

Lawmakers urge int'l backing to Kuwait's Khor stance

'Preserve security'

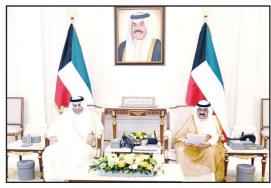
By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: A total of 32 MPs issued a statement to call upon the parliaments of all sisterly and friendly countries to support the Kuwaiti right in the agreement signed by Kuwait and Iraq that regulates navigation on Khor Abdullah Waterway in 2012.

The MPs explained that the agreement is aimed at preserving good neighborly relations, enhancing the sovereignty of the states in terms of their territorial boundaries, and ensuring regional peace. Supporting the agreement is part of preserving international security particularly in the Gulf.

The aggressive attitude of the Iraqi party represented by the ruling issued by Iraq's Federal Court to nullify the agreement makes it possible for all of the international treaties to be nullified including the regulations they contain, and show no consideration to international laws, which is the most adequate way to address disputes.

Continued on Page 4



Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani Wednesday, an invitation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to participate in 3rd Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit, due in Doha on October 18-19 with the theme of 'Sport Diplomacy.' The invitation was delivered by Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud to His Highness the Crown Prince.

Newswatch

DOHA: Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday discussed, via phone, with US President Joe Biden bolstering strategic relations between the two friendly countries in a variety of domains and exchanged views over the latest regional and international developments of common concern.

The Qatari Royal Court said that the US leader, who initiated the call, expressed deep gratitude to Qatar for its mediation efforts which resulted in the release of a number of US citizens, who were detained in Iran, their return to the homeland. President Biden lauded Qatar's pivotal and constructive role on the international stage.

For his part, Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim reaffirmed his country's belief in dialogue as the sole mean to resolve disputes, promote peace. He also renewed Qatar's commitment to continuing its mediation efforts to heal rifts and spread peace in the region and worldwide. (KUNA)

LOCAL BANKS' FINANCING DECLINES 2.14 PERCENT Kuwait construction sector sees mass exodus of skilled workers

'Population restructuring' triggers exit

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Local banks' financing to the construction sector in Kuwait experienced a 2.14 percent decline during the first eight months of 2023, dropping from 1.154 billion dinars in the same period of 2022 to 1.13 billion dinars this year. According to the Central Bank of Kuwait's monthly statistics for August, construction financing saw a 2.6 percent increase on a monthly basis, reaching 162.5 million dinars, up from 158.3 million dinars in July. On an annual basis, it surged by a remarkable 151.5 percent, climbing to 97.9 million dinars compared to 64.6 million dinars in August 2022.

This dip in construction financing coincides with a 93.1 million dinar decrease in new credit facilities across all sectors during the first eight months of 2023, representing a 0.6 percent decline from 15.76 billion dinars in the same period of 2022 to 15.669 billion dinars this year. In August, new credit for all sectors increased by 3.2 percent, amounting to about 63.6 million

dinars, although it had decreased from 1.948 billion dinars in July to 2.012 billion dinars in August. Nonetheless, it showed positive growth compared to the 1.354 billion dinars recorded at the end of August 2022.

Looking back at 2022, construction financing experienced a substantial 57.4 percent increase, reaching a total of 1.741 billion dinars, compared to 1.105 billion dinars in 2021. In 2023, it exhibited fluctuations, rising from 112.8 million dinars in December to 118.2 million dinars in January, 147.1 million dinars in February, peaking at 217.9 million dinars in March, and then decreasing to 92.1 million dinars in April. However, it rebounded in May to 110.1 million dinars and further increased to 123.9 million dinars in June and 158.3 million dinars in July.

The accumulated balance of construction financing provided by local banks witnessed an impressive annual increase of 14.9 percent, surging from 2.147 billion dinars in August 2022 to 2.467 billion dinars in August 2023, reaching its highest level in two years. Furthermore, this balance increased by 7.8 percent and approximately 179 percent from the beginning of 2023, after standing at 2.288 billion dinars at the end of December 2022. In July, it recorded a 2.2 percent increase of 52.9 million dinars from the end of December 2022, when it was 2.415 billion dinars.

Kuwait's construction sector faces numerous challenges, including a decrease in project offerings, contract signings, and government payments over the last five years. Additionally,

Continued on Page 4



TEHRAN: Iran on Wednesday cited the "political behavior" of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the reason for Tehran's decision to expel them, saying the matter had been blown out of proportion.

The inspectors' behavior was deemed antagonistic towards the Islamic Republic, **Mohammad Islami**, Tehran's nuclear chief said in a statement, slamming the uproar triggered by the incident, which he said aimed to ratchet up pressure on Iran.

The chief of the UN's nuclear watchdog **Rafael Grossi** said that Tehran's move to bar the inspectors was "disproportionate and unprecedented," which would encumber the agency's mission to monitor Tehran's atomic activities.

The measure taken by Iran was in response to a call by the **US**, **Britain**, **France** and **Germany** for Tehran to cooperate further with the UN atomic agency over traces of uranium found at undisclosed locations. (KUNA)

TEHRAN: Iran has made a discovery of four new oil and gas fields through exploration work, with a potential capacity to churn out up to 2.6 billion barrels of liquid hydrocarbons, the country's oil minister said on Wednesday.

The new discoveries include Cheshm-e-Shoor gas field in **Khorasan Razavi** province, Irkan oil field in **Golestan** province, in addition to Tangu and Gonaveh oil fields in **Bushehr** province, **Javad Owji** told reporters. (KUNA)

AMMAN: Jordan sent on Wednesday a formal letter to Israel, denouncing the incursion of extremist settlers and Israeli Knesset members into the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Haram al-Sharif area under the protection of Israeli police.

According to the Jordan News Agency (PETRA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates' denounced Israeli's prevention of Palestinian worshippers from entering the mosque, attacking and desecrating Islamic graves, and escalating attacks on Christians in occupied **Jerusalem**.

The Ministry's spokesperson **Sufian Qudah** said the letter highlighted the need for Israel, as the occupying power, to adhere to its responsibilities under international law regarding the occupied city of Jerusalem and its religious sites, halt any measures that would undermine the sanctity of these holy places and cease any attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo of Jerusalem. (KUNA)

ALGIERS: The 22nd Algerian-Tunisian Grand Joint Cooperation Commission, on Wednesday, culminated in the signing of 22 bilateral agreements.

Algerian Prime Minister **Aimene Benabderrahmane** stated that this paints a roadmap that allows for the accomplishments of common aspirations and bolsters bilateral cooperation.

The Prime Minister stated this in press conference held alongside Tunisian counterpart **Ahmad Hachani**.

He said that the agreements cover various fields including industry, commerce, transport, tourism, investment, culture, digitization, residence, youth and sports. Benabderrahmane dubbed this a significant economic

Benabderrahmane dubbed this a significant economic event that marks a leap in Algerian-Tunisian partnership towards economic integration and development.

These discussions provided an opportunity to explore Algerian-Tunisian relations; achievements, ongoing and future projects, and challenges that call for intensification of efforts and coordination to overcome, he added.

The Algerian Premier had overseen along with Tunisian counterpart earlier today the session's commencement after a six-year hiatus prompted by political conditions and COVID-19 pandemic. (KUNA) Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Minister of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Al-Aiban poses in a group photo during his reception of the Kuwaiti athletes who won medals at the Asian Games upon their return to the homeland on Oct 4, 2023. — See Page 16

'Global market heading towards balanced supply, demand'

OPEC+ keeps oil production rates unchanged

Turkey FM warns Kurdish militants

ANKARA, Oct 4, (AP): Turkey's foreign minister warned on Wednesday that Kurdish militants behind a suicide bombing in the Turkish capital face robust retaliation against their group's positions in Syria and Iraq.

The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack outside the Interior Ministry in Ankara in which one attacker blew himself up and another would-be bomber was killed in a shootout with police. Two police were wounded in the attack.

Turkish warplanes already have conducted two airstrikes against suspected Kurdish militant sites in northern Iraq following the attack, which came as Parliament prepared to reopen after a long summer recess. Meanwhile, dozens of people with suspected links to the Kurdish militants have been detained in a series of raids across Turkey.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said during a news conference that Turkish intelligence officials have established that the two assailants arrived from Syria where they had been trained. He said Turkey would now target facilities in Syria and Iraq belonging to the PKK or its affiliated Kurdish militia group, People's Defense Units, or YPG.

"From now on, all infrastructure, superstructure and energy facilities belonging to the PKK or the YPG in Iraq and Syria are legitimate targets of our security forces, armed forces and intelligence elements," Fidan said.

"I advise third parties to stay away from the PKK and YPG and their facilities. Our armed forces' response to this terrorist attack will be extremely clear and they will regret committing such an act," Fidan said.

Later on Wednesday, Fidan joined a previously unannounced security meeting with the country's interior minister, defense minister, top military commander and intelligence chief, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. VIENNA, Oct 4, (KUNA): The 50th Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) took place via videoconference on Wednesday, decided to keep its production policy unchanged.

The JMMC reviewed the crude oil production data for the months of July and August 2023 and noted the overall conformity for participating OPEC and non-OPEC countries of the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC).

The committee urged all participating countries to achieve full conformity and adhere to the compensation mechanism.

The committee reaffirmed the commitment of its member countries to the DoC, which extends to the end of 2024 as agreed in the 35th OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting (ONOMM) on fourth of June 2023.

It also noted the adjustment for the frequency of the monthly meetings to become every two months for the JMMC and the authority of the JMMC to hold additional meetings, or to request an OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting as agreed on in the 33rd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting (ONOMM) on 5th of October 2022.

The committee will continue to closely assess market conditions noting the willingness of the DoC countries to address market developments and stand ready to take additional measures at any time, building on the strong cohesion of OPEC and participating non-OPEC oil-producing countries.



Photo by lehab Qurtal

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz and Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during the reception hosted by the German Embassy to mark the German Unity Day. — See Page 5 The committee also expressed its full recognition and support for the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market and reiterated its appreciation for the Kingdom's additional voluntary cut of 1 million barrels per day and for extending it until end of December 2023.

The next (51st) meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) is scheduled for 26 November 2023.

The global market is heading in the right direction towards balanced supply and demand, said Oil Minister Dr. Saad Al-Barrak on Wednesday.

This statement by Al-Barrak -- also Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs -- came during his participation at OPEC's 50th meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC), which took place via videoconference.

Also attending were Kuwaiti Governor at OPEC Mohammad Al-Shatti as well as National Representative at the organization Sheikh Abdullah Al-Sabah.

In a press statement by the Ministry, Al-Barrak said "The world is required to increase investment in all types of energy sources, including oil, to ensure meeting the needs of growing demand, the recovery of the global economy, and energy security." "The OPEC Plus cuts are necessary to

"The OPEC Plus cuts are necessary to stabilize the market on sustainable markets, praising the OPEC Plus precautionary measures to confront the challenges facing the global oil market."

The Minister praised the Saudi and Russian decision to "to continue the voluntary reduction and extending it until the end of 2023, and its positive impact on the balance and stability of the oil market."

Dr. Saad Al-Barrak stressed that "the State of Kuwait is committed to the OPEC Plus decisions to reduce production, in addition to the voluntary reduction, and that the State of Kuwait recognize it international role and will continue to invest."

He pointed out that Kuwait would continue to invest in expanding oil production to reach 3.2 million barrel per day by 2024.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:24 Sunrise .. 05:42 Zohr 11:37



Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h. By Night: Rather hot to mild with light to moderate freehoning with light to moderate freshening

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

Appointments based on 'wasta' blamed

'Need to activate safety steps in oil sector to avert fire accidents'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Two experts from the oil sector stressed the importance of activating all security and safety measures in the oil sector in order to reduce the number of fire accidents that occur from time to time

In separate statements, they warned against a repetition of the burning of the Ahmadi Refinery in 2000 when explosions led to an oil disaster that affected people and property

They held appointments based on "was-ta" as responsible for the recurrence of oil accidents, as well as the mechanical errors resulting from not updating pipes and other

pumps. They also blamed the use of oil trade unions for political purposes, especially since most of the refineries in Kuwait are modern and have not yet collapsed and are subject to periodic maintenance annu-

ally. One of the oil experts Abdul Hameed

Al-Awadhi explained that the fires that occur in oil refineries and in the oil sector in general are caused by the presence of flammable materials. Therefore, oil companies always stress the need to take into account all necessary requirements for security and safety in order to preserve human lives and properties.

Oil fires are common in hot countries, especially in the summer, but measures must be taken to avoid a repeat of the Ahmadi refinery fire incident that occurred in 2000.

The massive oil explosions in this sector at that time led to loss of lives and properties. The costs incurred for repairs had reached about \$ 480 million.

Al-Awadhi went on to explain that oil accidents and fires occur due to two reasons. The first is mechanical errors and issues such as when there are malfunctions in the pump or pipes.

The second reason is negligence in maintenance, or the use of non-original spare parts by the company concerned with main-

tenance, or failure to replace spare parts that have expired, constant inaccuracy in monitoring, and failure to follow proper instructions, which can lead to oil disasters.

Not choosing competencies accurately for operating the pumps could also lead to disasters, as increasing the power of the pump without the specified levels could

lead to fires or the leakage of toxic gasses. Also, appointments through "wasta" cause oil disasters, especially since those who manage the security and safety sectors must have at least 20 years of experience in this field. Avoiding mechanical and human errors ensures the reduction of fires in the oil sector

Meanwhile, the other oil expert Hajjaj Boukhadour said the series of fire incidents in the oil sector will continue in light of the continuation of random appointments carried out under political pressure, as well as the use of oil unions for political purposes.

He revealed that other reasons that lead to the continuation of fire incidents in this sector include human errors resulting from negligence as a result of not taking all security and safety measures, and not following strict modern maintenance programs.

Boukhadour indicated that fire incidents may also result from acts of sabotage

He denied that fire accidents in the oil sector were caused by aging or deteriora-

Boukhadour also demanded that the Oil minister be an expert or worker in the oil field, especially since this ministry deals with a very sensitive sector.

accidents.

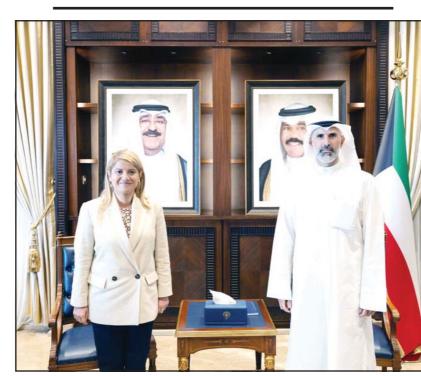
substance that is produced in large quantities, due to which it is necessary to carry out strict preventive maintenance to prevent fire accidents or oil leakages, as all parts of the pumps are supposed to undergo a set of

He stressed the need to protect small rooms in these oil facilities from fire accidents resulting from the leakage of flammable materials, and use accurate alarms of high speed to serve as initial fire indicators

'It is just tip of the iceberg'

Kuwait A

MPW, staff negligence cause mishaps; projects in limbo



KUNA photo Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, Maria Tripodi.

Kuwait, Italy eye boost in ties

Kuwait Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Shiekh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday Italian Deputy Minis-ter of State for Foreign Affairs and

discussed bolstering relations be-tween the two countries. (KUNA)

Save copies of databases: experts

Global Internet shutdown on October 11...a rumour?

By Najeh Bilal Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Information has recently been circulating on social media that the Internet will be cut off on October 11 due to geomagnetic storms. On the basis of rumors, suspicions and expectations, stories spread quickly among social media users. Al-Seyassah daily followed up on what was happening on social media platforms in order to clarify the facts and highlight the government's role regarding the phenomenon, by posing questions to experts in fields of IT and cybersecurity, in an investigative report in this regard. The experts emphasized that just talking about something like this requires the government to take all measures and precautions, even if the possibility of it happening is weak. They called for making backup copies of databases and strengthening computers with programs to protect against piracy and viruses. Professor of Information Technology at Kuwait University Dr. Ahmed Al-Munees indicated that the possibility of a global Internet shutdown on October 11 due to a geomagnetic storm is just a rumor, stressing that the last geomagnetic storm was before the current technology. He said, "However, the state must make backup copies and keep them permanently, as well as strengthen computers with anti-piracy and anti-virus programs on an ongoing basis, and take all security precautions related to cyber security. Geomagnetic storms cause electromagnetic flares that may reach the Earth and cause distortions on the Internet or the cables that connect the continents of the world. However, the possibilities are very weak, especially since most cables are usually established under a strong structure capable of confronting these risks. As it was mentioned that cutting off the Internet is a common occurrence and some geographical areas may be affected by it, the percentage of impact will be limited.' Dr. Al-Munees reiterated that a global Internet shutdown is a rumor, indicating that such a rumor occurred five years ago, "but Kuwait must take into account all possibilities".

true, especially with the alleged assertions about submarine Internet cables being damaged during these storms.

