristically bold move, Magda decides to do it alone, with Sara’s ashes by her side, to honor her wishes and try to work out the unspoken tensions and ambiguities that had clouded their relationship at the end.

As she drives through a string of cities that were meaningful to Sara, Magda starts to see that she has been just as oblivious to her own wants and needs as her most clueless patients.

The Conversation

‘Symptoms overlooked’

Women at higher risk of dying from heart disease

By Amy Huebschmann and Judith Regensteiner
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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

A simple difference in the genetic code - two X chromosomes versus one X chromosome and one Y chromosome - can lead to major differences in heart disease. It turns out that these genetic differences influence more than just sex organs and sex assigned at birth - they fundamentally alter the way cardiovascular disease develops and presents.

While sex influences the mechanisms behind how cardiovascular disease develops, gender plays a role in how health care providers recognize and manage it. Sex refers to biological characteristics such as genetics, hormones, anatomy and physiology, while gender refers to social, psychological and cultural constructs. Women are more likely to die after a first heart attack or stroke than men. Women are also more likely to have additional or different heart attack symptoms that go beyond chest pain, such as nausea, jaw pain, dizziness and fatigue. It is often difficult to fully disentangle the influences of sex on cardiovascular disease outcomes versus the influences of gender.

While women who haven't entered menopause have a lower risk of cardiovascular disease than men, their cardiovascular risk accelerates dramatically after menopause. In addition, if a woman has Type 2 diabetes, her risk of heart attack accelerates to be equivalent to that of men, even if the woman with diabetes has not yet gone through menopause. Further data is needed to better understand differences in cardiovascular disease risk among nonbinary and transgender patients.

Differences

Despite these differences, one key thing is the same: Heart attack, stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease are the leading cause of death for all people, regardless of sex or gender.

We are researchers who study women's health and the way cardiovascular disease develops and presents differently in women and men. Our work has identified a crucial need to update medical guidelines with more sex-specific approaches to diagnosis and treatment in order to improve health outcomes for all.

The reasons behind sex and gender differences in cardiovascular disease are not completely known. Nor are the distinct biological effects of sex, such as hormonal and genetic factors, versus gender, such as social, cultural and psychological factors, clearly differentiated.

What researchers do know is that the accumulated evidence of what good heart care should look like for women compared with men has as many holes in it as Swiss cheese. Medical evidence for treating cardiovascular disease often comes from trials that excluded women, since women for the most part weren't included in scientific research until the NIH Revitalization Act of 1993. For example, current guidelines to treat cardiovascular risk factors such as high blood pressure are based primarily on data from men. This is despite evidence that differences in the way that cardiovascular disease develops leads women to experience cardiovascular disease differently.

In addition to sex differences, implicit gender biases among providers and gendered social norms among patients lead clinicians to underestimate the risk of cardiac events in women compared with men. These biases play a role in why women are more likely than men to die from cardiac events. For example, for patients with symptoms that are borderline for cardiovascular disease, clinicians tend to be more aggressive in ordering artery imaging for men than for women. One study linked this tendency to order less aggressive tests for women partly to a gender bias that men are more open than women to taking risks.

Symptoms

In a study of about 3,000 patients with a recent heart attack, women were less likely than men to think that their heart attack symptoms were due to a heart condition. Additionally, most women do not know that cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 cause of death among women. Overall, women's misperceptions of their own risk may hold them back from getting a doctor to check out possible symptoms of a heart attack or stroke.

These issues are further exacerbated for women of color. Lack of access to health care and additional challenges drive health disparities among underrepresented racial and ethnic minority populations.

Cardiovascular disease physically looks different for women and men, specifically in the plaque buildup on artery walls that contributes to illness.

Women have fewer cholesterol crystals and fewer calcium deposits in their artery plaque than men do. Physiological differences in the smallest blood vessels feeding the heart also play a role in cardiovascular outcomes.

Women are more likely than men to have cardiovascular disease that presents as multiple narrowed arteries that are not fully "clogged," resulting in chest pain because blood flow can't ratchet up enough to meet higher oxygen demands with exercise, much like a low-flow showerhead. When chest pain presents in this way, doctors call this condition ischemia and no obstructive coronary arteries. In comparison, men are more likely to have a "clogged" artery in a concentrated area that can be opened up with a stent or with cardiac bypass surgery. Options for multiple narrowed arteries have lagged behind treatment options for typical "clogged" arteries, which puts women at a disadvantage.

In addition, in the early stages of a heart attack, the levels of blood markers that indicate damage to the heart are lower in women than in men. This can lead to more missed diagnoses of coronary artery disease in women compared with men. (AP)

Nominate a 'legacy contact'

How to prepare online accounts in case you die

LONDON, Oct 24, (AP): Most people have accumulated a pile of data - selfies, emails, videos and more - on their social media and digital accounts over their lifetimes. What happens to it when we die?

It's wise to draft a will spelling out who inherits your physical assets after you're gone, but don't forget to take care of your digital estate too. Friends and family might treasure files and posts you've left behind, but they could get lost in digital purgatory after you pass away unless you take some simple steps.

Here's how you can prepare your digital life for your survivors:

The iPhone maker lets you nominate a "legacy contact" who can access your Apple account's data after you die. The company says it's a secure way to give trusted people access to photos, files and messages. To set it up you'll need an Apple device with a fairly recent operating system - iPhones and iPads need iOS or iPadOS 15.2 and MacBooks needs macOS Monterey 12.1.

For iPhones, go to settings, tap Sign-in & Security and then Legacy Contact. You can name one or more people, and they don't need an Apple ID or device. You'll have to share an access key with your contact. It can be a digital version sent electronically, or you can print a copy or save it as a



A spectator records a cell phone video as fireworks are launched over the Ohio River during the Western & Southern WEBN Fireworks show in Cincinnati on Sept. 3, 2023, in Cincinnati. (AP)

screenshot or PDF.

Take note that there are some types of files you won't be able to pass on - including digital rights-protected music, movies and passwords stored in Apple's password manager. Legacy contacts can only access a deceased user's account for three years before Apple deletes the account.