Al-Kiribani indicated that the rep-

By Saud Al-Farhan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Avenues Bridge project, regarding which widespread controversy has risen following the accident that occurred at the beginning of this week, was not the only project that was crippled and delayed.

Rather, it is just the tip of the iceberg, and one among the many projects in a long list of delayed and stalled projects. The work periods as per their contracts have expired without being completed and handed over to the beneficiaries or owners.

The reason is mainly the negligence of some employees and leaders of the Ministry of Public Works and their favoritism towards certain companies and contractors working for them.

Although the list is longer than it can be enumerated, Al-Seyassah obtained documents related to two projects in particular. They are still stagnant despite the expiry of their work periods and the urgent and intense need for them.

The first project was the construction, completion, maintenance and furnishing of the Directorate General of Criminal Evidences building. The contract period for the project com-pletion ended on August 1, 2022, but the actual completion rate reached 57 percent.

The project engineer assigned pursuant to resolution No. 10/2022 affirmed that the matter does not end with just the delay in completion of the work on the building, but there are also structural defects and defective concrete poured in the columns.

She said, "The actual start of work on the project was November 28, 2017. The contract was signed on July 19, 2017, and the start order was issued on October 15, 2017. Therefore, the contractual end of the project was assumed on October 13, 2020."

Amended

The project engineer, who was assigned to the task on July 6, 2022, indicated that the amended contractual date for delivering the project is August 31, 2022, based on the due extensions granted to the contractor. The percentage of completion according to the monthly report submitted by the contractor has reached 50 percent due to reasons attributed to the contractor himself.

In a letter she submitted regarding the project's position, the engineer said, "It became clear to me that there are clear deficiencies in the ministry and very modest oversight for a number of reasons, including the absence of specialized technical staff with technical experience that qualifies them to follow up the project work and indicate the extent of the contractor's commitment to the contract specifications, which are the constitution of work on projects.

Also, most of the components of the contract are specialized items, which are of a special nature that require qualified external expertise.

At one stage the services of the project consultant were dispensed with. This in itself led to a clear deficiency in oversight of the contract. The project went beyond the original and additional contractual periods."

In her letter, the engineer recommended forming a higher the project and the possibility of the current implementing contractor continuing to complete the work, and review all previous and subsequent appropriations (contractors and materials) to ensure their safety in order to preserve the project and its users and to preserve public money. She urged the ministry to send a letter to the implementing company and the project manager to highlight the presence of defective concrete in the cast columns in one of the areas of the building, and to request that the defective work be quickly removed and replaced, while reserving the ministry's right to take a decision that it deems appropriate in this regard. The engineer also stressed the need to provide a complete study containing the reasons for the occurrence of defective works, the method of removal while preserving the structural integrity of the building, the parts that will be removed, the method of reinforcement and re-casting, the measures that have been taken to prevent the recurrence of these defects, and identity of the technical staff members responsible for this defect. Meanwhile, the delay in the work on the building and its failure to deliver it on time caused another problem that threatens to a loss of about KD 11 million of the public money. It is the cost of furnishing materials and equipment using that amount, which the Ministry of Interior refused to receive because the building in which it was supposed to be placed had not been completed.



Al-Awadhi

tion of the refineries, as the refineries are still in good condition.

He stressed the importance of developing all security and safety programs on a permanent basis to prevent the recurrence

of accidents in the oil sector, especially fire Boukhadour explained that oil is a liquid

continuous tests.

International Cooperation Maria Tripodi. During the meeting, the two sides

Third Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Mission at the UN Wafeeqa Al-Mulla during the third social, humanitarian and cultural committee meeting

'No progress without women role'

Kuwaiti women have played an important role in building the modern state and societal development as being a crucial element of national development, said a Kuwaiti diplomat.

The state can't implement its future vision unless women are allowed to make an effective and principal participation, Third Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Mission at the UN Wafeeqa Al-Mulla said during the third social, humanitarian and cultural committee of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, held late Tuesday.

She reiterated Kuwait's commitment to Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action regarding gender equality and women's empowerment just out of its constitution which states that people are equal in rights and duties without any discrimination. (KUNA)

Pope Tawadros congrats on 50th 'versary

'Oct 6 victory brought glory to Egypt & the Arab world'

By Bassam Al-Qassas Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the Apostolic See of St. Mark the Evangelist His Holiness Pope Tawadros II congratulated Egyptians as well as all Arabs on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Sixth of October War and the great victory achieved at the hands of the Egyptian army.

In telephone statements with Al-Seyassah reporters, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said, "I offer my sincere congratulations to the Egyptian people on the occasion of the anniversary of this glorious day. In fact, it was not only glorious for Egypt but also for the entire Arab world, because of the Arab cohesion witnessed in the victory, which was unique and one of the reasons for the victory.

Recalling the high morale witnessed during the period of war and its victories, he said, "The month of October represents victory and superiority, which prompts us to adhere to the October spirit of building our homelands and enhancing Arab solidarity and cohesion in the face of the crises the world is now enduring.

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II extended his appreciation and gratitude to the Egyptian Armed Forces, led by President Abdul Fattah el-Sisi, and saluted all statesmen who work to protect its lands. He also saluted "the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of our dignity and elevation".

He revealed that Kuwait has a special place in his heart, especially since the Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations go deep into history, both on the popular and official levels.

Highlighting that the two brotherly people and countries Egypt and Kuwait are united by one fate, which was clearly evident in the October War, with the participation of the Kuwaiti army with a full brigade from the 1976 war until victory, he affirmed

that Kuwait presented the most wonderful images of Arab solidarity and cohesion by presenting 42 martyrs on the land of Sinai.

Appreciating Kuwait's position and its constant support towards Egypt and its people in difficult situations and times of adversity, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II stressed that Egypt is this year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the October War, during which Egyptian blood was united with the blood of its Arab brothers, adding, "We always remember the stance of our Arab brothers and sisters with us at that time."

He praised the high level of democracy in Kuwait, as well as openness, freedom of the press and expression, and religious tolerance

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said the first Egyptian church that was built outside Egypt was in the Gulf region, specifically in Kuwait in the 1960s.

He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Kuwait for embracing the large Egyptian community, and for the popular and fraternal cohesion between the two countries at the level of political leadership, which is an example to be followed in relations between countries.

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II explained that this is not strange for the people of Kuwait, who have been endowed with love, tolerance and generosity since ancient times, adding that the members of the Egyptian community consider Kuwait as their second country and live there with the utmost security, safety and reassurance.

He stressed that the youth are the energy and vitality of the nation, and any service provided to them must be appropriate.

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said the symposium came in conjunction with the October celebrations, especially since a large sector of the youth did not witness the events, revealing that he was in the second year at the university during the October War period.

Alternative means

In this regard, the cybersecurity specialist Hoda Al-Kiribani said the information about an Internet outage around the world and its impact on the planet is a "rumor".

She stressed that the information being circulated that it will happen due to possible effects of solar winds is not etition of these rumors in recent years with the same scenarios is evidence of their weakness adding that geomagnetic storms of this size are rare, and no evidence has been found to confirm the validity of this information.

However, she called for the need to take precautions at all levels by the

state, institutions and individuals.

Al-Kiribani also called for the continuation of and monitoring verifying the effectiveness and readiness of the Internet infrastructure, including cables and satellites,

Dr. Al-Munayyes

and developing effective response strategies for any potential malfunctions, activating the role of cybersecurity, and developing alternative means of communication.

Backups

Head of the Accounting Department at the College of Administrative Sciences in Kuwait University Dr. Sadiq Al-Bassam said, "Precautions are necessary in all eventualities, even if the issue is a global internet shutdown on October 11, regardless of whether this matter is a rumor or a reality.'

He called on all state ministries to protect their information by making copies of all their documents, especially those related to Kuwait's foreign relations.

Dr. Al-Bassam highlighted that Kuwait, during the Iraqi invasion and before the spread of the Internet globally, had backup copies of all its files, and therefore the iCloud service must be generalized in all government agencies.

He said, "The issue of a global Internet shutdown differs from the hacking that the Ministry of Finance was subjected to, especially since hackers have repeatedly infiltrated sensitive devices in America."

In addition, Professor of Computer Science and Technology at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Dr. Bader Al-Khudari said the issue of a global cut-off of the Internet is just a rumor to distract the world, as such a thing occurring in this era is highly unlikely.

He stressed the importance of Kuwait taking precautions in preserving its information, like it did during the period of the Iraqi invasion when it kept copies of all documents of government ministries.

Inspection

As a result, a joint meeting was held for the leaders of the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Interior to reach a solution. During the meeting, officials of the Forensic Evidence Department showed flexibility. Based on the principle of cooperation, they informed the Ministry of Public Works that necessary work would be done to initially approve the devices on condition of passing inspection, provided that this is not considered as receipt of the devices as the receipt will take place later after the completion of the building and receiving it initially.

As a result, the minister formed an investigation committee that completed its work, but did not disclose its recommendations. Al-Seyassah learned that the committee recommended referring the former engineer responsible for the project for investigation, as well as the leaders who headed it. The measures that the minister took regarding the recommendations are not known.

Later, the Government Performance Monitoring Agency sent a letter to the Minister of Public Works confirming that the contractual completion period for the project ended on August 31, 2022, but the actual completion rate was 57 percent as of December 2022; hence the delay rate was 42 percent.

It noted the delay in supplying and installing laboratory tools and equipment, implementing electrical and mechanical works, and furnishing and finishing works.

The agency requested that it be provided with the decision to form a fact-finding committee regarding the violations and deficiencies that marred the project and the measures taken to address the delay.

The long and troubled path in the Forensic Evidences building project was very similar to the path of the project to establish, complete and maintain parking lots for the Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies. A technical committee was formed to unveil its work with the aim of initial delivery in August 2022.

In November 2017, the assistant undersecretary for the Construction Projects Sector sent a letter to the undersecretary of the Ministry, in response to a letter from the latter requesting that the withdrawal of the project be postponed.

The assistant undersecretary said there is evidence proving that the contract is marred by some violations that require determining their size and impact.

He explained that the work team that was formed to study the project's position discovered that what was actually implemented on the ground was two floors less than what was contractually required and no deductions were imposed on the contractor for this. The contractor also did not build the pedestrian bridge connecting the parking lots and the institute, for which no deductions were imposed on the contractor, and no change orders for the deductions were issued.



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LOCAL

diwaniya 🕝 جيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Poorly practised democracy put us in our current situation'

"LIVING in an environment of freedom of expression, we engage in open discussions and critiques across various platforms such as councils, press, media, and communication channels; this openness ensures that the world is well aware of our challenges and issues, although they may seem insignificant compared to larger global concerns. While there are boundaries and subjects we do not cross, when needed, we critique and highlight them in a constructive manner, aiming for reform without resorting to crude language or poor style. Our com-

munication is characterized by clarity and transparency,' columnist Iqbal Al-Ahmad wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"This openness has allowed our fellow brothers in Gulf nations and the broader Arab and Western world to understand both our minor and major problems. We respect the privacy of each nation and what they choose to discuss or keep private; it is their rightful prerogative. However, as Kuwaitis and a nation, we bear the consequences of this atmosphere of freedom, a legacy passed down from our ancestors, beautifully enshrined in our constitution.

"I have reiterated this personally many times, both in local and international media: Kuwaiti women, for in-Iqbal Al-Ahmad stance, faced delays in gaining their political rights, il-

lustrating the price of democracy within our country. Indeed, democracy is not synonymous with perfection. There are countries that excel in democratic practices but grapple with challenges in terms of their standard of living and societal primitiveness.

"I wholeheartedly agree with the esteemed Professor Turki Al-Hamad that democracy in our country has reached a stage where it hampers progress and success. To those who dispute this, I extend a challenge.

"Our development has been impeded due to challenges within the National Assembly, and our national priorities have taken a backseat at times due to the personal priorities of certain representatives.

"Numerous significant projects that could have propelled Kuwait forward were delayed or rejected when swiftly passing them in the National Assembly was crucial. These projects were then seized by other countries, implemented rapidly, and became pivotal in their development and diversification of revenue sources

"Our democracy, unfortunately, has reached a stage where it obstructs growth and advancement. We have always acknowledged and will continue to affirm this fact until the situation is rectified.

"Hence, it is unjust to protest or object to this reality simply because someone from our country or elsewhere has voiced it.

"Kuwait is perhaps one of the smallest nations whose issues are widely known, and people inquire about them as soon as they learn our nationality. Why... because they have heard about our challenges and read about them through local and international media outlets.

"However, let us not misinterpret any criticism as a malicious attack. The matter goes far beyond that. Components essential to societal advancement and progress, such as democracy, freedom, development, and urbanization, should not be sources of contention among people, especially among brethren.

"We take great pride in the progress and development achieved by our neighboring Gulf countries. Likewise, our democracy is a source of immense pride for us. We wish for continued progress and development across all sectors for every Gulf state, and we believe in responsible freedom within appropriate boundaries. Our challenges are a consequence of inadequate and unhealthy democratic practices and the prioritization of private interests by those in positions of power, not a fault of democracy itself.

"Our unity as a Gulf is invaluable, and we are immensely proud of the collective resilience we demonstrated during trying times. We express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to our progress and development, extending our best wishes to all Gulf nations.

"However, this doesn't prompt us to claim that democracy has not served us. On the contrary, it is now the very essence we breathe in every moment. Imagine facing all these challenges without the ability to criticize, object, or even speak up. We would certainly reach a breaking point.

"Our freedom in Kuwait provides solace and comfort. I may accept a tourism project halting for a decade, but I cannot accept my voice being silenced for ten years, unable to criticize backwardness and mismanagement. We, as Kuwaitis, appreciate development wherever it occurs. We commend the progress witnessed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, and other nations, and we compare it to our situation here. However, this comparison does not mean we are willing to abandon democracy as a prerequisite for development.

"We pray for continuous progress and development across all sectors in all Gulf states. We hope for swift catch-up and wish all Gulf states and the Arab world to enjoy democracy and responsible freedom, setting sensible boundar-

"Our current situation is not a consequence of democracy, dear brothers; it's the result of democracy being used and practiced poorly. Additionally, the advancement of private interests by those in power and the lack of effective tools to deter these wrongful practices through immediate and fair application of the law constitute our real challenges.

Also:

"There are some who deny the existence of the deep state in the Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait, by claiming that the state owns all the cards in the game and all the tools of financial and economic power, and can thus eliminate any power that exceeds the limits set for it simply by denying it the elixir of life," columnist Ahmad Al-Mulaifi wrote for Annahar daily

"In order to know the truth behind this statement, we must know that the deep state means the ability of a group or groups with special interests - often illegitimate - to prevent the state from making any decision that affects its interests or detracts from its gains in several legitimate and illegitimate ways

"The most important tools of the deep state are corruption and/or the exploitation of religion

"Corruption happens through corrupt decision-makers and those close to them and involving them to obtain a piece of the cake to control their decisions.

"They use political religion to stop any decision under the claim of what is permissible and what is forbidden based on their interests. The evidence of this is abundant such that there is no space here to mention all of them.

"The deep state penetrates the joints of the state through soft power to achieve control that is difficult to feel and get rid of, but it is not impossible to eliminate or limit it.

"In the policy of the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, we have a clear example about how to confront this situation

"Confronting the deep state requires leadership with a clear vision, specific strategic priorities, objective criteria for selection, full application of governance and transparency, and the pursuit of reward and punishment with justice and equality."

"Indeed, we need to establish foundations and standards, and focus on the positive aspects of life and the turning points we are going through", columnist Dr. Thaher Hadi Al-Markaz wrote for Al-Anba daily.