Google takes a different approach with its Inactive Account Manager,

which allows you to share your data with someone if it notices that you've stopped using your account.

When setting it up, you need to decide how long Google should wait - from three to 18 months - before considering your account inactive. Once that time is up, Google can notify up to 10 people.

You can write a message informing them you've stopped using the ac-

count, and, optionally, include a link to download your data. You can choose what types of data they can access - including emails, photos, calendar entries and YouTube videos.

There's also an option to automatically delete your account after three months of inactivity, so your contacts will have to download any data before that deadline.

Some social media platforms can preserve accounts for people who have died so that friends and family can honor their memories.

When users of Facebook or Instagram die, parent company Meta says it can memorialize the account if it gets a "valid request" from a friend or family member. Requests can be submitted through an online form.

The social media company strongly recommends Facebook users add a legacy contact to look after their memorial accounts. Legacy contacts can do things like respond to new friend requests and update pinned posts, but they can't read private messages or remove or alter previous posts. You can only choose one person, who also has to have a Facebook account.

You can also ask Facebook or Instagram to delete a deceased user's account if you're a close family member or an executor. You'll need to send in documents like a death certificate.

Diphtheria kills 1,200

CDC urges pneumococcal shot for adults 50 & older

NEW YORK, Oct 24, (Agencies): US health officials on Wednesday recommended that people 50 and older get a shot against bacteria that can cause pneumonia and other dangerous illnesses.

The recommendation was made by a scientific advisory panel and then accepted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The decision lowered - from 65 - the minimum recommended age for older adults to get the shot.

"Now is a great time to get vaccinated against pneumococcal disease in preparation for the winter respiratory season," CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen said in a statement Wednesday night. The advisory committee voted 14-1 to make the change during a meeting earlier in the day in Atlanta. The guidance is widely heeded by doctors and prompts health insurers to pay for recommended shots.

Pneumococcal shot recommendations are sometimes called the most complicated vaccination guidance that the government issues. The CDC currently recommends shots for children younger than 5 and adults 65 or older, as long as they have never been vaccinated against pneumococcal disease. Officials also recommend the shots for children and adults at increased risk for pneumococcal disease, such as those with diabetes, chronic liver disease or a weakened immune system.

There are more than 100 known types of pneumococci bacteria, which can cause serious infections in the lungs and other parts of the body. Each year, the U.S. sees roughly 30,000 cases of invasive pneumococcal disease, which includes blood infections, brain and spine inflammation, and other illnesses. About 30% of cases are among 50- to 64-year-olds.

The first pneumococcal vaccine was licensed in the U.S. in 1977, and since then pharmaceutical companies have been coming up with newer versions that target a dozen or more types in a single shot. Different vaccines have fallen in and out of favor, including Pfizer's Prevnar 13, which was once

a top-seller but is no longer available.

There are four vaccines now in use. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration this year approved the newest - Merck's Capvaxine, which can cost around \$300 a dose and protects against 21 types, including eight not included in other pneumococcal vaccines. A Merck spokesperson said it was specifically designed to help protect against the bacteria types that cause the majority of severe disease in adults aged 50 and older.

The CDC advisory panel in June recommended the vaccine as an option for adults at higher risk. At the time, the committee also talked about the possibility of lowering the age recommendation for older adults. They noted that illness-causing infections peak at age 55 to 59 in Black Americans - a lower age than what's seen in white people. But the committee put off that decision until this week's meeting.

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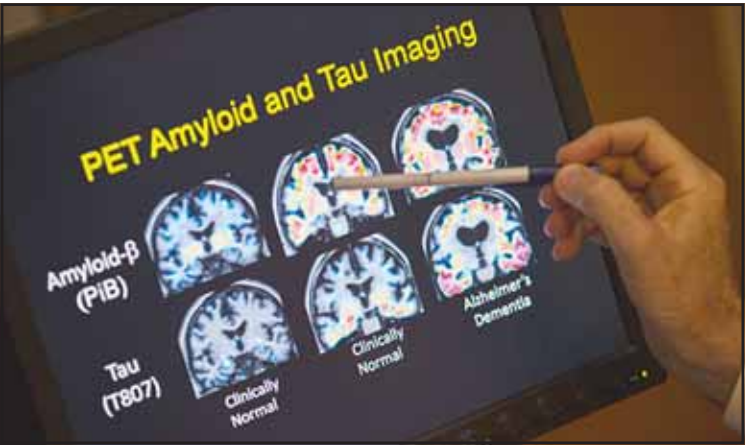
Diphtheria: Nearly 1,200 people were killed in the diphtheria outbreak in Nigeria over the past 17 months, said the Nigeria Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) in its latest update on the spread of the disease in Africa's most populous country.

Since the onset of the outbreak in May 2023, a total of 38,000 suspected cases have been reported, with 23,000 confirmed so far. Muzzammil Gadanya, the incident manager of the National Diphtheria Emergency Operations Center at the NCDC, told reporters Wednesday in the northern state of Kaduna.

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection that affects the nose, throat and sometimes the skin.

"So far, at least 1,191 people have died from the disease," Gadanya said, explaining that public health authorities have taken measures to reduce its spread and are evaluating strategies to combat the outbreak while identifying areas needing further improvement.

He said that vaccines have been made available for routine immunization as part of efforts to contain the disease.



R. Scott Turner, Professor of Neurology and Director of the Memory Disorder Center at Georgetown University Hospital, points to PET scan results that are part of a study on Alzheimer's disease at Georgetown University Hospital, in Washington, May 19, 2015. (AP)

‘Will not cover cost’

UK regulator greenlights second Alzheimer's drug

LONDON, Oct 24, (AP): Britain's drug regulator approved the Alzheimer's drug Kisunla on Wednesday, but the government won't be paying for it after an independent watchdog agency said the treatment isn't worth the cost to taxpayers.

It is the second Alzheimer's drug to receive such a mixed reception within months. In August, the UK regulator authorized Leqembi while the same watchdog agency issued draft guidance recommending against its purchase for the National Health Service.

In a statement on Wednesday, Britain's Medicines and Healthcare regulatory Agency said Kisunla "showed some evidence of efficacy in slowing (Alzheimer's) progression" and approved its use to treat people in the early stages of the brain-robbing disease. Kisunla, also known as donanemab, works by removing a sticky protein from the brain believed to cause Alzheimer's disease.

Meanwhile, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, or NICE, said more evidence was needed to prove Kisunla's worth - the drug's maker, Eli Lilly, says a year's worth of treatment is \$32,000. The US Food and Drug Admin-

istration authorized Kisunla in July. The roll-out of its competitor drug Leqembi has been slowed in the US by spotty insurance coverage, logistical hurdles and financial worries.

NICE said that the cost of administering Kisunla, which requires regular intravenous infusions and rigorous monitoring for potentially severe side effects including brain swelling or bleeding, "means it cannot currently be considered good value for the taxpayer."

Experts at NICE said they "recognized the importance of new treatment options" for Alzheimer's and asked Eli Lilly and the National Health Service "to provide additional information to address areas of uncertainty in the evidence."

Under Britain's health care system, most people receive free health care paid for by the government, but they could get Kisunla if they were to pay for it privately. "People living with dementia and their loved ones will undoubtedly be disappointed by the decision not to fund this new treatment," said Tara Spire-Jones, director of the Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences at the University of Edinburgh.

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Lanus holds Cruzeiro in semifinal first leg

Botafoego edges closer to first Copa Libertadores final

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 24, (Agencies): Brazil’s Botafoego beat Uruguay’s Penarol 5-0 on Wednesday to edge closer to its first Copa Libertadores final. The result makes it even more likely for another all-Brazilian final in South America’s flagship club soccer tournament.

Owned by American businessman John Textor, Botafoego scored all its goals in the first leg of its semifinal in the second half.

Venezuelan Jefferson Savarino opened the scoring in the 51st minute, gently sliding the ball to the right of goalkeeper Washington Aguerre. Four minutes later, Alexander Barboza added the second from close range, and Savarino netted his second in the 55th minute.

Brazil national team striker Luiz Henrique scored the fourth goal in the 71st minute, with a lob over Aguerre. Igor Jesus, who also played for the national team in the two latest rounds of South American World Cup qualifying, scored in the 79th

minute.

Atletico Mineiro beat Argentina’s River Plate 3-0 in the first leg of their semifinal. The Brazilian club won the Copa Libertadores title in 2013.

Brazilian teams have won the tournament for the past five years, and played a home affair for the title for the latest four editions of the tournament.

The second legs of the semifinals of the Copa Libertadores will be played next week. The final will be played on Nov. 30 at Monumental de Nunez Stadium in Buenos Aires.

Earlier, more than 250 supporters of Penarol were detained in Rio de Janeiro after clashing with law enforcement ahead of their team’s Copa Libertadores semifinal match. Rio police said in a statement that the fans “were involved in a series of acts of vandalism, looting and destruction of business places and vehicles.”

They were not allowed to attend the match. One pistol was found, police said.

Also on Wednesday, Brazil’s Cruzeiro and Argentina’s Lanus drew 1-1 in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana semifinal.

Ramiro Carrera scored a late equalizer as Argentina’s Lanus earned a 1-1 away draw with Brazilian side Cruzeiro in the first leg of their Copa Sudamericana semifinal.

Kaio Jorge gave the Brazilian side the lead just after halftime with a close-range finish, but Carrera put the Argentine outfit on level terms by heading home 17 minutes from time. The return leg will be played at La Fortaleza in Lanus next Wednesday.

“We didn’t play well,” Cruzeiro manager Fernando Diniz told reporters after the match. “We knew that we had to lift our game today, and we weren’t able to do that.

“But there’s a long way to go, and now we have to concentrate on the second leg because the contest is wide open,” he added.



Lucas Villalba of Brazil’s Cruzeiro, left, and Damian Moreno of Argentina’s Lanus battle for the ball during a Copa Sudamericana semifinal first leg soccer match at Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. (AP)

Juventus looms

Thuram is transforming from assist man to a leading goal-scorer at Inter

ROME, Oct 24, (AP): Last season, Marcus Thuram was Serie A’s top assist man. This season, he’s in the running for the top goalscorer honor.

It’s been quite a transformation for the France international during his second year in the Italian league.

Thuram’s impact in front of the goal has been felt beyond Italy, too.

In the Champions League on Wednesday, he came off the bench to score the late winner in Inter’s 1-0 victory at Young Boys.

It was Thuram’s eighth goal in 10 matches across all competitions and his first in Europe this season to go with his seven in eight Serie A appearances.

In Serie A, only Atalanta’s Mateo Retegui has scored more - with eight.

“Goals are always important, even more so if they help the team to win,” Thuram said.

Only a couple of months into an extremely long club season that will conclude with the Club World Cup in June-July for Inter, Thuram is already more than halfway to his scoring mark of last season - which he finished with 15 goals and 14 assists across all competitions.

Thuram led Serie A with 13 assists last season but has yet to set up a goal this season - partly because strike partner Lautaro Martinez has had a slow start after leading Argentina to the Copa America trophy a couple of months after he and Thuram powered Inter to the Serie A title.

His new goal-scoring form could also be a boost for France, with which Thuram has only two goals in 27 ap-

pearances. Up next, though, it’s “Italy’s derby” where Inter hosts rival Juventus on Sunday in a match that is also a family derby for the Thurams. Younger brother Khephren is in his first season at Juventus, where dad Lilian once starred as a defender.

Both brothers are expected to start at the San Siro.

“My dad will support the Bianconeri,” Marcus said. “Anyhow, it will still be wonderful for us all, and I won’t be angry with him.”

After a slower-than-expected start to its title defense, Inter has rediscovered its form with five straight wins across all competitions following a derby loss to AC Milan a month ago that served as a wake-up call.

“You don’t get five victories if the team isn’t in good shape,” coach Simone Inzaghi said. “We’re working hard. In the Champions League we have seven points after three matches and we haven’t conceded a goal.”