'Through the challenges that individuals face in various situations and experiences, and mistakes that they learn from, their personality is refined. Day after day, they become mature in the sea of life, riding its waves, armed with knowledge, experiences and skills through which they can achieve successes and reach social levels to serve their country, religion and society

'We have many examples throughout the human ages and civilizations that rose up and developed with knowledge and science.

"In Kuwait, we have reached a developed stage through achievements and successes at the individual and societal levels, starting with laying the basic building block for the state organization through the 1962 Constitution, which established political life, organized laws, and activated the role of the individuals, institutions, and NGOs.

"All of this contributed to achieving progress and prosperity, placing Kuwait on the international map and making it a center for humanitarian work through the efforts of the wise political leadership.

"In our current time, and with the challenges we are experiencing at the individual and state levels, we need a real critical review that examines the political, economic and social reality to identify the deficiencies and address them by activating the role of the law and its institutions. Conferences and discussion circles must be held at the state level to reach radical solutions to problems, which could be the reason for Kuwait not being among the countries of the developed world.

"National anti-corruption plans should also be activated to confront this scourge that the entire world suffers from, and eliminate all negative consequences that hinder the desired progress.

Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Jail, deportation for 'healer'

Syrian found dead near Sulaibiya co-op



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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued to arrest an Egyptian religious healer for molesting three underage girls from his country whom he was supposed to treat through religious incantation (Ruqya), imprison him for a period of five years, and then deport him after serving the sentence.

Has Kuwait become a paradise for swindlers?

50

By Ahmad alsarraf

Other Voices

May God blacken your face' is an age-old adage but still lingers among people. Despite its persistence,

this saying holds no virtue, and many are unfamiliar with its origin. Its roots trace back (a) to ancient times

was apprehended. This individual, disrespecting the law and society, is now being sustained by public funds.

In another disconcerting case, an Arab resident was sentenced to seven years in prison for orchestrating a fraudulent real estate scheme, collecting an estimated 25 million dinars. He faces around 100 cases in Kuwaiti courts and is currently evading authorities outside



Some of the participants at the event.

NLK marks Int'l Translation Day

By Khaled Al-Jales

National Library of Kuwait (NLK) held in collaboration with the translation diwan a symposium on Tuesday to mark the International Translation Day, observed globally on September 30.

The symposium, themed "experi-ences and personalities in the world of translation," selected former president of Kuwait association of translators and head of translation diwan Dr. Tareq Fakhr-Eddin as personality of the year.

The event, which gathered a number of Kuwaiti translators, aimed to explore and foster the talents of translators, Dr. Fakhr-Eddin said in statements to KUNA.

He thanked the organizers of the event for honoring him along with Sara

Al-Sheikh, an author. In a speech to the gathering, Dr. Fakhr-Eddin reviewed his experiment in

the world of translation including the detection of common mistakes in this field. Another speaker at the event was Mod-Allah Al-Shimmeri, a veteran trans-

lator of Chinese literature, who detailed on the linguistic differences in translations from English into Arabic and from Chinese into Arabic.

On his part, Bader Al-Otaibi spoke about his love for story translation and the impact of environment on the writer's life.

Dr. Khalil Kamal spoke about the relationship between translation and science and the launching of his electronic encyclopedia of scientific and technical idioms. (KUNA)

'Kuwait grappling with unemployment'

28,000 Kuwaitis without jobs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The latest data from the Public Authority for Civil Information, as of June 2023, reveals that Kuwait is grappling with unemploy-ment, encompassing both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti individuals, with a total of 31,831 people without work. This constitutes an unemployment rate of approximately 1% when considering the overall labor force of 2.96 million individuals, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Specifically focusing on Kuwaiti labor force numbers, there were 28,190 unemployed Kuwaitis recorded at the end of June 2023. This marks an increase of 2,100 unemployed individuals compared to figures from the end of 2022. Consequently, the unemployment rate among citizens stands at 5.75%, given the total citizen labor force of 490 thousand.

However, it's vital to highlight that comparing unemployment figures in Kuwait with those in developed countries requires a nuanced perspective. In Kuwait, unemployment is often linked to awaiting nominations from the Civil Service Commission, particularly for Kuwaiti graduates seeking positions in the public sector.

This waiting period is influenced by governmental decisions, driven by political and financial considerations. As a result, the 5.75% unemployment rate among citizens may not entirely align with the conventional understanding of unemployment in economic terms.

Examining near-zero unemployment among non-Kuwaitis does not offer a direct reflection of the local economy, especially the private sector. A substantial number of non-Kuwaitis without formal employment choose to leave the country and thus are not accounted for in the statistics.

Therefore, a more accurate gauge of economic activity involves monitoring fluctuations in the number of non-Kuwaiti workers, particularly those in the private sector.

Based on the latest data, the non-Kuwaiti workforce totals 2.475 million individuals, distributed across various sectors: 811,000 in domestic roles, 1.547 million in the private sector, and 112,000 in the government sector.

To infer the economic health of the nation, the key metric to observe is the number of non-Kuwaiti workers in the private sector, as it directly indicates growth and vitality in internal economic activities

According to the case file, the father of the three girls visited the healer in his residence in Mahboula in order to do the incantation on his daughters to rid them of envy. However, they left crying, and told their father that the "heal-

er" did immoral things to their bodies and harassed them.

The father then filed a report with the Ministry of Interior. After investigations, the case was referred to the prosecution and then to the court.

Body of Syrian found: The body of a Syrian expatriate was discovered behind a cooperative society branch in Sulaibiya.

According to security sources, when the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received information about a person lying motionless on the ground behind the cooperative society, police officers and paramedics were immediately dispatched to the location.

I did it, says drug dealer: The Criminal Court adjourned to October 25 the trial of a Kuwaiti drug dealer who brought 50 kilograms of hashish by sea.

During the court session yesterday, the accused was brought before the court from his prison.

He pleaded guilty to the allegations leveled against him, and said, "I am the one who brought those drugs across the sea and I know that my punishment is either death or life imprisonment." The accused said, "Now I am 50 years old, and I want to admit that the rest of the three defendants have no knowledge of drugs.

MPW to promote 998 admin, technical staff

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Public Works, an administrative decision was issued by the Undersecretary of the ministry to assign Eid Al-Rashidi to promote 998 employees by selection in the ministry's administrative and technical sectors, as of September 18.

They said the decision stipulated that the promotion of each of the employees included would be according to the job grade, and that each of the promoted employees be granted the first salary of the new rank to which he was promoted to, in addition to bonuses, as well as amending the categories of allowances and other bonuses granted to any of them according to the promoted rank.

The sources stressed that the list of employees who were promoted according to the job grades allocated for promotion by selection in the ministry's budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year were approved by the ministry's Personnel Affairs Committee during its meeting held on March 3, 2023 and approved by the concerned authority.

MoH wins award: The Ministry of Health has proudly announced that Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital has been honored with the International Achievement Award by the World Stroke Organization, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement released today, the Ministry highlighted that this prestigious award recognizes Mubarak Hospital as a fullyequipped, comprehensive center capable of providing top-tier care to acute stroke patients, on par with renowned international facilities. The hospital offers a wide range of medical services for stroke cases, including the dissolution of acute blood clots and the removal of strokes using interventional catheters.

when, before imprisonment, the face of someone sentenced for a crime would be blackened. Coal alsarraf

public and serve as a deterrent.

ous citizens and residents, yet the public

This lack of transparency allows per-

Consequently, Kuwait has inadver-

tently become a haven for con artists

who roam freely, especially following

the abolishment of arrest and habeas

corpus. Presently, our newspapers

are replete with reports of scams, all

sourced from credible, official chan-

One recent distressing report in our

newspapers highlighted the arrest of

an Indian fraudster wanted for a mil-

lion dinars. He had amassed 38 con-

victions related to fraud, theft, and

nine years ago, he managed to escape

imprisonment until recently when he

Despite his residency having expired

petrators, particularly those engaged in

defrauding innocent people, to persist in

was placed on a

remains uninformed.

their crimes.

nels.

breach of trust.



surface, not considering the real estate fraud cases where thousands of citizens fall victim. Thus, in 2017, as a concerned citizen, I twice wrote to the Ministry of Interior, urging the creation of a publicly accessible website or network displaying wanted individuals. This platform should also publicize the names of those subject to final judgments from the judiciary, warning citizens of potential dangers. Unfortunately, there has been no response to this proposal.

As Kuwait inadvertently becomes a sanctuary for swindlers, their victims are left to bear the brunt of their schemes. This predicament is akin to "eating sour grapes," a phrase originating from the Bible, conveying that while swindlers enjoy the ripe grapes their victims are left with the unripe, sour ones. May God aid the innocent and guide

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, the proactive Minister of Interior, to consider and implement our proposal.

Establishing a network for wanted in-dividuals and sharing information about those convicted by the judiciary would go a long way in safeguarding our community. We remain hopeful for a positive response and proactive measures to secure the well-being of our people.

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



LOCAL

'Eczema is most prevalent skin condition among kids in Kuwait'

First regional confab on pediatric dermatology opens

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Dr. Atlal Al-Lafi, Chair of the First Regional Conference for Pediatric Dermatology and Head of the Council of Dermatology Departments in the Ministry of Health, disclosed to Al-Seyassah that eczema is the most prevalent skin condition among children in Kuwait, affecting up to 25 percent of them. She highlighted the prevalence of hereditary skin diseases, especially in cases of consanguineous marriages, where it can manifest at birth as thinning of the skin, chronic ulcers, and blisters. In some families, multiple children may be affected by these conditions.

Dr. Al-Lafi emphasized that the diagnosis of hereditary skin diseases necessitates genetic testing. Kuwait utilizes two methods for diagnosis, leveraging the services of the Ghanima Al-Ghanem Center for Genetic Diseases, as well as genetic centers in the UK and Taiwan, to ensure accurate genetic diagnoses that aid families in managing the disease. She noted that this cat-

> egory of diseases constitutes less than 1 percent of the total skin diseases in the country

The inaugural session of the first regional conference on pediatric dermatology took place today, featuring numerous contributions from consultant doctors in pediatric subspecialties from Kuwait and other Arab Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, as well as European countries including the UK, Spain, and Cyprus, and countries in the Ameri-cas like Argentina, Mexico, and Canada, along with representatives from India, Singapore, and Malaysia.

Dr. Al-Lafi stressed that the conference serves as a platform for discussing the latest advancements in diagnosing and treating skin diseases in children, fostering knowledge exchange among experts in the field. The conference spans three days, culminating in recommendations that will be implemented in Kuwait, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the broader Arab world, aiming to enhance healthcare services in this domain.

Furthermore, Dr. Al-Lafi mentioned the establishment of communication channels with international medical centers to benefit from their expertise and to share Kuwait's experience with the world, given its more than 30-year history in this field. She underlined the significance of addressing various skin diseases affecting children, both genetic and hereditary, within the scope of conference



Group photo of KUNA officials and participants at the summer training program.

KUNA honors graduates of summer training course

KUNA's Center for Media Development honored on Tuesday Kuwait University students, who completed offered them certificates and cash rewards.

Deputy Director General of KUNA's Editorial sector, Essam Al-Ghanim said the course was organized by KUNA as part of its social responsibility role to help prepare students for working in media and journalism.

Al-Ghanim also mentioned the course has been consistent throughout the years since it began in 2014, except during the COVID-19 epoch, and pointed to this year's eighth edition as being a more technologically derived program.

On behalf of the Director General and the agency staff, he gratified the new graduates and wished them thriving and successful careers.

Present at the ceremony, Head of the Development Center Abrrar Al-Ghanim said the course was organized from the sixth of August to the 14th of September, with an upgraded training approaches in collabo-ration with the Kuwait University, encompassing two Languages (English, French) and a graphics design program made available for all students from all uni-

versities Adding, it also involved editorial field work, aiding in applying the skills needed, included field visits to a number of institutions to learn the foundations of writing press news. Graduate Sarah Ramadan said a lot of knowledge

was presented to the trainees during the course, mainly in the aim of developing their writing skills. She also thanked KUNA for such a course that helps prepare



KUNA photo

Room Promotion

HH Amir congratulates Lesotho on National Day Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has sent a cable to the King of Lesotho Letsie III congratulating him on the National Day of his country.

wished the King everlasting well-being. His Highness the Amir wished the Also, His Highness the Prime Min-King everlasting well-being and the people of Lesotho progress and prosister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has sent a cable to King Letsie III congratulating him on the Na-

perity Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown

HH the Crown Prince hosts AI-Saadoun

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun.



AIU partners with HYU

American Int'l University Kuwait & Hanyang University Seoul forge a Transformative Academic Alliance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: American Inter-national University (AIU) Kuwait, and Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea, have embarked on a significant academic collaboration. The two prestigious institutions have formalized their commitment to cooperation and knowledge exchange through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This historic event marks the beginning of a promising partnership between the two establishments. The collaboration focuses on joint research endeavors, faculty and research personnel exchange, student exchange programs, academic events participation, and co-hosting, as well as resource and information sharing. This collaborative effort signifies a shared vision of advancing knowledge and fostering a global community of scholars.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between American International University and Hanyang University represents a milestone in academic partnerships within the region. The agreement was sealed through the signatures of Dr. Ki-Jeong Lee, President of Hanyang University, and Dr. Michael Pishko, President of American International University. Their commitment to this endeavor holds the promise of innovative research, enriched academic experiences, and enduring crosscultural exchange, positioning both institutions at the forefront of global academic collaboration.

Jaber Al-Sabah has sent a cable to King

Letsie III congratulating him on the Na-

His Highness the Crown Prince

tional Day of his country.

tional Day of his country.



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Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast per night.			
NOW	NOW			
BHD 57.173 /-net	BHD 128.000 /-net			
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)				
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.			
NOW	NOW			
BHD 65.000 /-net	BHD 145.000/-net			
mo period from 1 st – 31 st October 2023	Terms & conditions ap			

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Bid to avert taxes on Kuwaiti multinational corporations operating in foreign markets

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Intensive deliberations are ongoing to avert the potential imposition of taxes on Kuwaiti multinational corporations operating in foreign markets. Initial indications propose that Kuwait might implement taxes on these companies at a rate of up to 15 percent, reports Al-Rai daily. According to reliable sources the

relevant authorities are presently engrossed in examining the best approach to a new tax proposal presented by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This proposal initially targets approximately 10 local companies engaged in foreign operations and may eventually encompass multinational corporations.

The sources clarified that there is a distinct inclination towards expanding the tax base imposed on Kuwaiti multinational enterprises domestically rather than reducing the tax amount on foreign soil.

It has been disclosed that the organization has set a minimum annual revenue

Kuwait construction

threshold of 750 million Euros. Several Kuwaiti companies fall within this range, making them subject to this tax, which is likely to be enforced in the coming year.

The sources emphasized, "It appears that there is mounting international pressure on all nations, Kuwait and the Gulf states included, to raise their tax rates to a minimum of 15 percent."

Additionally, the sources unveiled that prominent Kuwaiti companies with a presence in international markets are presently collaborating with their audit offices to formulate various scenarios for accounting methods in response to the anticipated tax proposal by the OECD, whether the deduction takes place locally or internationally.

Recalling the International Monetary Fund's recommendations for Kuwait in June regarding financial reforms, which emphasized a 15 percent expansion of corporate income tax to encompass local enterprises and fulfill OECD requirements concerning minimum taxes for multinational corporations.

Lawmakers urge

Continued from Page 1

the sector grapples with escalating construction costs due to a labor shortage, resulting in unprecedented wage hikes. This has negatively impacted housing plot costs, placing an increased financial burden on citizens, especially in the face of rising building material prices.

The labor shortage issue extends beyond quantity to encompass quality, with experienced workers leaving the real estate market in large numbers over the past two years. This exodus was triggered by government decisions to restructure the population, following the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, daily wages for construction workers have more than tripled, rising from 10 dinars before the pandemic to 30 dinars presently.

The Real Estate and Public Projects Committee of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called for solutions to the challenges faced by the contracting sector. These include addressing delays in payment collection from the state, delays in project awards and contract signings, and issues related to material and labor supply, as well as contract imbalances with the state, resulting in additional costs for contractors. Resolving these obstacles would not only benefit the completion of projects but also accelerate their progress, benefiting both the public and private sectors.

Continued from Page 1

The agreement was signed in 2012, approved by the Iraqi Parliament and previously by the Iraqi Federal Court, and referred to the United Nations, emphasizing the UN resolution No. 833/1993.