Juventus, meanwhile, is still struggling to find consistency under new coach Thiago Motta. The Bianconeri lost at Stuttgart 1-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Struggling Genoa is considering signing Mario Balotelli, who is out of contract since leaving Turkish club Adana Demirsport after last season.

The 34-year-old Balotelli hasn’t played in Serie A for more than four years - since he was with hometown club Brescia in 2019-20. He last played in Italy for Monza in Serie B in 2020-21.



Gregore of Brazil’s Botafoego, right, attempts to tackle Washington Darias of Uruguay’s Penarol during a Copa Libertadores semifinal first leg soccer match at Nilton Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro. (AP)

South Africa wins first test in Asia in decade after beating Bangladesh

Rabada shines with 6-wicket haul

MIRPUR, Bangladesh, Oct 24, (AP): Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada’s 6-39 helped South Africa finish off Bangladesh by seven wickets on Thursday and win its first cricket test in Asia in 10 years.

Bangladesh was all out for 307 in its second innings in the morning, with Rabada grabbing his six-for, and left South Africa needing 106 for victory.

It completed the inevitable by reaching 106-3 in 22 overs just before lunch on day four.

Bangladesh was always chasing after being dismissed for 106 in the first innings. South Africa replied with 308 propped up by Kyle Verreynne’s 114, which earned him player of the match.

“It’s a really good performance. Incredibly tough for the team to put four days of good cricket together,” South Africa stand-in captain Aiden Markram said.

“Bowlers were great there and then the batters helped us get a great lead.

When you get a lead like that, it’s tough for opposition to come back.”

South Africa’s last win in Asia was in 2014 against Sri Lanka in Galle.

Resuming the day at 283-7 and 81 runs ahead, Bangladesh failed to make any impact as Rabada and Wiaan Mulder sliced through the hosts with the second new ball.

“Rabada is a special bowler for us,” Markram said. “For Kyle to step in and play that sort of innings (114), that’s really special. (The) emphasis is on whoever’s playing should make it count.”

Rabada struck in the first over of the day, trapping Nayeem Hasan leg before for his overnight 16 to complete his 15th five-wicket haul in test cricket. Rabada finished the match with nine wickets.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took eight wickets overall, after picking up all three South Africa wickets on Thursday.

“As a batting group we need to take responsibility against the new ball, and as a bowling group we need to show improvement,” Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto said. “We need to put in a collective performance in the next test match.”

The second and final test is at Chattogram from Tuesday.



Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder Andrés Cubas, right, grabs Portland Timbers midfielder Evander, left, during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Portland, Ore. (AP)

Gauld becomes 3rd player with 4 goal contributions in an MLS playoff game

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct 24, (AP): Ryan Gauld had a hat trick and added an assist to become the third player in league history with four goal contributions in an MLS playoff game, and the Vancouver Whitecaps knocked off the Portland Timbers 5-0.

Vancouver matched the largest margin of victory in a postseason match in club history, joining a 5-0 victory against San Jose in 2017. The Whitecaps advance to a best-of-three series against top-seeded Los Angeles FC.

Vancouver scored three goals in 11 minutes in the first half to take control.

Gauld opened the scoring in the 20th minute by knocking home a rebound after a wild sequence inside the box that included two saves by goalkeeper James Pantemis.

Brian White made it 2-0 in the 24th when he was left wide open at the

back post for an easy tap-in of Mathias Laborda’s pass across the goal.

Gauld scored again in the 31st after settling Stuart Armstrong’s pass with his chest and volleying a shot over Pantemis.

Armstrong headed in Fafa Picault’s cross in the 51st and Gauld added a sliding finish off another assist by Armstrong in the 59th. Gauld joined Sebastian Giovinco (2016) and Landon Donovan (2014) with four goal contributions in a playoff game.

It was the most goals Vancouver scored in a game all season.

Vancouver’s “home” game was played at Portland’s Providence Park due to scheduling conflicts at BC Place, giving the ninth-seed Timbers home-field advantage against the eighth-seed Whitecaps. It was the first postseason game at Providence Park since the MLS Cup final in 2021.

Pakistan in some bother after sending Poms into spin

England bounces back with Smith’s half-century

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Oct 24, (AP): Jamie Smith bailed out England with a gallant half-century against Pakistan’s spin attack on an engineered dry pitch to start the decisive third test on Thursday.

England was on the ropes at 118-6 shortly after lunch until Smith’s 89 revived them to 267 all out. Smith and Gus Atkinson (39) combined in a gutsy 105-run stand.

Off-spinner Sajid Khan grabbed 6-128, and left-arm spinner Noman Ali 3-88.

England reduced Pakistan to 73-3 by stumps, still trailing by 194 runs on a pitch fanned, heated and raked by the ground staff at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Skipper Shan Masood and Saud Shakeel, after overturning an on-field decision of a leg-side catch against him, was were both 16 not out.

Gus Atkinson, one of two changes England made to the side which lost the second test by 152 runs, claimed the only wicket on the day to fall to a pace bowler when he clean bowled Kamran Ghulam for 3.

Pakistan didn’t use its only seam option, Aamer Jamal. This was only the second time in test history that a team didn’t bowl a pacer in the first innings of a test match, according to ESPN. The first time was in

1882 by Australia against England in Sydney.

Khan and Ali took all 20 wickets in Pakistan’s series-levelling win in the second test in Multan last week, and they sliced through England again by bowling unchanged for 42 overs.

Wicketkeeper Smith smashed six sixes and five boundaries and Atkinson hit five fours as they defied the all-spin attack.

Smith raised his half-century off 94 balls and accelerated against leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood before top-edging a slog sweep against Mahmood just before tea to miss out on second century in his ninth test.

Ali dismissed Atkinson, who offered a tame return catch.

Earlier, Khan and Ali bowled all 30 overs before lunch and suppressed the tourist’s aggression after captain Ben Stokes won England’s

first toss in eight tests.

England stuttered to 110-5 in the first session after a good start by openers Ben Duckett (52) and Zak Crawley (29).

Duckett and Crawley raised a half-century stand inside the first dozen overs with sweeps and reverse sweeps. But England lost five wickets in the next 13 overs.

Ali lured Crawley to drive on the offside but the ball flew to backward point, and Khan pinned Ollie Pope (3) and Joe Root (5) leg before wicket in consecutive overs.

Duckett was out in the same over he reached 50, lbw on the back foot to an Ali delivery which didn’t rise above ankle height.

Harry Brook (5) dragged his sweep shot against Khan onto his stumps.

The pitch encouraged England to include Rehan Ahmed as a third specialist spinner beside Jack Leach and Shoaib Bashir.

Off-spinner Bashir gave England the first wicket when he trapped Abdullah Shafique leg before on the back foot and Saim Ayub fell into an England trap by giving a head-high catch to Root at short mid-wicket.

Pakistan retained the XI which ended an 11-test, three-year winless run at home.



Pakistan’s Saim Ayub jumps to take a catch of England’s Jamie Smith on the boundary edge during day one of third test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. (AP)

Al-Shatti acknowledges the challenges ahead

Al Arabi begins journey against Abdish

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Al Arabi is set to begin its campaign in the Asian Challenge League against Kyrgyzstan's Abdish Atta at 5:30 pm at Kuwait Club Stadium in the opening match of Group Two.

In the same group, Turkmenistan's Arkadakh will take on Maldivian Maziya Sports at 9:30 pm at the same venue.

Al Arabi will host the group stage

matches until November 2. The tournament features 18 clubs competing for the title of the inaugural edition of this third-level club competition. The participating teams are divided into five groups, with three groups in the western region, each containing four clubs, and two groups in the eastern region, each consisting of three clubs.

The group stage will follow a single round-robin format, and the top team from each of the three western groups will qualify for the quarter-finals, along

with the best second-place team. Additionally, the top two teams from each of the eastern groups will also advance.

Quarter-final matches are scheduled as two-legged ties from March 5 to 13, 2025, while the semi-finals will take place from April 9 to 17, 2025, culminating in the final match on May 10, 2025.

Al Arabi aims to capitalize on hosting the group stage and secure qualification for the next round, buoyed by its impressive performance in the Zain

Premier League, where it has achieved six victories and suffered only one defeat against Al-Arabi, placing it second in the standings, just three points behind the leader, Kuwait Club.

Coach Nasser Al-Shatti acknowledges the challenges ahead, especially with facing unfamiliar teams that Al Arabi has never encountered before. He is hopeful for a positive result in the team's first "Asian" appearance, supported by the depth of talent within the squad.



Al Arabi seeks victory in first appearance in Challenge Cup.

Suns spoil Clippers Intuit Dome opener

Warriors overwhelm Trail Blazers in season opener

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Oct 24, (AP): Kevin Durant scored 25 points, Bradley Beal added 24 and the Phoenix Suns beat the Clippers 116-113 in overtime Wednesday night, spoiling Los Angeles' Intuit Dome debut in the opener for both teams.

James Harden had 29 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers. He had a chance to send it to double overtime, but missed the second of two free throws with 4.8 seconds remaining.

Jusuf Nurkic gave the Suns a three-point advantage with a pair of free throws. The Clippers had one last chance to send it to another extra session, but Grayson Allen forced a turnover near midcourt after the in-bounds pass.

Ivica Zubac had 21 points for the Clippers, but fouled out with 2:15 remaining in overtime.

Warriors 139, Trail Blazers 104

In Portland, Stephen Curry had 17 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds before sitting for the fourth quarter, and the Golden State Warriors opened the season with a rout of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Buddy Hield had 22 points off the bench for the Warriors, who missed out on the playoffs last year.

Portland led by as many as nine points in the opening quarter, but the Warriors pulled ahead and led 62-50 at the break. Curry had a 3-pointer to open the second half and Golden

State led by as many as 37 points the rest of the way.

Pelicans 123, Bulls 111

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram scored 33 points, icing the game with a baseline turnaround jumper with 1:46 to go, and the New Orleans Pelicans overcame Zion Williamson's absence to defeat the Chicago Bulls.

Newly-acquired point guard Dejounte Murray had 14 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds in his Pelicans debut, but injured his left hand in the fourth quarter. CJ McCollum scored 23 for New Orleans.

Williamson was ruled out shortly before the game because of an illness, marking his 207th missed regular-season game since he was drafted No. 1 overall in 2019.

Grizzlies 126, Jazz 124

In Salt Lake City, Ja Morant had 22 points, 10 assists and five rebounds in his return to action to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to victory over the Utah Jazz.

Morant appeared in just nine games last season after serving a 25-game league suspension before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury. Santi Aldama scored 27 points and Desmond Bane added 24 more for the Grizzlies.

Lauri Markkanen had 35 points and nine rebounds for Utah. Jordan Clarkson chipped in for 17 points and seven assists off the bench. Walker Kessler had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Hornets 110, Rockets 105

In Houston, LaMelo Ball had 34 points and 11 assists in his return



Philadelphia 76ers' Guerschon Yabusele, left, goes up for a shot against Milwaukee Bucks' Bobby Portis during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

from an ankle injury and Grant Williams made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 40 seconds left to give the Charlotte Hornets a win over the Houston Rockets.

Jalen Green scored five quick points to tie it before Williams put the Hornets on top with his step-back 3 to make it 106-103. Ball, who was playing in his first regular-season game since Jan. 26, added two free throws after that to secure the victory.

Cavaliers 136, Raptors 106

In Toronto, Evan Mobley scored 25 points, Donovan Mitchell had 21 and the Cleveland Cavaliers routed

the Toronto Raptors.

Caris LeVert shot 8 for 9 and scored 19 points, and Jarrett Allen had 14 for the Cavs, whose biggest lead was 33. Cleveland won for the first time in five season-opening meetings with Toronto.

Raptors forward Scottie Barnes shot 3 for 14 and scored nine points in a disappointing season debut.

Toronto's Chris Boucher scored 18 points off the bench, Grady Dick added 16 and guard Immanuel Quickley scored 13 points in 14 minutes before exiting because of an injury.