The MPs concluded by affirming that supporting the agreement by an international community is part of respecting and supporting the independence and sovereignty of countries more than just supporting the State of Kuwait.

In another development, MP Fares Al-Otaibi submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and the State Minister of Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shoula, asking for the organizational structure of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

He asked if a new organizational structure was recently approved. If yes, he wanted copies of the former and current organizational structures, the reasons behind the amendments, and a copy of the decision to form the committee assigned to make the amendments, along with the names, positions and CVs of the members of that committee.

Also, MP Fares Al-Otaibi submitted parliamentary questions to the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs Saad Al-Barrak.

LOCAL

5



The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz hosts a celebration of the German Unity Day, in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber, with some of the foreign dignitaries present at the occasion. H. E. Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Kuwait.

Germany grants 5-year Schengen visas for Kuwaitis

Kuwait, Germany forge deeper ties, celebrate 60 years of diplomacy

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the State of Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz affirmed that Kuwait is a major investor in his country, and is considered as a respected international partner.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of a celebration held the day before yesterday evening on the occasion of the German Unity Day, in the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber, he revealed that his embassy recently started granting Schengen visas for a period of five years to Kuwaiti citizens who

wish to travel to Europe.



H E Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to tate of

visa for five years as long as his pass-port is valid."

In response to a question about the number of visas that have been issued since the implementation of the deci-sion, he said, "I cannot give a specific number. We have to wait until the end of the year. The number will rise and reach the level that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic, and perhaps more than that."

He said he considers the State of Kuwait as an appreciated and respected international partner, highlighting the joint cooperation on many important and pressing issues.

Ambassador Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz stated that the State of Kuwait is a major investor in Germany while his country is "the large est European exporter of high-quality consumer goods.

Kuwait affirms readiness to implement UN's 2030 goals

State pledges to attain carbon neutrality

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has af-



Ambassador Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz expressed his appreciation for the participation of a large number of invitees in the celebration.

He said, "It is good to see so many Kuwaitis and Germans, as well as our partners from other embassies, and all our friends sharing our joy on this important day, which means a lot to us.

I am also proud of our celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relationship with Kuwait, which we will celebrate in the next six months until May.

He highlighted that the celebration will include concerts, workshops, and discussion panels at the embassy and other very important places, such as the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.

Regarding his country's implementation of the European decision to provide facilities to Kuwaitis and grant them a long-term visa of up to five years, the ambassador said, "Indeed, our country implemented this decision ten days ago, and we are now in the process of implementing it."

He indicated that activating this decision would reduce the pressure on visa application centers, and would also allow Kuwaiti citizens to travel to Germany and other European countries at any time, adding that the fear of not obtaining a visa on time has thus been tackled.

Ambassador Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz said, "Any Kuwaiti citizen can now obtain a Schengen

He affirmed that Kuwaiti visitors are welcome in his country, as "Germany has become their second favorite home for many Kuwaitis, at least during the summer, and they are not viewed as tourists, but as important members of the existing communities.

The ambassador added that the two sides seek to establish a greater strategic partnership for the future, stressing the mutual appreciation for rational policy-making and humanitarian commitment at the global level, and a principled approach in dealing with issues of peace and security and confronting international challenges, especially climate change.

firmed its readiness to implement the UN 17 goals for 2030 to tackle global environmental and development issues.

Badr Al-Daihani, the State of Kuwait third secretary in the permanent mission at the UN, made the statement while addressing the second committee of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, held late on Tuesday. The State of Kuwait dedicates special concern for boosting regional and international partnerships for facing cross-border

challenges through providing aid amid complex challenges, he said. Kuwait had pledged dur-

ing the 27th session of the UN framework climate convention, held in Egypt, to attain carbon neutrality in the oil and gas sectors by 2050, as well in the industries by 2060, Al-Daihani said.

Bioactivities

As to Kuwait's bioactivities, the third secretary said Kuwait "launched" a solarpowered station for storing and desalinating water last year. The 30 MW station is due to begin operating in the coming few years.

Moreover, companies have recently declared plans to build a solar-powered complex with a five GW capacity, HE SAID, noting that the Kuwaiti institutions have already manifested significant capacities and paved the way for setting up "Sedra" and "Al-Shagaya" ventures.

conditions that emanated from the pandemic over the past years coerced states to enforce constraints, resulting in hurdles in the face of development, Al-Daihani

KUNA photo Badr Al-Daihani, Third Secretary of the Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to the United Nations.

Souk Al Salmiah Mall Congratulates its "Back to School Festival" Competition Winners

Souk Al Salmiah Mall announced on Friday, September 29th at 6 P.M. its competition winners in its Back to School Festival ceremony that took place in its commercial center in Salmiya.

The Back to School Festival ran from August 10 to September 26 and gave families of Kuwait the chance to win valuable prizes when shopping at Souk AI Salmiah Mall. Children and adults enjoyed a set of fun and engaging activities in the mall and entered the draw each time they spent 10 Kuwait Dinars.

"We know that going back to school is a challenging month for many families with small wallets, and even more challenging for kids who were enjoying their summer breaks. That's why we thought of rewarding our visitors with an amazing "Back to School" variety of products, as well as activities." said, Mr. Khaled Haddad, Souk Al Salmiah Services Supervisor.

Souk AI Salmiah is one of Kuwait's earliest centers and has always believed that providing for the Kuwaiti family is part of helping the community at large. The festival awarded 43 prize winners with TV Screens, iPhone 14 Plus, Apple iPads and laptops.

"We want to congratulate all the winners. We hosted award festivals this year back in February, Ramadan, and now Back to School seasons. We want to welcome everyone again and again to Souk Al Salmiah." added Mr. Abdelaziz Al Anbaae, General Leasing Manager at Souk Al Salmiah Real Estate Company.

The competition prize winners are:

No. Name		No.	Name
1	Hanan Abed AL Aziz Al Dakheel	23	Adel Mostafa Alawi
2	Malek Amr Bakr	24	Abdullah Khaled Taresh
3	Rafat Tahat	25	Noor Arar
4	Mahrukh Shakeel	26	Risalyn Lacorte
5	Younes Karam	27	Zahra Khodor Albou Hasan
6	Tyrone Navarantraja	28	Hanan Fahed
7	Souad Ibrahim Kandara	29	Mohamad Mansour Al Kallaf
8	Prasad Rao	30	Mohammed Abed Al Halim
9	Hassan Ali Al Abbad	31	Ouhoud Amin Saleh
10	Wahida Delna	32	Shary Sumail
11	Sondos Hassan	33	Abdallah Mohamed Al Sibaii
12	Mohammed Mujahed		
13	Zahraa Kasem Kambar	34	Lyn Mohamad Fawzi
14	Fahed AL Gharib	35	Zahraa Kasem Kambar
15	Boudour Khaled Al Belloushi	36	Safia Issa
16	Hasan Hekmat Amin	37	Ouhoud Amin Saleh
17	Shilpa Kelkar	38	Ghala Al Zafiri
18	Abrar Nabil Al Taher	39	Batoul Poland
19	Nitin Kumar Birla	40	Hayaa Ayed Mohamed
20	Sawsan Al Sibai	41	Fatemah Youssef Al Friej
21	Qutbudin Paliwala	42	Ouhoud Amin Saleh
22	Hassan Mohanad Al Belloushi	43	Faby John









The extraordinary global elaborated.

Re-shedding light on Kuwait's humanitarian efforts, he noted that Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development was set up in 1961 to aid afflicted nations and support development in needy communities and nations.

INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

Europe

Braverman wows party Britain's PM ready to take tough decisions

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 4, (AP): Battling Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday urged skeptical voters, and his own Conservative Party: Keep me in office and I'll offer you change.

In his first - and possibly last - speech as leader to the party's annual conference before an election due in 2024, Sunak said he's not afraid to make tough choices and big decisions that will deriver long com-success" rather than "short-term advantage." But one of his big deci-sions has divided the party and threatens to derail his agenda: choices and big decisions that will deliver "long-term



scrapping much of an ambi-tious but overbudget highspeed railway line that was planned to link London and Manchester.

Sunak said he was canceling the rest of the embattled HS2 project because its costs have doubled and "the facts have changed.'

"The economic case has massively been weakened by the changes to business travel post-COVID," he said, arguing it would be an "abdication of leadership" to continue.

Some Conservatives said the decision was a bad move - and doing it at a conference in Manchester was disastrous

Leave

Andy Street, the Conservative mayor of the West Midlands region, called it "an incredible political gaffe" that would leave the party's opponents saying "the Tories have come to Manchester to shaft the North.'

The embattled High Speed 2 railway, once billed as Europe's largest infrastructure project, was meant to slash journey times and increase capacity between London, the central England city of Birmingham and the northern cities of Manchester and Leeds with 250 mph (400 kph) state-of-the-art trains.

Depicted as a key part of the government's plans to level up the country by redistributing jobs and investment from the affluent south of England to the poorer north, its cost was estimated at 33 billion pounds in 2011 but has soared to more than 100 billion pounds (\$122 billion) by some estimates. The Manchester-Leeds leg was lopped off by the Conservative government in 2021, after the coronavirus pandemic brought train travel to a halt. UK passenger numbers have recovered, but are only about 80% of pre-pandemic levels.

Sunak said the high-speed line will end at Birmingham, 100 miles (160 kilometers) from London, rather than farther north in Manchester. He said that would free 36 billion pounds (\$44 billion) for new road and rail projects across the Midlands and North.

Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, a member of the opposition Labour Party, said the decision sends the message that "we can't do big and difficult things anymore, and I don't think it reflects well on Britain.

I just don't think it's fair to people in Greater Manchester to do this," he said

Move

Jack Brereton, a Conservative lawmaker from the



Night falls on the dome of the Capitol, hours after Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was ousted as Speaker of the House, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023 in Washington. Inset: McCarthy leaves the House floor. (AP)

Politics



Speaker McCarthy ousted in historic vote

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): US Speaker Kevin McCarthy was voted out of the job Tuesday in an extraor-dinary showdown - a first in US history, forced by a contingent of hard-right conservatives and throwing the House and its Republican leadership

It's the end of the political line for McCarthy, who has said repeatedly that he never gives up, but found himself with almost no options remaining. Neither the right-flank Republicans who engineered his ouster nor the Democrats who piled on seem open to

negotiating. McCarthy told lawmakers in the evening he would not run again for speaker, putting the gavel up for grabs. Next steps are highly uncertain with no obvious successor to lead the House Republican majority. Action is halted in the House until next week, when Republicans try to elect a new speaker. "I may have lost this vote today, but as I walk out of this chamber I feel fortunate to have served." McCarthy said at a press conference at the Capitol, alternating between upbeat assessment of his speakership and angry scoresettling of those who ousted him. Still, he said, "I wouldn't change a thing.

lawmakers met privately to discuss the path forward.

It was a stunning moment for McCarthy, a punishment fueled by growing grievances but sparked by his week-end decision to work with Democrats to keep the federal government open rather than risk a shutdown.

But in many ways, McCarthy's ouster was set in motion when, in deal-making with hard-right holdouts at the start of the year, he agreed to a series of demands - including a rules change that allowed any single lawmaker to file the motion to va-

cate. As the House fell silent, Gaetz, a top ally of Donald Trump, rose to offer his motion.

Leaders tried to turn it back, but the vote was 218-208, with 11 Republidonations.

McCarthy, of California, insisted he would not cut a deal with Democrats to remain in power - not that he could have relied on their help even if he had asked.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a letter to colleagues that he wants to work with Republicans, but he was unwilling to provide the votes needed to save McCarthy.

"It is now the responsibility of the GOP members to end the House Republican Civil War," Jeffries said, announcing the Democratic leadership would vote for the motion to oust the speaker.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden "hopes the House will quickly elect a Speaker." Once that happens, she said, "he looks

into chaos.

Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak arrives at the Conservative Party annual conference at Manchester Central convention complex, in Manchester, England, on Oct 3. (AP)





Midlands, said HS2 welcomed the move to truncate the line, saying "we can reinvest that money in schemes that actually will deliver that levelling up in the Midlands and the North.'

Sunak is trying to persuade the voting public that a party in power for 13 years deserves another term in office. In recent weeks he's announced populist measures - such as slowing moves to phase out fossil fuels - designed to win back voters who have rejected the Conservatives over Britain's stagnating economy, cost-of-living crisis and waves of strikes, including one Wednesday by train drivers that upended some conference participants' travel plans.

Like many Conservatives, he invoked the spirit of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose free-market policies transformed Britain in the 1980s, at a high cost to working-class communities. Sunak suggested he was Thatcher's political heir - and not the five other Conservative prime ministers since.

"We've had 30 years of a political system which incentivizes the easy decision, not the right one 30 years of vested interests standing in the way of change," Sunak said.

Sunak took office just under a year ago after his predecessor Liz Truss alarmed financial markets and roiled the economy with a plan for unfunded tax cuts. She lasted just 49 days in power. Before that, Sunak was Treasury chief to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who resigned amid multiple ethics scandals.

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman railed against unauthorized migrants, human rights laws and "woke" critics of her hard-line policies Tuesday, as she tried to secure her place as the flag-bearer of the Conservative Party's authoritarian law-and-order wing.

In her keynote speech to the governing party's annual conference, Braverman called migration a "hurricane" that would bring "millions more immigrants to these shores, uncontrolled and unmanageable

She said that UK governments had been "far too squeamish about being smeared as racist to properly bring order to the chaos." But the Conservatives, she said, would give Britain "strong borders."

Braverman hailed the government's moves to make it harder for migrants to seek asylum in the UK, including a law that requires anyone arriving in small boats across the English Channel to be detained and then deported permanently to their home nation or third countries.

Also:

VENICE: A bus carrying dozens of people plummeted 15 meters (50 feet) from an elevated road in Venice, causing a fiery crash that killed 21 people and injured at least 15, mostly foreign tourists returning to a nearby campsite.

Those who died in the Tuesday night crash included at least four Ukrainians and a German citizen, according to Venice prefecture.

At least two of the dead were children, Venice prefect Michele Di Bari said, adding that many of the people involved in the accident were "young.

Firefighters worked until dawn Wednesday to clear the wreckage. Later in the morning, traffic was slowly passing the spot where the bus burst through a guardrail and a rusted fence.

The accident scene drew the attention of passersby. A couple of locals said that the overpass was more than 60 years old and that nothing similar had ever happened there, while a man wearing a biker jacket stopped his motorcycle to tie to a post a bouquet of plastic flowers.

Green

America

5 hurt in campus shooting: A shooting interrupted a homecoming week celebration at Baltimore's Morgan State University on Tuesday, wounding five people and prompting an hourslong lockdown of the historically Black college.

Students hunkered down for about four hours, as police went room to room looking for suspects. No arrests were made.

Police Commissioner Richard Worley said the five victims, four men and one woman, are between the ages of 18 and 22. Their injuries were not life-threatening, he told reporters at a news conference early Wednesday.

Morgan State Police Chief Lance Hatcher said four of the victims are students at the university. The police did not release information about a suspect or suspects, and Worley said that investigators didn't know how many shooters were involved.

The shooting happened shortly after the coronation of Mister & Miss Morgan State at the Murphy Fine Arts Center, as students were heading to a campus ball.(AP)

'Delay tourism reopening': Residents from fire-stricken Lahaina on Tuesday delivered a petition asking Hawaii Gov Josh Green to delay plans to reopen a portion of West Maui to tourism starting this weekend, saying the grieving community is not ready to welcome back visitors.

The petition signed by 3,517 people from West Maui zip codes comes amid a fierce and anguished debate over when travelers should return to the region home to the historic town of Lahaina that was destroyed in the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. At least 98 people died in the Aug. 8 blaze and more than a dozen are missing. The first phase of the plan to reopen Maui to tourists begins Sunday, the two-month anniversary of the disaster.

Though many residents say they are not ready, others say they need tourism so they can work in hotels and restaurants to earn a living. "We are not mentally nor emotionally

ready to welcome and serve our visitors. Not yet," restaurant bartender Pa'ele Kiakona said at a news conference before several dozen people delivered the petition. "Our grief is still fresh and our losses too profound." (AP)

Apartment fire injures 3: A major fire spread through an apartment complex

McCarthy's chief rival, Rep Matt Gaetz of Florida, orchestrated the rare vote on the obscure "motion to vacate," and pushed ahead swiftly into a dramatic afternoon roll call.