Bucks 124, 76ers 109

In Philadelphia, Damian Lillard scored 30 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 25 and the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 124-109 in the season opener for both teams.

Lillard scored 15 points in the third quarter and finished with six 3-pointers, nine rebounds and five assists.

Antetokounmpo shot 8 for 11 from the floor and had a game-high 14 rebounds as Milwaukee got double-figure scoring from six players.

Taurean Prince and Bobby Portis scored 16 points apiece for the Bucks, how had 16 3-pointers.

Tyrese Maxey scored 25 points and Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds for Philadelphia, which was without injured stars Joel Embiid and Paul George, who are sidelined due to knee injuries.

Hawks 120, Nets 116

In Atlanta, Trae Young had 30 points, Onyeka Okongwu added a career-high 28 and the Atlanta

Hawks opened the season with victory over the Brooklyn Nets.

Young, who also had 12 assists, sealed it with a pair of free throws with two seconds remaining.

Okongwu made 11 of 12 shots from field and all six free throws to eclipse his previous best of 22 points.

Cam Thomas led the Nets with 36 points, but it wasn't enough to prevent a loss for Jordi Fernández in his NBA head coaching debut.

Magic 116, Heat 97

In Miami, Paolo Banchero scored 33 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Franz Wagner scored 23 and the Orlando Magic rolled past the Miami Heat in the opener for both teams.

Gary Harris added 18 for Orlando, all on 3-pointers. The Magic were 18 of 49 from 3-point range.

Terry Rozier scored 19 for Miami, which celebrated "Pat Riley Court" night with a halftime ceremony. Nikola Jovic scored 15 and Tyler Herro added 14 for the Heat.

Pacers 115, Pistons 109

In Detroit, Myles Turner scored 20 points, Pascal Siakam and Bennedict Mathurin had 19 each and the Indiana Pacers rallied to beat Detroit, spoiling coach J.B. Bickerstaff's Pistons debut.

Detroit led by 12 points and was ahead after each of the first three quarters in a closely contested game with 13 lead changes and four ties, but couldn't hang on for the win.

The Pacers overcame an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Pistons 33-19 in the quarter in the season-opening game for both teams.

Best of the Rest

Kuwait drops to 135: Kuwait National Football Team moved down a spot in the FIFA monthly ranking to reach 135 worldwide, announced FIFA on Thursday.

According to the monthly ranking, the Kuwaiti team dropped down 5.2 points to score 1106.42 points in October opposed to the previous month where it had scored 1111.62 points.

Meanwhile, Argentina remains on top of the ranking table with 1883.5 points, France in second with 1859.85 points and Spain in third with 1844.33 points. (KUNA)

Namibia to host Cup: The Veterans Cricket Association of Namibia will host the Over 50s Africa Cup, a quadrangular tournament featuring hosts Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and South Africa A.

The tournament, which will be held in Namibia's capital, Windhoek, will feature eight 45-over matches scheduled from November 17 to 21.

The matches will be held at three premier venues: FNB Namibia Cricket Ground, Wanderers Sports Club, and United Sports Club.

The Over 50s tournaments are a special platform for seasoned players aged 50 and above, to remain involved in the game and continue playing competitive cricket.

In a statement on Wednesday, Cricket Namibia said it is pleased with the Veterans Cricket Association of Namibia, bringing this level of competitive cricket to Namibian soil.

"This initiative aligns with Cricket Namibia's commitment to delivering high-quality cricket into the country," the governing body said.

Meanwhile, Namibia has announced a 14-man squad with Dawie Hartzenberg as the captain and Chris Freeman as the coach. (Xinhua)



Phoenix Suns forward Ryan Dunn (0) and LA Clippers guard Norman Powell (24) vie for a loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

Yamal blossomed into a star

Clicking under Flick, Barca visits Madrid in first clasico for Mbappé

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 24, (AP): When Real Madrid added Kylian Mbappé, Barcelona looked doomed to becoming a regular runner-up to its fierce rival.

Then Hansi Flick arrived with fresh ideas, Lamine Yamal blossomed into a star, his teammates stepped up their game, and Saturday's clasico promises to be a highly entertaining and close-fought match.

It will be the first clasico for Mbappé and Flick. Barcelona leads La Liga by three points from second-placed Madrid.

Here is a line-by-line look at the teams set to face off at the Santiago Bernabeu. Real Madrid became the envy of soccer when Mbappé walked away from Paris Saint-Germain and joined Madrid as a free agent last summer.

He has teamed up with the already brilliant Vinicius Júnior to form the most lethal one-two punch in soccer, especially when either has any room to dribble at defenses caught off guard.

They have scored eight goals across all competitions, while Vinicius also has seven assists. Real Madrid arrives in particularly good form after his hat trick fueled a 5-2 comeback from two goals down against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Tuesday. But with Rodrygo doubtful and Endrick unused by coach Carlo Ancelotti in recent games, Barcelona collectively may be able to counter Madrid's firepower up front.

Robert Lewandowski is playing at his best since arriving in Barcelona. Under Flick, his former coach at Bayern Munich, the 36-year-old Poland striker has scored 15 times, including a league-leading 12.

Raphinha has morphed from a hard-working winger into a scorer and team leader.

The Brazilian struck his second hat trick of the season - and his career - to power Barcelona's 4-1 rout of Bayern in the Champions League on Wednesday. He has nine goals and a team-high eight assists overall in this campaign.

Yamal has chipped in with five goals and seven assists after helping Spain win

the European Championship in July and is an unpredictable playmaker from his spot on the right.

For the first time since the departure of Andrés Iniesta, Barcelona can field a



Barcelona's Raphinha, second right, celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's fourth goal during a Champions League opening phase soccer match between Barcelona and Bayern Munich at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

midfield that is at least more creative, if not better, than Madrid's.

Flick has plenty of options. Pedri delivers the final pass, Dani Olmo gives it scoring, and Flick has plucked a fine holding midfielder in Marc Casadó from the La Masia training academy.

Barcelona can also call on Netherlands mainstay Frenkie de Jong, Olympic gold medalist Fermín López, Pablo Torre, and Gavi Páez, who recently returned from a serious leg injury.

While Barcelona has more finesse, Madrid is struggling to find its flow in attack without those great long passes that the now retired Toni Kroos delivered season after season.

The Madrid midfield should, however, have more scoring punch thanks to the attacking instincts of Jude Bellingham and Federico Valverde. Bellingham delivered late winners in both of Madrid's clásico victories last season.

Ancelotti could use a four-man midfield and include Luka Modric or Eduardo Camavinga to play along with stopper Aurélien Tchouaméni.

Madrid will have to manage without serial winner Dani Carvajal after his season-ending leg injury. Lucas Vázquez will likely take his place at right back and have to tangle with Yamal.

Eder Militao and Antonio Rudiger provide Madrid with a solid anchor with Ferland Mendy on the left.

Jules Koundé is enjoying his strongest season yet for Barcelona and will have another go at Vinicius. Inigo Martínez will likely partner with 17-year-old Pau Cubarsí to try to stop Mbappé in the middle, while Alejandro Balde patrols the left flank.

Both teams will be without their top goalkeepers. Andriy Lunin is in for the injured Thibaut Courtois after performing admirably in the Belgian's place for a long period of last season. Iñaki Peña still has to prove he is the right player to replace Marc-Andre ter Stegen. If not, then Wojciech Szczesny could take his spot for Barcelona.



Bader Al-Mailam

various club tracks, offer a competitive atmosphere filled with excitement. He praised the dedication of the judges, trainers, and administrators working behind the scenes to advance and develop the sport of equestrianism in Kuwait.



India's Virat Kohli throws the ball during day one of the second cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, in Pune, India. (AP)

Sports

World School Games kick off in Bahrain with strong Kuwaiti team participation

MANAMA, Oct 24: Under the esteemed patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, the World School Games officially kicked off today in Bahrain, running until the 31st of this month. The athletics competitions often referred to as "the mother of all games," will feature 506 athletes from 44 countries. Representing Kuwait, Khalil Al-Qattan will compete in the high jump qualifiers, while Sayed Fakher Al-Qallaf will participate in the 100-meter race qualifiers. Abdullah Faisal and Yaqoub Al-Mashmoum will compete in the 800-meter race, and Ahmed Al-Enezi will take part in the 400-meter race.

In the judo competition qualifiers, four Kuwaiti athletes will participate: Sultan Al-Otaibi in the 50

kg weight category, Ali Al-Ramzi in the 55 kg category, Khaled Al-Kandari in the 60 kg category, and Mishari Marzouq in the 66 kg category. On Saturday, Anas Bouqmaz will compete in the 81 kg category, while Abdullah Al-Daihani will compete in the over 90 kg category.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, Chairman of the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Higher Education, along with Dr. Mutab Al-Mutairi, Acting General Supervisor of Physical Education at the Ministry of Education, held several meetings upon the delegation's arrival in Bahrain. These meetings focused on final preparations for the athletes, ensuring they have the best conditions to achieve success and win medals in their respective competitions.



Kuwaiti delegation holds a meeting on the eve of the opening ceremony.

Raphinha scores hat trick as Barcelona routs Bayern

Liverpool stays perfect in Champions League

MADRID, Oct 24, (AP): It was a great night for English clubs, and for Barcelona captain Raphinha.

Premier League leader Liverpool moved level on points with Aston Villa at the top of the Champions League standings by extending its perfect record to three wins, and Manchester City set a new record for the most consecutive games undefeated in the history of the competition.

Liverpool edged Leipzig 1-0 with a goal from Darwin Nunez. City routed Sparta Prague 5-0 with Erling Haaland scoring twice.

Raphinha scored a hat trick as Barcelona finally beat Bayern Munich to end a series of six consecutive wins for the German team in their head-to-head meetings that included a humiliating 8-2 loss for Barca in the quarterfinals in 2020.

This time, Barcelona came out on top of an entertaining contest with a



Inter's Davide Frattesi, left, fights for the ball with YB's Kastrioti Im-eri during the Champions League soccer match between BSC Young Boys and FC Internazionale Inter Milano, at the Wankdorf stadium, in Bern, Switzerland. (AP)

4-1 statement win.

After three rounds in the revamped tournament, Liverpool and Aston Villa

have a two-point lead over seven clubs including Man City and another Premier League team, Arsenal. The four English teams in the competition have conceded just one goal combined so far.

In Barcelona, the hosts opened the scoring within a minute as Raphinha was found by Fermin Lopez's through ball, then rounded Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer with ease.

Bayern leveled the score with Harry Kane's volley, but Barcelona responded with one goal from former Bayern great Robert Lewandowski and two more from Raphinha, who was later substituted to a standing ovation.

It was Barcelona's first win over Bayern since the 2015 Champions League semifinals. Barcelona came into the game without having scored in its four games against Bayern since an 8-2 loss in 2020. Barcelona coach Hansi Flick was Bayern's coach in that game.

"It could have been a Champions League final. Winning like this, in front of our fans, is the best," Raphinha said. "What we are doing on the pitch

answers what Barça can do in this Champions League."

Arne Slot has guided Liverpool to first place in the Premier League early in his tenure as Jurgen Klopp's replacement and now has the team on a maximum nine points in the Champions League.

The latest win in Europe came at Leipzig, one of the clubs that Klopp will be overseeing in his new role as head of global soccer at Red Bull.

Nunez tapped in the only goal in the 27th minute from Mohamed Salah's header back toward goal and could have earned a penalty in the 38th when he appeared to be tripped by Willi Orban.

"If we had left this place with a draw, I would have really felt we had lost something," Slot told TNT Sports. "For the 70 previous minutes - except, maybe, for the first 10 - we dominated."

Leipzig is the only team from the big 5 leagues to lose its three opening matches.

Manchester City's new record won't please the red half of the English city.

Kuwaiti golfer shines in Bahrain

MANAMA, Oct 24: Kuwaiti golfer Salem Al-Abkal achieved a significant milestone at the Bahrain Open Golf Championship, securing 15th place out of 100 players from around the globe.