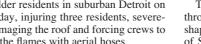
While McCarthy enjoyed support from most Republicans in his slim majority, eight Republican detractors many of the same hard-right holdouts who tried to stop him from becoming speaker in January - essentially forced him out.

Stillness fell as the presiding officer gaveled the vote closed, 216-210, saying the office of the speaker "is hereby declared vacant.'

Moments later, a top McCarthy ally, Rep Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., took the gavel and, according to House rules, was named speaker pro tempore, to serve in the office until a new speaker is chosen.

The House then briskly recessed as

for older residents in suburban Detroit on Tuesday, injuring three residents, severely damaging the roof and forcing crews to fight the flames with aerial hoses



cans against tabling the motion, a sign of trouble to come.

Modern

The House then opened a floor debate unseen in modern times, and Republicans argued publicly among themselves for more than an hour.

"It's a sad day," Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said as debate got underway, urging his colleagues not to plunge the House Republican majority "into chaos."

But Gaetz shot back during the debate, "Chaos is Speaker McCarthy."

As the fiery debate dragged on, many of the complaints against the speaker revolved around his truthfulness and his ability to keep the promises he has made.

Almost alone, Gaetz led his side of the floor debate, criticizing the debt deal McCarthy made with President Joe Biden and the vote to prevent a government shutdown, which conservatives opposed as they demanded steeper spending cuts.

But a long line of McCarthy supporters stood up for him, including Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a leader of the conservative Freedom Caucus, who said, "He has kept his word." Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., waved his cellphone, saying it was "disgusting" that hard-right colleagues were fundraising off the move in text messages seeking

TV stations posted video of fire ripping through the roof at the three-story, crossshaped complex known as the Meadows of Southgate. The roof collapsed in sev-



A Baltimore City Fire Department truck stages at Morgan State University during a shooting on the campus on Oct 3 in Baltimore. (AP)

forward to working together with them.'

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell issued a statement thanking McCarthy for "what is often a thankless role.

At the Capitol, both Republicans and Democrats met privately ahead of the historic afternoon vote.

Behind closed doors, McCarthy told fellow Republicans: Let's get on with 1t.

McCarthy invoked Republican Speaker Joseph Cannon, who more than 100 years ago confronted his critics head-on by calling their bluff and setting the vote himself on his ouster. Cannon survived that takedown attempt, which was the first time the House had actually voted to consider removing its speaker. A more recent threat against John Boehner in 2015 didn't make it to a vote but led him to early retirement.

Gaetz was in attendance, but he did not address the room.

Across the way in the Capitol, Democrats lined up for a long discussion and unified around one common point: McCarthy cannot be trusted, several lawmakers in the room said.

Removing the speaker launches the House Republicans into chaos heading into a busy fall when Congress will need to fund the government again or risk a mid-November shutdown.

eral places.

Three residents were taken to a hospital, Southgate Fire Chief Justin Graves told The Detroit News. Their medical conditions were not immediately known.

One firefighter and one police officer suffered smoke inhalation and were also taken to a hospital, Graves said. (AP)

Judge issues limited gag order: Rebuking **Donald Trump**, a state court judge imposed a limited gag order Tuesday in the former president's civil business fraud trial and ordered him to delete a social media post that publicly maligned a key court staffer,

Judge Arthur Engoron told all participants in the case not to smear court personnel, warn-ing of "serious sanctions" if they do.

'Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, not appropriate, and I will not tolerate them," Engoron said after complaining - without naming names - about a defendant's "disparaging, untrue and personally identifying post about a member of my staff."

A few hours earlier, Trump had posted a photo of Engoron's principal law clerk, Allison Greenfield, posing with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., at a public event. Trump, the Republican front-runner for president in 2024, has repeatedly cast the trial as a political attack by New York's Democratic attorney general, Letitia James. (AP)

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Lat/Am

'School of rock' in Haiti Bogota issues apology for extrajudicial killings

BOGOTA, Colombia, Oct 4, (AP): Colombia's government issued a long awaited public apology on Tuesday for the extrajudicial killings of 19 civilians who were slain by the military and registered as rebel fighters during one of the most violent periods of the nation's civil war.

The apology comes as Colombia's government attempts to make amends with communities affected by decades of armed conflict and broker peace deals with rebel groups that are still fighting the military in rural areas despite a 2016 peace deal between the government and the nation's largest rebel group.

These (killings) should have never happened," Defense Minister Iván Velásquez said at an event in front of the nation's congress attended by the victims'



relatives. "We ask you to forgive us for these crimes that embarrass us in front of the world," Velásquez said in a speech. The killings took place between 2004 and 2008 as Colombia's military intensified its campaign against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - the rebel group that made peace with the government in 2016.

Velasquez

The killings involved young men from poor neighborhoods who were lured away from their homes with false promises of jobs in other parts of the country. Once they arrived at their destinations, the victims were shot by soldiers who dressed their corpses in camouflage, or placed weapons next to their bodies, and presented them to their superiors as rebels killed in combat in order to secure promotions and vacation time.

Courts in Colombia have been ordering the government to apologize for these cases - known here as "false positives" -- since 2015, as part of a set of reparation measures which also included prison sentences for some of the soldiers and officers involved.

Recognize

But the administrations of Presidents Juan Manuel Santos and Iván Duque had skirted around the orders to apologize in public because they were reluctant to recognize that during the nation's armed conflict the military committed war crimes that were just as serious as those carried out by rebel groups, said Gimena Sanchez, a Colombia expert at the Washington Office on Latin America - a human rights group.

Sanchez said the recently elected government of Gustavo Petro, Colombia's first leftist president, has been more willing to collaborate with investigations into war crimes, including those undertaken by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, a transitional justice system created by the 2016 peace deal.

"This is incredibly important to the victims fami-lies," Sanchez said. "Those family members had to deal with the stigma of supposedly being family members of guerrillas.

According to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, Colombia's military committed at least 6,402 extrajudicial killings between 2002 and 2008, as commanders pressured their troops to provide more results on the battlefield, and placed an emphasis on increasing the number of enemy casualties.

The peace tribunal recently charged a former com-



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows what it says is an intercontinental ballistic missile in a launching drill at the Sunan international airport in Pyongyang, North Korea on March 16, 2023. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central

News Agency. North Korea slammed the United States over a recent Pentagon report that labeled it a "persistent" threat because of weapons of mass destrucwith "the most overwhelming and sustained response strategy." Meanwhile, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol vowed to defend the nation from North Korea's provocations by strengthening its ability to respond "immediately and overwhelmingly," Yonhap News Agency reported. (AP)

Asia



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, rescuers carry the body of one of the victims as it arrives at a port in Infanta, Pangasinan province, Philippines on Oct 3. A few Flipino fishermen died in the disputed South China Sea after their boat was accidentally hit by a passing commer-cial vessel, the Philippine coast guard said Wednesday. (AP)

Africa

US warns of Chinese global disinformation 3 Filipino fishermen die in South China Sea

NEW DELHI, Oct 4, (AP): Police in New Delhi have arrested the editor

of a news website and one of its ad-

ministrators after raiding the homes of journalists working for the site,

which has been critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist-led government. The arrests were made late

Tuesday after some journalists associated with NewsClick were

detained and their digital devices

seized during extensive raids that were part of an investigation into whether it had received funds from

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 4, (AP): Three Filipino fishermen died in the disputed South China Sea after their boat was accidentally hit by a passing commercial vessel, the Philippine coast guard said Wednesday. The fishermen's boat, F/B Dearyn,

was moored in a fishing area in the high seas off the northwestern Philippines when it was hit before dawn on Monday by the passing vessel and capsized, killing its skipper and two crew members. Three other fishermen aboard the Dearyn survived, the coast guard said

Eight other men were fishing separately on board smaller boats at the time of the accident, officials said.

Due to adverse weather conditions and the darkness, "the crew on board the mother boat failed to detect an unidentified vessel approaching, resulting in a collision that caused the mother boat to capsize," the coast guard said.

China. NewsClick denied any financial misconduct.

had received funds from an American millionaire who had funded the spread of "Chinese propaganda."

That same month, India's junior minister for information and broad-NewsClick of spreading an "anti-India agenda," citing the New York Times report, and of working with the opposition Indian National Congress party. Both NewsClick and the Congress party denied the accusations.

Media watchdogs including the Committee to Protect Journalists denounced the arrests and raids and said they were part of an inten-

NewsClick editor, admin held in India after conducting raids

mander of Colombia's army for the murders of 130 civilians between 2002 and 2003 in Antioquia province.

At Tuesday's event, the mothers, sisters, sons and daughters of the 19 victims were invited to speak.

Many carried photos of the victims, and wore tshirts with their names.

While the relatives thanked Velásquez, the defense minister, for attending the event and issuing an apology, most said they were not ready to forgive.

And they said the ones who should be apologizing to them are the politicians that were leading Colombia when the murders of their relatives occurred, including Santos, who was Colombia's defense minister between 2006 and 2009.

Also:

MEXICO CITY: Last year, Mexico's official number of missing people grew to over 100,000 for the first time. This year it stands even higher with authorities announcing Tuesday that 111,916 people have been "forcibly disappeared" and never found again since records began in 1962.

The true number could be higher still, however, due to systemic issues with the country's register of missing people, according to the U.N. Committee on Enforced Disappearances which reported the figure. For advocates and victims, it's a sign that Mexico's current administration is taking another "step backwards" since the register was conceived in 2018.

While acknowledging the Mexican government cooperated with some of its requests since its last full observations in 2018, the U.N. said the national register still lacks a "clear and transparent methodology or disaggregated data on the sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic and migrant status of victims, among other demographics.

Elsewhere in the report, the U.N. said Mexican authorities were guilty of "revictimizing" some grieving relatives, including by accusing families of hiding abducted loved ones.

María Luisa Aguilar has worked as an advocate for missing people in Mexico for 15 years and said victims' families "face a lot of risks" reporting their loss officially.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Woodberson Seïde held his stepsister's hand as they walked through Haiti 's capital on their way to an afterschool music program.

They avoided cars, motorcycles, and territory controlled by the gangs whose predation prompted this week's UN Security Council vote for the deployment of a multinational armed force. Once he arrived at the school that hosts the program, 11-year-old Woodberson didn't think much about how he sometimes eats once a day. His family sleeps on the floor of a church, something they've done since losing their home to gangs.

The boy was neatly dressed and ready to play drums. Across Port-au-Prince, hundreds of children like Woodberson are playing percussion, piano and bass guitar to drown out the violence and hunger around them.

"When I play drums, I feel proud," Woodberson said.

To many, Haiti feels hopeless. Children are mostly kept indoors for safety. Their parents worry about gangs recruiting children as young as 8.

Woodberson and other young musicians in a USsponsored music program refuse to let circumstances dictate their future, helping both themselves and their parents.

Col, 3 soldiers convicted: A military court sentenced a Congolese military colonel to death and convicted three soldiers following the deaths of more than 50 people who were protesting the UN peacekeeping mission earlier this year.

Col Mike Mikombe, former commander of the Republican Guard in the eastern city of Goma, was sentenced Monday. Congo has not enforced the death penalty in more than 20 years, effectively making it a life sentence.

Three other second-class soldiers from the same unit were sentenced to 10 years in prison. Two other officers were acquitted, including Col. Donat Bawili, who headed the Congolese armed forces regiment in Goma at the time.

In August, Goma's mayor had banned a protest organized by a sect known as Wazalendo. Its supporters planned to demonstrate against the regional East African Community organization and the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Congo.

The UN mission has faced increased pressure to withdraw from Congo after more than two decades in the conflictburdened country.

Advocacy group Human Rights Watch said that before the protests could take place, armed forces fired on Wazalendo demonstrators in the streets. (AP)

'Jihadis kill 29 soldiers': At least 29 Nigerien soldiers have been killed by jihadis near the country's border with Mali, Niger's junta said, as they struggle to end a spate of attacks. More than 100 extremists used home-

made explosives to target the West African nation's security forces who were deployed at the border area on a clearance operation, Niger Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Salifou Mody said in a statement late Monday. It's the second such attack against Nigerien soldiers in a week.

During the month after Niger's military seized power, violence primarily linked to extremists soared by more than 40%, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. Jihadi attacks targeting civilians quadrupled in August compared with the month before, and attacks against security forces spiked in the Tillaberi region, killing at least 40 soldiers, the project reported.

Under growing pressure since the coup against Nigerian President Mohamed Bazoum, which the military said was carried out because of Niger's security challenges, the junta promised that "all efforts will be made to guarantee the security of people and their property throughout the national territory. (AP)

Refinery site blast kills 15: An explosion and fire at at an illegal oil re-

finery site in Nigeria's Niger Delta region killed at least 15 people, including a pregnant woman, residents and a local environmental rights group reported Tuesday

The blast happened Monday in the southern River state's Emohua district,

It was not immediately clear if the three fishermen died due to injuries from the collision or drowned. A police report said they died due to "possible head trauma" from the collision. Their bodies were brought back to their hometown in the northern Philippines by the three surviving fishermen and several other companions.

There was no indication that the deadly accident was related to the long-simmering territorial disputes in the busy waterway.

Removed

The coast guard said it happened more than 150 kilometers (93 miles) northwest of Scarborough Shoal, a fishing atoll fiercely contested by China and the Philippines. The dispute over Scarborough flared recently after the Philippine coast guard said it removed a floating barrier installed by the Chinese coast guard at the mouth of the shoal to prevent Filipinos from entering.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. expressed sadness over the deaths of the fishermen and said a coast guard investigation was underway.

"We assure the victims, their families, and everyone that we will exert every effort to hold accountable those who are responsible for this unfortunate maritime incident," Marcos said in a statement.

An initial assessment based on the surviving fishermen's account and sea traffic at the time of the accident indicated that a crude oil tanker under the flag of the Marshall Islands may have hit the Filipino fishing boat, the coast guard said in a statement.

The Philippine coast guard said it would try to locate the oil tanker and its crew as part of the investigation.

The president in remarks posted on X assured families of the deceased trio that the authorities would spare no effort to unravel circumstances of the tragic incident, indicating that their boat had sunken.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Coast Guards said in a statement the fishermen perished when their boat crashed into a commercial ship, adding that 11

where illegal refineries are common. Residents said the death toll was likely to grow because many of the bodies were completed burned and dozens of people were injured.

provide details of what happened. Locals said most of the people who died had worked at the illegal refinery in the village of Rumucholu.

oil taken from a vandalized pipe, ac-

Suman Nalwa, a police spokesperson, said the arrests were made under a wide-ranging anti-terrorism law. The government has used the law to stifle dissent and jail activists, iournalists and critics of Modi. with some spending years in jail before going to trial. Those arrested are NewsClick's founder and editor, Prabir Purkayastha, and its human resources chief, Amit Chakravarty.

Nalwa said at least 46 people were questioned during the raids and their devices, including laptops and cellphones, and documents

They included current and former

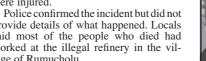
NewsClick was founded in 2009 and is seen as a rare Indian news outlet willing to criticize Modi. It was also raided by Indian financial enforcement officials in 2021, after which a court blocked the authorities from taking any "coercive measures" against the website.

Indian authorities brought a case against the site and its journalists on Aug. 17, weeks after a New York Times report alleged that it

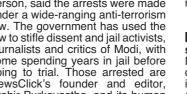
other fishermen survived after the incident that happened 85 nautical miles northwest of the contested region of Scarborough Shoal.

WASHINGTON: For much of the world, China's Xinjiang region is notorious, a place where ethnic Uyghurs face forced labor and arbitrary detention. But a group of visiting foreign journalists was left with a decidedly different impression.

sored by Beijing, the 22 journalists from 17 countries visited bazaars and chatted with residents over dates and watermelon slices. They later told state media they were impressed with the bustling economy, described the region as "full of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity," and denounced what they said were lies by Western media.



The workers at the site were refining



were taken away for examination.

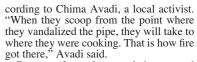
employees, freelance contributors and cartoonists.

Also:

On a tour in late September spon-

The trip is an example of what Washington sees as Beijing's growing

Bazoum



Dozens of people were being treated in hospitals, he said. A pregnant woman was among the 15 victims confirmed dead, according to a statement issued by the Youths and Environmental Advocacy Centre, a local environmental rights group. (AP)



Mikombe

sifying crackdown on independent média under Modi. Also:

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers for **Paki-**stan's imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday opposed his closed-door trial in a case in which he is accused of revealing state secrets after his 2022 ouster, saying it's aimed at convicting the popular opposition leader guickly.

Salman Safdar, who represents Khan, said the trial should be held in an open court. He made comments outside the high-security Adiyala prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, where the former cricket star turned politician is facing a trial on charges of revealing official secrets. The case is related to his

speech and waiving of a confidential diplomatic letter to a rally after his ouster in a no-confidence vote in parliament in 2022. At the time Khan showed a document as a proof that he was threatened and his ouster was a conspiracy by Washington.

efforts to reshape the global narrative on China. It's spending billions of dollars annually to do so.

In a first-of-its-kind report, the State Department last week laid out Beijing's tactics and techniques for molding public opinion, such as buying content, creating fake personas to spread its message and using repression to quash unfavorable accounts.

BANGKOK: The teenage boy who allegedly shot two people dead and wounded five others inside a major shopping mall in the center of Thailand's capital used a blank-firing handgun that had been modified to fire real bullets, police said Wednesday.

The suspect was taken into custody less than an hour after the first gunshots Tuesday afternoon at the Siam Paragon Mall, one of Bangkok's biggest and most upscale shopping destinations.

crude oil drops

Kuwait crude oil lost USD two during Tuesday's trading to reach USD 94.11 per barrel compared with USD 96.11 pb the day before, Kuwait Petro-leum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday.

Benchmark Brent futures dropped 21 cents to USD 90.92 pb and West Texas Intermediate lost 41 cents to USD 89.23 pb. (KUNA)

Market Movements

EGYPT	-	EGX 30
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100

Exchange rates declared by the CBK reflect average prices and not rates of actual transactions. (KUNA)

0.002.

Change Closing pts +166.35 19.873.31 SAUDI - Tadawu +373.79 47,107.81 UAE - DFM JAPAN Nikkei PHILIPPINES - PSEi

Tuesday's exchange rates.

04-10-2023 Change Closing pts -112.07 10,840.27 4.192.29 -9.55 -711.06 30,526.88

-7.79

6,298.20

The US dollar remained stable vis a vis the Kuwaiti

Dinar on Wednesday trading at KD 0.309 and the Euro

also steadied exchanging at KD 0.323 compared to

The Central Bank of Kuwait said the sterling

pound firmed, trading at KD 0.373, the Swiss franc inched down by 0.34 percent to settle at KD 0.335

and the Japanese ven remained stable at KD

USD stable

EU, Algeria to hold dialogue boosting energy cooperation

European Union Energy Commissioner, Kadri Simson, will host the fifth annual EU-Algeria High Level Energy Dialogue in Brussels on Thursday.

In a press release on Wednesday, the EU's executive mentioned that Simson will co-chair the meeting with the Algerian Minister of

Energy and Mines, Mohamed Arkab, in which the two will discuss possibilities of strengthening close energy ties.

This year's high-level energy dialogue follows the EU Commissioner's visit to Algeria last year and demonstrates the continuation of the EU-Algeria strategic part-

nership in the field of energy that includes cooperation on natural gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy market integration.

The talks in Brussels will particularly focus on methane emissions and renewable hydrogen, which are potential areas of cooperation. (KUNA)

Business



Part of the participation of international companies in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (ADIPEC 2023).

Comprehensive platform for oil industry leaders to boost international cooperation

'ADIPEC chance for global companies to work on reducing carbon emissions'

By Salem Al-Methen

ABU DHABI, Oct 4, (KUNA): Bader Al-Lamki, CEO of the Emirates AD-NOC Distribution Company, said on Tuesday that holding the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2023 is an opportunity for international companies to achieve partnerships and develop sustainability solutions to reduce carbon emissions.

In an interview with KUNA, Al-Lamki made the remarks during his participation in ADIPEC activities, which started yesterday, adding that the event provides an ideal platform for companies to discuss and develop partnership relationships under one roof and an opportunity to display their products and services and introduce the latest innovations that work to reduce carbon emissions.

Al-Lamki noted that such gathering would also give a chance for enhancing environmental performance.

Al-Lamki pointed out that ADNOC' interest in achieving sustainable development goals, and adhering to climate agreements, so their participation in the ADIPEC conference reflects their commitment to achieving sustainable development and providing effective solutions



Bader Al-Lamki, CEO of the Emirates ADNOC Distribution Company

global events in the energy and petroleum sector, as it brings together leaders, experts and professionals in this field to discuss challenges and oppor-tunities for cooperation and innovation in the energy industry. He stated that ADNOC's participation

in this conference comes within the framework of the company's strategy to enhance cooperation and exchange knowledge and experiences with prestigious international companies and institutions in the energy sector and to establish new partnerships with them, stressing that the company is working to reduce emissions in current energy sources and invest in future clean energy sources.

Al-Lamki stated that the timing of ADIPEC conference coincides with the UAE will host with wide international participation in seven weeks.

ADNOC Distribution announced in January 2023 its plans to reduce emissions resulting from its operations and reduce carbon intensity by 25 percent by 2030, through a commitment to achieving sustainability in its daily operations and achieving the transition in the field of energy.

The petroleum and energy industry classified as one of the most important economic sectors in the world due to its vital role in meeting the growing demand for energy and achieving sustainable development.

Therefore, the importance of the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC 2023) as it represents a vital platform for participant to promote global cooperation, exchange of knowledge and innovations in the industry in addition to develop partnerships and commercial relations.

The exhibition and conference activities will continue until Thursday, titled (Decarbonising. Faster. Together), with the participation of leaders of the global energy sector and parties concerned in this field, and in the presence of more than 2,200 international companies in 16 exhibition halls and



KUNA photos

to achieve environmental sustainability. Al-Lamki said that ADIPEC is considered one of the most prominent the imminent launch of the most important climate event the world, namely the COP28 climate summit, which

30 international pavilions, with expectations that it will attract more than 160.000 visitors from 164 countries

Part of the participation of international companies in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (ADIPEC 2023)

Kuwait's 5-year plan unveils mega 9,000 MW power and 153mn imperial gallons of water

767 plots in South Abdullah Mubarak connect to electricity

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has unveiled plans to construct three electric power and water distillation facilities through collaboration with the private sector under the Five-Year Plan for 2024-2029. These projects collectively boast a production capacity of 9,000 megawatts of electricity and the daily distillation of 153 million imperial gallons of water. Commercial operations are set to commence in 2027.

Among these initiatives, the first project is known as "Al-Zour North Station," encompass-ing phases two and three, with a combined production capacity of 2,700 megawatts. This capacity is distributed as 1,800 megawatts in open cycle and 900 megawatts in combined cycle, alongside a daily water production of 120 million imperial gallons.

The second project, "Al-Khiran Station," represents its first phase, aiming to generate 1,800 megawatts. This capacity includes 1,200 megawatts in open cycle, with commercial operations expected to commence in 2027, and 600 megawatts in combined cycle, split between 300 megawatts starting commercial operation in 2027 and another 300 megawatts in 2028. Additionally, this station will produce 33 million imperial gallons of water daily, with commercial water production starting in 2028.

The third project, named "Al-

'Understaffing is hurting patient care'

US health care workers go on strike

LOS ANGELES, Oct 4, (AP): Some 75,000 Kaiser Permanente workers, who say understaffing is hurting patient care, walked off the job Wednesday in multiple states, kicking off a major health care strike amid an extraordinary year for U.S. labor organizing and work stoppages.

Kaiser Permanente is one of the country's larger insurers and health care system operators, with 39 hospitals nationwide. The nonprofit company, based in Oakland, California, provides health coverage for nearly 13 million people, sending customers to clinics and hospitals it runs or contracts with to provide care.

The Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, representing about 85,000 of the health system's employees nationally, approved a strike for three days in California, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, and for one day in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

In the pre-dawn hours outside Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, workers cheered as the strike deadline arrived.

The strikers include licensed vocational nurses, home health aides and

Shaqaya Station," will have a substantial production capacity of 4,500 megawatts, distributed across several phases

The second phase, producing 1,100 megawatts, will commence commercial operations in 2026, followed by the third phase with 200 megawatts starting in 2028, the fourth phase with 1,500 megawatts initiating commercial operations in 2027, and the fifth phase with 1,700 megawatts commencing in 2027 as well.

It's worth noting that these three projects will be presented through the



Kaiser Permanente healthcare workers rally outside Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023. (AP)

ultrasound sonographers, as well as technicians in radiology, X-ray, surgical, pharmacy and emergency departments.

Doctors are not participating, and Kaiser says its hospitals, including emergency rooms, will remain open during

Public-Private Partnership Projects Authority in accordance with the provisions of Law 39 of 2010, which pertains to the establishment of a Kuwaiti joint-stock company tasked with the construction and implementation of electric power and water desalination plants in Kuwait, and its subsequent amendments.

In a related development, the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has officially launched the provision of electrical power in the South Abdullah Mubarak area, covering portions of plots 4, 5, and 6. The ministry has commenced the picketing. The company said it was bringing in thousands of temporary workers to fill gaps during the strike. But the strike could lead to delays in getting appointments and non-urgent procedures being rescheduled.

the acceptance of requests for power connections from a total of 767 plots within the region. These plots are distributed across the three designated areas as follows:

Plot 4, consisting of plots numbered 1 to 440, totaling 440 vouchers.

Plot 5, comprising 250 plots, including those numbered from 1 to 99, 115 to 147, 161 to 180, and plot No. 182. ■ Plot 6, which includes 77 plots, encompassing those numbered from 1 to 57, 60 to 62, 85 to 90, 98 to 100, and 102 to 110, amounting to a * total of 77 vouchers

Bold step in protecting state resources

Arizona cancels Saudi-owned farm groundwater lease amid violations

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): Arizona governor Katie Hobbs said this week her administration is terminating state land leases that for years have given a Saudi-owned farm nearly unfettered access to pump groundwater in the dry southwestern state.

On Monday, Hobbs, a Democrat, said the state had canceled Fondomonte Arizona's lease in western Arizona's Butler Valley and would not renew three other leases up for renewal there next year.

An investigation by the governor's office found that the foreign-owned farm had violated some of its lease terms. Hobbs called it unacceptable that the farm "continued to pump unchecked amounts of groundwater out of our state while in clear default on their lease.'

Fondomonte Arizona, a subsidiary of Saudi dairy giant Almarai Co., grows alfalfa in Arizona that feeds livestock in the water-stressed Gulf kingdom.

Through a spokesperson, Fondomonte said it would appeal the governor's decision to terminate its 640-acre (259-hectare) lease in Butler Valley. Altogether, Fondomonte farmed about 3,500 acres (1,416 hectares) in the rugged desert area west of Phoenix.

Fondomonte raised eyebrows when in 2014 it purchased nearly 10,000 acres (4,047 hectares) of land for \$47.5 million about 20 miles (32 kilometers) away from Butler Valley in Vicksburg, Arizona. Since then, worsening drought in Arizona has brought renewed attention to the company's water use and the broader issues of foreign-owned farms and groundwater pumping.

The violations the governor's office detailed relate to the company's storage of hazardous materials, among other issues. On Monday, Hobbs' office said that Fondomonte was notified of the violations in 2016, but an



investigation in August found the company had not fixed the problem seven years later. That gave Arizona's State Land Department grounds to terminate the lease. The Arizona governor's of-

fice said the State

Hobbs

Land Department decided not to renew three other leases the company had in Butler Valley due to the "excessive amounts of water being pumped from the land - free of charge.

The department manages land owned by Arizona, which in Fondomonte's case, had been leased to the company. Butler Valley's groundwater is especially important because of state law that in theory allows for it to be pumped elsewhere. That makes its water of interest to cities like Phoenix, also dealing with water supply-related stress and a fast-growing population.

In Arizona, cities such as Phoenix and Tucson have restrictions on how much groundwater they can pump under a 1980 state law aimed at protecting the state's aquifers.

Egypt, Maersk sign agreement worth USD 3 bln for green fuel

CAIRO, Oct 4, (KUNA): Egypt and Maersk's C2X signed on Wednesday a new agreement worth up to USD 3 billion for the production of green fuel and its derivatives in the Suez Canal economic zone.

This came in a statement by the Egyptian Cabinet, saying that Egypt seeks to expand in the field of clean energy to produce green hydrogen and its derivatives.

Maersk, a Danish shipping and logistics company, teamed up in September with its majority owner to form C2X as a new company to pursue large-scale green methanol projects near the Suez Canal in Egypt and several other locations.

q

BUSINESS

EU R&D expenditure up by 6.9 pct at USD 347 bln

The European Union spent 331 billion euro (USD 347 billion) on research and development (R&D) in 2021, up 6.9 percent compared with the previous year.

Compared with 2011, there was a 45.0 percent increase, EU's statistical office, Eurostat, reported Wednesday. In 2021, the business sec-

tor represented 65.95 percent

of total R&D disbursed in that year, the equivalent of 218.32 billion euro (USD 229 billion), followed by the higher educa-tion sector with 72.03 billion euro (USD 75 billion), the government sector with 38.55 billion euro (USD 40 billion).

Among the EU countries, the highest R&D intensity in 2021 was recorded in Belgium (3.43 percent), Sweden

(3.40 percent), Austria (3.26 percent) and Germany (3.13 percent).

However the EU's R&D expenditure relative to GDP continues to be below the corresponding ratios recorded in South Korea (4.93 percent), the United States (3.46 per-cent), Japan (3.34 percent) and China (2.41 percent), 2020 data. (KUNA)

EC opens enquiry into imports of battery electric vehicles

The European Commission (EC) Wednesday announced the launch of an anti-subsidy investigation into the imports of battery electric vehicles (BEV) from China.

The investigation will first determine whether BEV value chains in China benefit from illegal subsidisation and

whether this subsidisation causes or threatens to cause economic injury to EU BEV producers, it said in a press release.

Should both prove true, the investigation will examine the likely consequences and impact of measures on importers, users and consumers of battery electric vehicles in the

EU, it said. Based on the investigation's findings, the EUs executive body said it will establish whether it is in the EU's interest to remedy the effects of the unfair trade practices found by imposing antisubsidy duties on imports of battery electric vehicles from China. (KUNA)

The Conversation

Why are some Chinese women still looking to the West for love?

By Monica Liu, University of St. Thomas

As Ruby confided, "Here, rich men want a young girl who is 20 to show off."

Although it's no secret that divorced or widowed men in many countries

Adding to the complexity, women with children from previous marriages

especially those with sons instead of daughters - face even more challenges

in the local marriage market. Chinese women attribute this to societal norms

that expect young men to own a home or have made a down payment before

tying the knot. This means that parents are expected to financially assist their

sons with mortgages, and many single men don't want to assume this financial

Infidelity also ranks among the top concerns for women, in large part due

to the country's post-1978 economic reforms, which spawned a new capitalist

upper class. Many newly wealthy men - even those who were already married -

Affluent

affairs, once quipped that "men are like teapots, each teapot should be matched

It wasn't just China's newly wealthy class of men who started seeking ro-

mance outside of their marriages. Women told me of husbands who had lost

their jobs and then turned to drinking, gambling and infidelity to cope with their

While many female clients sought Western men as a tonic against Chinese

One former mistress, Jennifer, said, "I believe in patriarchy." She preferred

men's infidelity, this was hardly a concern for women who were mistresses to

Ruby told me that her affluent ex-husband, who had a number of extramarital

remarry younger women, the pressure to do so is particularly acute in China,

where women as young as 27 years old are stigmatized as "leftover."

responsibility when marrying a woman with a son.

started seeking younger, more sexualized women.

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

Robert, an American truck driver in his 50s, lived in a trailer park in the Deep South. After divorcing his wife, who had cheated on him, he joined an online dating agency that connected Western men with Chinese women through translator-assisted email exchanges.

Robert told me he had become frustrated with American women, whom he felt were overly materialistic and had lost their "traditional family values." (To protect the identities of my interviewees, I've used pseudonyms.) Yet Robert could barely afford to travel to China to meet the women with whom he exchanged emails. To save up, he often ate just a few dumplings for dinner, sometimes skipping the meal altogether.