His impressive performance led to a leap of 534 spots in the international amateur rankings, highlighting his remarkable growth and ability to compete in one of the most prestigious regional tournaments, which featured top international golfers. The championship took place on Bahrain's golf courses, where Al-Abkal's exceptional play further solidified his presence on the global stage.

Al-Abkal expressed his delight with the achievement, emphasizing that his progress in the international rankings serves as a major



Salem Al-Abkal

motivation to continue pursuing even better results in future tournaments.

It could cost team EPL title

Arsenal has a discipline issue

LONDON, Oct 24, (AP): Mikel Arteta felt he had no choice.

The Arsenal manager saw his right back Ben White receive a yellow card in the first half of the Champions League game against Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday, and quickly came to a decision.

White needed to be removed at half-time.

"We have played enough with 10 men in the recent period," Arteta said with a smirk.

It is becoming abundantly clear: Arsenal has a discipline problem - and it might yet cost Arteta's team a shot at the English Premier League title.

Arsenal has had three players sent off in the opening eight rounds of a league campaign that is seeing yellow cards being dished out at an unprecedented rate.

It continues something of a running theme under Arteta. Since he arrived as its manager in late 2019, Arsenal has collected 18 red cards in the Premier League - five more than the next team.

Tellingly for Arteta, the only games where Arsenal dropped points this season - the 1-1 home draw with Brighton, the 2-2 away draw at Manchester City and the 2-0 loss at Bournemouth on Saturday - came when the team had a player dismissed.

"We cannot continue to play with 10 men, especially at this level. You see how we struggled," Arteta said this week. "We need to eradicate it, it's clear. Why, the reason, how - it doesn't matter. We have to focus that it has to happen."

It particularly has to be happen on Sunday, when Liverpool visits Emirates Stadium in the headline match of the league's ninth round.

Liverpool is in first place, one point ahead of second-placed City and four clear of third-placed Arsenal. A win would put Liverpool seven points clear of Arsenal already - hardly an insur-

mountable deficit at this stage but one which would leave Arteta's players with little wiggle room. Perhaps more importantly, it would likely leave Arsenal six points behind defending champion City, which is expected to swat aside winless Southampton on Saturday.

Arsenal's disciplinary issues come at the start of a season that has seen an average of 5.1 yellow cards awarded per game so far, according to league statistics supplier Opta.

That is far more than any previous Premier League, says Opta, which points out that last season's 4.2 yellows per game was a new record - surpassing 3.7 per game in the 1998-99 season.

Two of Arsenal's dismissals - Declan Rice against Brighton and Leandro Trossard against City - saw the players in question each collect two yellow cards, the second for time-wasting by kicking the ball away.

William Saliba was handed a straight red against Bournemouth for bringing down Evanilson near the halfway line and denying what was adjudged to be a goal-scoring opportunity.

Saliba, perhaps Arteta's most important defender, will miss the Liverpool match as a result, at a time when Arsenal is already without captain Martin Odegaard (ankle) and might also be missing star winger Bukayo Saka (hamstring) and summer signing Riccardo Calafiori, who came off against Shakhtar with a twisted knee.

Liverpool will arrive on the back of 11 wins from its first 12 games in all competitions under new manager Arne Slot. That run contains six straight away victories, which is a club record for the start of a single campaign.

"Arteta has done an amazing job in the last few years," Slot said after Liverpool's 1-0 win at Leipzig on Wednesday, "and we have to be on top of our game to get a result."



Barcelona's Raphinha, right, scores his side's fourth goal as Bayern's Kim Min-jae, left, tries to stop him during a Champions League opening phase soccer match between Barcelona and Bayern Munich at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Sundar takes career-best 7-59

New Zealand spun out by India for 259

PUNE, India, Oct 24, (AP): New Zealand was spun out for 259 and Washington Sundar grabbed a career-best 7-59 for India on day one Thursday of the second test.

Sundar, who was parachuted into India's playing 11 after it lost the first test by eight wickets, stunned the Black Caps as he picked up five wickets after the tea break.

At stumps, India was 16-1. Captain Rohit Sharma was bowled by Tim Southee for a nine-ball duck.

New Zealand was 197-3 and looking good to make 300 until Sundar sparked a collapse by bowling Rachin Ravindra for 65.

New Zealand lost its last seven wickets for 62 runs in 20 overs. Ravichandran Ashwin took 3-64 as he and Sundar shared all 10. It was only the sixth instance of spinners taking all 10 wickets in India home tests.

Ashwin got both wickets to fall in the morning. He trapped Tom Latham for 15 and feathered Will Young's glove to be caught behind for 18. New Zealand was 92-2 at lunch after opting to bat.

Devon Conway scored 50 off 109 balls and after lunch he and Ravindra upped the run rate.

Ashwin brought it back under control by dismissing Conway in the 44th over -

caught behind chasing a wide delivery turning away. He top-scored with 76 runs off 141 balls, including 11 fours. He put on 62 off 117 balls with Ravindra for the fourth wicket.

Daryl Mitchell struggled to get going against Ashwin, but settled down to add another 59 off 95 balls with Ravindra.

Ravindra scored his sixth half-century (including two tons) in his 11th test before Sundar bowled him for 65 off 105 balls - including five fours and a six - in the 60th over.

Sundar made it a quick double blow, bowling Tom Blundell for 3. New Zealand was down to 201-5 at tea.

Mitchell was lbw for 18 off Sundar shortly after tea and New Zealand lost three vital wickets for seven runs.

Glenn Phillips (9) and Mitchell Santner added 32 runs for the seventh wicket before Sundar then ran through the lower order.

Phillips was caught at mid-off, and Tim Southee was bowled by Sundar for his maiden five-wicket haul in his fifth test.

Sundar also bowled Ajaz Patel (4) and Mitchell Santner (33) to achieve the fourth-best haul by an India spinner against New Zealand on home soil.

At stumps, Yashavi Jaiswal was on 6 and Shubman Gill on 10.



India's Ravindra Jadeja appeals for the wicket of New Zealand's Devon Conway during day one of the second cricket test match between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, in Pune, India. (AP)