Across the ocean, several Chinese women had gathered at their local dating agency, waiting to speak with their translator. Among them was Ruby, a former businesswoman in her mid-40s who had received a generous divorce settlement from her wealthy Chinese ex-husband and had retired in leisure. Next to Ruby stood another divorcee in her 40s, Daisy, who struggled to make ends meet as a department store sales clerk.

Despite their immense class differences, both women shared the same hope of marrying a Western man and moving abroad.

Commercial dating agencies like the one described here facilitate email exchanges and marriages between women from developing countries, such as Russia, Ukraine, China or Colombia, and men from economically advanced Western countries, such as the U.S., U.K., Canada or Australia. It's a US\$2 billion global business. From 2008 to 2019, I conducted research for my book "Seeking Western Men: Email-Order Brides under China's Global Rise" at three international dating agencies in China, interviewing 61 Chinese female clients

I wanted to know why, despite China's meteoric economic and cultural rise, so many women - especially those who were financially well-off - were still looking to the West for love and companionship.

Despite China's staggering male-female gender imbalance - where single men outnumber women by more than 30 million - middle-aged divorced women still face significant struggles.

There's the stereotypical Western media representation of "mail-order brides" - young women who marry older Western men to escape poverty. This dynamic persists. But contrary to this stereotype, the majority of women enrolled at the dating agencies where I conducted research were middle-aged and divorced.

None of them felt coerced, and they cited age discrimination in China as their No. 1 reason for seeking Western men.

the company of rich men with multiple partners over faithful but less prosperous men. As these mistresses aged, however, their wealthy paramours abandoned them for younger women. But they were unwilling to settle for lower-status, less successful men in China. After years of being out of the workforce, their lavish consumption habits were at odds with their weakened labor market prospects.

wealthy businessmen.

with multiple teacups.'

newfound financial struggles.

As a result, they turned to marriage migration as an option for escape

Meanwhile, my interviews with sales clerks and nannies shed light on the challenges faced by middle-aged women without college degrees. Many of them had been laid off from state-owned factories in the 1990s, when over 30 million workers lost their jobs.

These women struggled to find new work in China's service sector, which prioritizes hiring young, good-looking women. Daisy, a 43-year-old, felt fortunate to have secured a job at a luxury department store, but she feared for her

future job prospects.

Meanwhile, less attractive women often had to work in less desirable positions: as nannies helping mothers take care of newborns, or street vendors who earned less than \$5 per day. Without access to health insurance, retirement benefits or other social safety net programs, many of these women were desperate to leave China

Finally, many struggling single mothers marry Western men so their children can study overseas.

Some of them want their children to escape China's exam-driven education system that can burden students with excessive schoolwork and no playtime. Others feel that the Chinese job market favors social connections over qualifica-

Joanne, a retail manager with dreams of sending her teenage son to the U.S. for college, pointed out, "Unlike in the U.S., a lot of good jobs in China depend on 'hou tai'" - the Chinese term for "social background" or "lineage."

"Having a degree is not enough," she added.

Interestingly, of the 30 women in my study who were financially secure, only 12 ended up marrying Western men. By comparison, 26 of the 31 financially struggling women married and moved abroad.

This is because many financially secure women were used to dating wealthy Chinese businessmen and politicians, so they often rejected their working-class Western suitors. After meeting these men face to face, they realized that they lacked the refined taste, lifestyle and sexual experience of their Chinese lovers.

By contrast, the financially struggling women held a different perspective. Daisy, who married a French mechanic, eventually grew to appreciate her husband for being kind and caring to her, even though she was not initially attracted to him and called him "foolish and clumsy, like someone from the peasant class.

Moreover, Daisy valued the opportunity to work as a waitress and earn \$1,500 per month, which enabled her to send some money home to her daughter in China.

Likewise, Robert, the truck driver, eventually found love with a Chinese woman. She moved into his trailer and worked as a masseuse on the side to send money back to her sons in China.

While some brides felt content in their new marriages, others suffered. For example, Joanne found herself in a toxic relationship with a controlling American man. Yet she stayed with her husband because her older age, limited English skills and her son's need for financial support as a college student in the U.S. left her with few other options.

As Joanne's experience shows, given the gender, age and class inequalities that continue to plague modern-day China, single Chinese women can find themselves choosing between a rock and a hard place.

Shares in Scandinavian Airlines dip to become almost worthless

Rescue deal announcement disregarded



Softbank Group Corp. CEO Masayoshi Son.

CEO urges Japanese firms to adopt it

SoftBank's Son says AI will surpass human intelligence within a decade

TOKYO, Oct 4, (AP): SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son on Wednesday said he believes artificial intelligence will surpass human intelligence within a decade, urging Japanese companies to adopt it or be left behind.

Son, speaking at a corporate conference in Tokyo, said "artificial general intelligence will surpass the total intelligence of humankind by 10 times in 10 years."

It will affect every industry, from transportation and pharmaceuticals to finance, manufacturing, logistics and others, and the companies and people that work with AI will be the leaders in the next 10 to 20 years, Son said.

Son, who founded SoftBank and is a leading figure in Japan's business world, has enjoyed both victories and defeats in his array of technology investments. He latched on to the potential of the internet decades ago, and now is seeking to invest in AI-related companies.

"I want to be on the side of progress," he said.

"It would be sad to be on the side that gets left behind, like an old, shuttered high street," he said, and called on Japanese companies to "wake up" to his vision of a future led by AI. "The youth of Japan, let's wake up.

SoftBank

At the Hiroshima summit in May, Group of Seven leaders agreed to promote reliable AI, and Japan's government is seeking to be part of an international rule-making to achieve reliable use of AI.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at a science forum in Kyoto on Sunday, said he acknowledges a big potential for generative AI and hopes it will contribute to an even more convenient society. But he also noted the need to address concerns of disinformation and risks to privacy and copyright.

Son said Japan should not repeat its past mistake of falling behind in the internet age, warning against reluctance of some companies due to fear of data leaks and other possible risks.

SoftBank recently expanded on the Nasdaq listing of its chip subsidiary Arm Holding Plc, which Son acquired in 2016. Son said the British unit will be key to AI development.

Poland's central bank cuts interest rates for the second time in month

WARSAW, Poland, Oct 4, (AP): Poland's central bank lowered its key interest rate Wednesday, pointing to a drop in inflation despite a still-high rate of 8.2% last month, raising concerns about the cut being a political move

The National Bank of Poland cut its benchmark rate a quarter of a percentage point to 5.75%. Analysts were expecting it after annual inflation dropped last month from 10.1% in August. Inflation was over 18% earlier this year. It was the second rate cut since Sept. 9, when the central bank surprisingly slashed rates by threequarters of a point.

Other central banks worldwide are increasing borrowing costs or holding rates at high levels to tackle inflation stemming from the global economy's rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which spiked food and energy costs.

The European Central Bank hiked its key rate by a quarter-point last month to fight inflation, which has since dropped to a two-year low of 4.3% in the 20 countries using the euro currency. That's far below Poland's 8.2% inflation rate.

The interest rate cuts in Poland prompted concerns that the central bank is trying to ease the burden of more expensive loans for many Poles to help the conservative government ahead of Oct. 15 parliamentary elections

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Oct 4, (AP): Shares in Scandinavian Airlines dropped more than 90% on Wednesday after the ailing carrier announced new shareholders in a restructuring scheme that will see the company delisted and existing ownership stakes erased.

The rescue deal involving airline alliance Air France-KLM and private equity firms Castlelake and Lind Invest, which became investors alongside the Danish state, was presented late Tuesday.

The deal means that SAS will receive \$475 million in new equity and \$700 million in convertible debt. Scandinavian Airlines will be taken off the stock exchange in the second quarter of 2024 and no payment will be made to current shareholders.

Castlelake will become the biggest shareholder with a 32% stake, while Air France-KLM will hold 20%. The Danish government will hold 26% of the shares. Lind Invest will control 8.6% and the remaining shares will "most likely ... be distributed among and held by certain creditors who may receive recovery in equity," SAS said in a comment.

Shortly after trading opened on Wednesday at Nasdaq Nordic, which owns most stock exchanges in the Nordic-Baltic region, SAS shares dropped 96% and climbed from there to an 84%

drop. "The SAS management has been very, very specific in saying that these shares will become worthless. This has been the case for over a year now," Sydbank analyst Jacob Pedersen said. Investment economist Per Hansen told Danish broadcaster TV2 that the reason why the share had not become totally worthless was that "as long as there is a pulse, there is hope. There will always be some who sit and speculate whether the share will rise

again. The details and final documentation for the agreed transaction structure still must be finalized between the investors and SAS, the company said in a statement. The transaction will also need to be approved as part of SAS's chapter

11 bankruptcy protection, it added. In July 2022, Scandinavian Airlines filed for bankruptcy in the United States, saying it had "voluntarily filed for Chapter 11, a legal process for financial restructuring conducted under U.S. federal court supervision." By doing that it put civil litigation on hold while the business reorganizes its fi-



An SAS aircraft is parked on the ground during a pilot strike, at Copenhagen Airport, on July 18, 2022. Shares in Scandinavian Airlines dropped more than 90% on Wednesday Oct. 4, 2023 after the ailing carrier announced new shareholders in a restructuring scheme that will see the company delisted and existing ownership stakes erased. (AP)

Japan hopes to resolve China's seafood ban within WTO ambit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 4, (AP): Japan hopes to resolve China's ban on its seafood following the release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant within the World Trade Organization's scope, Agriculture Minister Ichiro Miyashita said Wednesday.

Despite repeated assurances, China banned seafood from Japan immediately after the plant began its treated radioactive wastewater release in August. Seafood accounts for a small portion of Japan's overall trade but the ban has hit exporters hard as China was the top destination for Japanese seafood exports.

The Japanese government approved a 20.7-billion-yen (\$141-million) emergency fund in September to help seafood exporters find new markets and to fund government purchases of seafood for temporary freezing and storage. The country is also stepping

nances

Airline chair Carsten Dilling said that "securing new capital is one of the key pillars" of its plan called SAS Forward, and that the new investment should help "facilitate our emergence from the US Chapter 11 process.

Its CEO, Anko van der Werff, said

up efforts to ease safety concerns as a second round of wastewater discharge is set to begin Thursday.

Miyashita said Japan's vigorous monitoring since the discharge showed negligible impact on its seafood and agricultural products. All seawater and fish sampling data since the release have been well below set safety limits, he said.

"We are undecided whether to file a complaint (about China's export ban) to the WTO immediately. At any rate, we hope to find a resolution within the WTO framework," he told reporters after attending a fair to promote Japanese scallops at a shopping mall.

Russia is also reportedly considering restricting seafood export from Japan - a decision that Miyashita said will depend on the result of sampling and monitoring data. He said Japan is prepared to provide the information to

the deal "shows that our new investors believe in SAS and our potential to remain at the forefront of the airline industry for years to come.'

The Swedish government's stake will be wiped out under the proposed deal. SAS said it did not need approval of existing shareholders. Norwegian Russia to counter concerns over sea food safety.

The first nuclear wastewater release began Aug. 24 and ended Sept. 11. Japan will begin its second round Thursday to release another 7,800 metric tons of treated wastewater into the Pacific Ocean over 17 days. The discharge, which is expected to continue for decades, has been strongly opposed by fishing groups and neighboring countries including South Korea, where hundreds of people staged protest rallies.

Miyashita arrived in Malaysia on Wednesday for a meeting with Southeast Asian agriculture ministers.

Malaysia has no plans to restrict Japanese fishery import, said Malaysian Agriculture Minister Mohamad Sabu.

He said Malaysia conducts strict testing and so far has found no radioactive element on fish imported from

broadcaster NRK said it would affect some 255,000 shareholders.

The airline also will move from its current Star Alliance group and join Air France-KLM's SkyTeam that counts Aeroflot, Air France, Alitalia, Delta Air Lines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Korean Air, among others.

10

BUSINESS



Burgan Bank announced its plati-num sponsorship of the 10th eGo-vernment Forum (EGOV10), in partnership with the organizers, Razen Events and Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses.

His Excellency Mr. Fahad Ali Zaied Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Mu-nicipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, is patroniz-EGOV10 will be held at the Al-

Baraka Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from 22 to 24 October 2023. The forum convenes under the motto "The Future of Cloud in Kuwait," which aims to highlight one of the most current and important technological phenomena that incorporate cloud-based data centers

Commenting on the EGOV10 spon-sorship, Mr. Mohammed Najeeb Al-Zanki, General Manager - Corporate Banking at Burgan Bank, said: "Our sponsorship stems from our growing

interest in Cloud computing because it reflects our policy of supporting in-novation. The Cloud provides tremendous possibilities to respond to customers' changing and rapid requirements, and sometimes to their changing moods and aspirations for new services.

Burgan Bank sponsors the 10th eGovernment Forum

Technology and information sys-tems have always been the main driver for the development of financial and investment services provided by banks. To this end, cloud

computing, the spread of mobile devices, and the expansion of 'Fin-Tech' all constituted an ideal opportunity for financial institutions and banks to transform into new working methods capable of responding to market dynamics and customer desires. In addition, the recent adoption of open banking is clear evi-dence of the need to continuously follow up on technological development to uncover its manifestations and ramifications.

stc secures Uptime Institute's 'Management and Operations' stamp of approval for its data centers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Telecommunications Company stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, annotunced that its Data Center Team has successfully received the Management & Operations Stamp of Approval award from the esteemed Uptime Institute. The Institute is an advisory organization focused on improving business critical infrastructure through innovation, collaboration, and independent performance certificates.

Stc indicated in a statement that the M&O Stamp of Approval award showcases the Company's diligent efforts in delivering exceptional services to its customers. The Company completed a rigorous process where it fulfilled the criterion and requirements set by Uptime in order to receive the award. Now, stc has shown that its data centers are in line with the highest international standards within the industry. Additionally, the Company can utilize the M&O Stamp of Approval award to participate in both private and government tenders that require providers to hold a valid and reputable certification

Receiving the award also aligns with stc's pioneering position as an enabler of digital transformation in Kuwait. As the digital ecosystem continues to expand and evolve, businesses are keen on finding data centers that ensure optimal uptime, security, and efficiency. With the Uptime Institute award, stc further solidifies its position as a trustworthy partner in this rapidly evolving digital era. This comes in continuation of the various initiatives launched by stc to support organizations, of all sizes, in pursuing their digital transformation strategies

The Management & Operations Stamp of Approval Program by Uptime Institute is a prestigious award that is comprised of a holistic assessment of staffing and organization practices, maintenance and operations activities, as well as management and planning. The program helps data center owners and operators introduce consistency, reduce risk, and build a culture of continuous improvement in their critical facilities. Obtaining the award proves to stakeholders, insurers, and management that the data center facility excels in this demanding industry.

stc thanked, in its statement, Uptime Institute for its collaborative efforts and assessment of the Company's data centers. The Company also highlighted that the award will serve as a testament to the key objectives stc aims to achieve for its customers throughout their digital



transformation journeys. Moreover, stc emphasized that the data center's M&O Stamp of Approval aligns with Kuwait's 2035 vision, underscoring the Company's commitment to bolstering government

initiatives and enriching the com-

munity. To find out more about stc's events, promotions, and sponsorships, follow stc's official social media platforms, visit one of

stc's branches, download mystc mobile application, visit www. stc.som.kw or contact the customer service center by dialing 102 for around the clock assistance.

Markaz organizes seminar on **'Securities Lending' services**

Attendees offered valuabe insights on a variety of topics

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" organized an introductory seminar vesterday at Boursa Kuwait on Securities Lending and Borrowing (SLB) services. The seminar featured presentations by Mr. Ahmed Khaled Al-Shalfan, Vice President - MENA Equities at Markaz, Mr. Abdelkarim Al-Yaquot, Head

of Product Development at the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC), and Mr. Osama Al Masri, Assistant Manager at the Middle East Financial Brokerage Company (MEFBC).

The seminar offered attendees, including traders, investors, and other stakeholders, valuable insights on a variety of topics including the cen-



tral lending and borrowing service; the advantages and risks associated with short-selling activities; registration, qualification, and guarantee procedures. It also offered key takeaways and prominent decisions from general assembly meetings; information on commissions and fees; as well as procedures related to securities lending. Mr. Ahmed Khaled Al-Shalfan from Markaz, said: "Markaz was eager to organize this seminar to raise awareness about the Securities Lending and Borrowing service and how it could prove beneficial to key stakeholders in Kuwait. We value our cooperation with the Kuwait Clearing Company and the Middle East Financial Brokerage Company in holding this seminar and launching the SLB service. Both institutions played an active role in ensuring its success. Without a doubt, Markaz takes pride in being the first to have launched the Securities Lending and Borrowing service for the first time in Kuwait through the Forsa Financial Fund, which enabled the first short-selling transaction in Kuwait. Its launch comes as part of the company's wider efforts to develop trading activities and boost liquidity in Kuwait's stock market. It also reinforces our ongoing commitment to provide traders and investors with a wide range of innovative tools and techniques to support them with short-selling activities and enable them to gain returns." Commenting on the seminar, Mr. Abdulkarim Alyaqout from KCC stated: "The Kuwait Clearing Company has been providing lending and borrowing services to market makers since 2017. This initiative has been successful and has directly contributed to the design of the central lending and borrowing mechanism, encompassing all market participants and supporting the margin trading system. The service was activated in the market with our colleagues at Middle East Financial Brokerage Company and Markaz earlier this year. Kuwait Clearing Company is consistently striving to enhance the market infrastructure in line with the highest standards and modern technologies. The company aims to provide everything that facilitates the offering of investment instruments, with the goal of increasing liquidity and ensuring market stability. Also commenting on the seminar, Mr. Osama Al Masri, from MEFBC said: "It gives us great pleasure at the Middle East Financial Brokerage Company to be the first brokerage of choice for the first market maker in Kuwait, and similarly to collaborate with Markaz, one of Kuwait's leading investment companies and the first lender in the centralized securities lending and borrowing system in the Kuwaiti market, and the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC).



'Bader Al Kharafi honors Dr. Ibrahim Al Rashdan.'



From left to right: Abdulkarim Alyaqout from KCC, Ahmed Khaled Al-Shalfan from Markaz, Osama Al Masri from MEFBC.



Photo taken during the launch of the 10th Centerpoint store in Kuwait

10th store launched

Centrepoint expands its presence in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Centrepoint, the region's largest fashion retailer, celebrated the opening of its 10th store in Kuwait. Located in Shuwaikh-plot 40, the new Centrepoint store has a wide selection of fashion, kidswear, footwear, fashion & home accessories and cosmetics.

Speaking at the launch of the new store Shabbir Fakhruddin, Territory Head, Landmark Group Kuwait said: "As an innovative, one-stop shopping concept, Centrepoint has received tremendous acceptance in Kuwait. Over the years we have grown considerably, and this expansion encompasses our commitment to our customers in Kuwait and the region. Our success

is a testimony not only to the quality of products and services we offer, but also to the practicality of having a single destination that meets the shopping needs of the entire family."

"Expansion has always played an important role in Landmark Group's growth strategy. With the addition of our Shuwaikh location - our 10th store opening in Kuwait - we are able to continue to offer a unique shopping experience for our customers by delivering the latest styles and trends. We are delighted with the new location, it's fresher and brighter combining quality and style to appeal to a broad customer base."

"Centrepoint is among the fast-

est growing brands in our growing portfolio of the retail brands we are able to offer our customers. We look forward to delivering unparalleled overall shopping experience at con-venient locations." concluded Mr. Fakhruddin.

Shopping at Centrepoint is an experience in itself. From trendy fashion looks to inspiring accessories, the store are designed for easy browsing and colorful display areas. It features distinctive niches and departments offering the latest fashion range with the hottest new international trends in textures and fabrics to guarantee its patrons an enjoyable shopping experience.

'Dr. Al Rashdan offered invaluable advice on heart health.'

Zain holds insightful session on 'heart health' for its staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: In continuation of its informative sessions for employees, Zain recently hosted at its Innovation Campus (ZINC) a special session on cardiology and the heart's health, presented by renowned Consultant Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Ibrahim Al Rashdan. The session was attended by Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al Kharafi, the executive management team, and many of the company's employees.

This initiative came under the umbrella of Zain's internal communications strategy that closely focuses on catering to all aspects of employees' personal and professional lives. The company continuously enriches its direct relationship with staff in and out of the workplace environment, catering to their most important needs by hosting the best experts in their fields from Kuwait and the region to share their expertise with them.

During the insightful session, Dr. Al Rashdan introduced Zain employees to cardiology and the basics of the cardiovascular system by sharing medical facts about the heart and how it works. The renowned cardiologist stressed on the importance of following a healthy lifestyle by eating balanced, healthy food and exercising periodically to lessen the effects of heart disease risk factors. At the end of the session, Dr. Al Rashdan welcomed questions from Zain employees, who hugely benefited from interacting with one of the nation's top medical professionals.

Zain regularly hosts health-related sessions and programs to cater to its employees' wellbeing, giving them the chance to check up on their overall health while at the office. Such activities include routine checkups for blood pressure and sugar levels, as well as winter vaccinations for seasonal flu, pneumonia, and others.

The company partners with various medical institutions from both the private and public sectors to launch health programs and conduct awareness campaigns, informative sessions, vaccination campaigns, blood drives, mental health programs, and more to help employees maintain a healthy lifestyle



Many Zain employees attended the informative session

Conviction could add decades to his sentence

Charged suspect in Shakur's shooting to appear in court

People

LAS VEGAS, Oct 4, (AP): A self-described gangster who police and prosecutors say masterminded the shooting death of Tupac Shakur in Las Vegas in 1996 is due to make his first appearance Wednesday before a Nevada judge.

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, 60, was arrested Friday during an earlymorning walk near his home in suburban Henderson. A few hours later a grand jury indictment was unsealed in Clark County District Court charging him with murder.

Grand jurors also voted to add sentencing enhancements for the use of a deadly weapon and alleged gang activity. If Davis is convicted, that could add decades to his sentence.

Davis denied a request from The Associated Press for an interview from jail where he's being held without bond. Court records don't list an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Davis had been a suspect in the case, and publicly admitted his role in the killing in interviews ahead of his 2019 tell-all memoir, "Compton Street Legend."

"There's one thing that's for sure when living that gangster lifestyle," he wrote. "You already know that the stuff you put out is going to some had wrote and the stuff you put out is going to some had w ing to come back; you never know how or when, but there's never a doubt that it's coming."

Davis' own comments revived the police investigation that led to the indictment, police and prosecutors said. In mid-July, Las Vegas police raided Davis' home, drawing renewed attention to one of

Variety

hip-hop music's most enduring mysteries.

Prosecutors allege Shakur's killing stemmed from a rivalry and competition for dominance in a musical genre that, at the time, was dubbed "gangsta rap." It pitted East Coast members of a Bloods gang sect associated with rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight against West Coast members of a Crips sect that Davis has said he led in Compton, California.

Tension

Tension escalated in Las Vegas the night of Sept. 7, 1996, when a brawl broke out between Shakur and Davis' nephew, Orlando "Baby Lane" Anderson, at the MGM Grand hotel-casino following a heavyweight championship boxing match won by Mike Tyson.

Knight and Shakur went to the fight, as did members of the South Side Crips," prosecutor Marc DiGiacomo said last week in court. "And (Knight) brought his entourage, which involved Mob Piru gang members.'

After the casino brawl, Knight drove a BMW with Shakur in the front passenger seat. The car was stopped at a red light near the Las Vegas Strip when a white Cadillac pulled up on the passenger side and gunfire erupted.

Shot multiple times, Shakur died a week later at age 25. Knight was grazed by a bullet fragment.

Davis has said he was in the front passenger seat of the Cadillac

and handed a .40-caliber handgun to his nephew in the back seat, from which he said the shots were fired.

In Nevada, a person can be convicted of murder for helping another person commit the crime.

Among the four people in the Cadillac that night, Davis is the only one still alive. Anderson died in a May 1998 shooting in Compton. Before his death, Anderson denied involvement in Shakur's death. The other backseat passenger, DeAndre "Big Dre" or "Freaky" Smith, died in 2004. The driver, Terrence "Bubble Up" Brown, died in a 2015 shooting in Compton.

Knight, now 58, is now serving a 28-year prison sentence for running over and killing a Compton businessman outside a burger stand in January 2015.

Sheriff Kevin McMahill, who oversees the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, has acknowledged criticism that his agency was slow to investigate Shakur's killing.

"That was simply not the case," McMahill said. He called the investigation "important to this police department."

Shakur's sister, Sekyiwa "Set" Shakur, issued a statement describing the arrest as "a pivotal moment" but didn't praise authorities who investigated the case.

"The silence of the past 27 years surrounding this case has spoken loudly in our community," she said.

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This image released by Magnolia Pictures shows Joan Baez in a scene from the documentary 'Joan Baez: I Am a Noise.' (AP)

laugh with her.

Film

HURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023 BRB

MOSCOW: A court in Moscow on Wednesday handed a former state TV journalist a 8 1/2-year prison term in absentia for protesting Russia's war in Ukraine, the latest in a months-long crackdown against dissent that has intensified since Moscow's invasion 20 months ago.

Marina Ovsyannikova was charged with spreading false information about the Russian army, a criminal offense under a law adopted shortly after the Kremlin sent troops to Ukraine.

She held a picket in the Russian capital in July 2022, and held a poster that said "(Russian President **Vladimir**) **Putin** is a killer. His soldiers are fascists. 352 children have been killed (in Ukraine). How many more children need to die for you to stop?" Ovsyannikova, who until March

2022 worked at for Russia's staterun Channel One, was detained and placed under house arrest, but managed to escape to France with her daughter. Russian authorities put her on a wanted list and prosecuted and tried her in absentia.

In March, 2022 Ovsyannikova made international headlines after appearing behind the anchor of an evening Channel One news broadcast with a poster that said "Stop the war, don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you here." She quit her job at the channel, was charged with disparaging the Russian military and fined 30,000 rubles (\$270 at the time).

Thousands of Russians have been fined and hundreds have faced criminal charges over publicly speaking out or protesting against the war in the last 20 months. The Kremlin has used legislation outlawing criticism of what it insists on calling a "special military operation" to target opposition figures, human rights activists and independent media. (AP)

NEW YORK: Paul Harding's Maine-based historical novel "This Other Eden," Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's dystopian "Chain-Gang All-Stars" and Justin Torres' multi-generational "Blackouts" are among the fiction finalists for the National Book Awards.

Fiction judges also selected Aaliyah Bilal's debut story collection "Temple Folk" and Hanna Pylväinen's "The End of Drum-Time," set in 19th century

Docu sheds light on folk singer's life, legacy

Baez has songs to sing, secrets to tell

and then broke it. It was intoxicating being to-

gether, recounts Baez, who introduced him lov-

ingly to her audiences, until a painful UK tour

Then, staring into the camera, she says: "Hi,

Bob!" It's a welcome and rare opportunity to

But back to the beginning, where Baez, on the

cusp of 80, is preparing for the tour, rehearsing at

home in northern California. Her hair is fully gray;

her face has not changed much. "I know I look

good for my age, but there is a limit," she quips of

upcoming retirement. As for her voice, it's there,

Baez's youth. We also hear, on and off, a strange

(and rather distracting) male voice sounding like a

Footage

footage of Joan as a child, dancing in a field with

her parents and sisters. Her Mexican-born father

was dashing. The scenes look idyllic, but there are

signs of trouble ahead when, in an interview from

the present, Joan notes mysteriously: "I'm way too

conflicted to just have a bunch of happy memo-

We see pages from young Joan's journal, its co-

pious sketches brought to life by wonderfully in-

ventive animation, and hear how white kids called

her "the dumb Mexican" in school. Panic attacks

and anxiety set in. Even when she becomes a star,

breaking out at the Newport Folk Festival in 1959,

her self-image doesn't seem to thrive. Nestled

among the many letters to her parents is a draw-

ing of a very small girl: "This is how I felt on the

And then a charismatic singer-songwriter in-

The story begins with lovely, black-and-white

Amid concert footage, we toggle to scenes of

but definitely lower and more ragged.

hypnotist. It turns out to be her therapist.

when his fame blossomed and "it was horrible."

LOS ANGELES, Oct 4, (AP): Bob Dylan called it her "heart-stopping soprano," and it's true that when Joan Baez unleashed that pure, angelic voice on the protest song "We Shall Overcome," you could believe we would, indeed, overcome.

The celebrated folk singer and activist was singing about civil rights, of course. But what we learn in the thoughtful, thorough and sometimes harrowingly intimate "Joan Baez: I Am a Noise" is that Baez was also seeking to overcome much on a personal scale: anxiety, depression, loneliness and, late in life, troubling repressed memories about her own father.

If that sounds like a lot to cover in 113 minutes, it is - especially because the new documentary, directed by Maeve O'Boyle, Miri Navasky and Karen O'Connor, also recaps a 60-year performing career, with the singer telling her story through interviews and an incredible wealth of archival material. We see Baez entering for the very first time a storage unit filled to the ceiling by her late mother with photos, home films, audio recordings, letters, drawings and even tapes of therapy sessions.

And she gave her directors the key. The film was originally intended simply to cover Baez's last, 2018 "Fare Thee Well" tour, but Baez decided to leave a more thorough legacy.

The film begins with novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez's quote about how everyone has three lives: public, private and secret. Well, this is certainly apt for Baez, who emerged as a sudden star in 1959, an 18-year-old with a guitar and that belllike voice, and went on to make some 40 albums, with a 2017 induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. As we see from her own anguished drawings and letters beginning in youth, her intensely public life masked both a difficult private one and some dark secrets as well.

And then there was Dylan, the same age as Baez, that inscrutable genius who stole her heart

Scandinavia. On Tuesday, the National Book Foundation announced finalists in four other competitive categories: nonfiction, poetry, translation and young people's literature. The foundation, which presents the awards, released long lists of 10 last month. Winners will be announced

at a dinner ceremony in Manhattan

ries.

on Nov. 15, when poet Rita Dove and longtime City Lights bookseller Paul Yamazaki will receive honorary prizes, and Oprah Winfrey will be a featured speaker.

Drew Barrymore had been chosen to host the evening but was dropped last month after she decided to resume her talk show during the Hollywood writers strike.

Barrymore soon changed her mind and paused production, and the strike has since been settled, but the foundation did not invite her back. On Tuesday it announced her replacement, the actor-writercomedian Amber Ruffin. In nonfiction, the nominees are Ned Blackhawk's "The Rediscovery of America: Native

Peoples and the Unmaking of US History," Cristina Rivera Garza's "Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice," Christina Sharpe's "Ordinary Notes, Raja Shehadeh's "We Could Have Been Friends, My Father and I: A Palestinian Memoir" and John Vaillant's "Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World." (AP)

"I was just stoned on that talent," she says of Dylan. One of the best moments of the film has Baez at the mic, during good times, imitating Dylan imitating her.

But later, on that tour to Britain, he leaves her in his wake. "Dylan broke my heart," she says.

A new phase sees Baez deeply engaged in protests against the Vietnam War - even going to jail. There, young activist David Harris visits her. The two will marry, she'll become pregnant, and then HE will go to jail. When he comes out, the marriage is troubled and doesn't last. "He was too young and I was too crazy," she says. Gabriel, her son, plays drums in his mother's band on the farewell tour.

Later scenes have Baez discussing a phase of reliance on Quaaludes, which cause her to make some questionable decisions, including posing for an album cover in huge aviator goggles.

The final act deals with accusations against her father of inappropriate sexual behavior with Joan and one of her sisters, Mimi. Her parents, both deceased, denied it, and Joan's own memories lack detail. She has said she could not have told this story while her parents were still alive.

There's an excruciating tape of a phone message from her accused dad, and then a tender scene where Baez comforts her aging and dying mother.

And then, after footage of a final concert at New York's Beacon Theater, we see the now-retired Baez dancing in a field near her home. A nod perhaps to the childhood scenes - but also maybe a statement that while she hasn't overcome it all, she's overcome a heckuva lot.

"Joan Baez: I Am a Noise," a Magnolia Pictures release, is unrated by the Motion Picture Association. Running time: 113 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)



Ovsyannikova Harding

Carnegie Hall stage.

vades her life.

NEWS/FEATURES

People & Places

Music

'Find joy in giving'

DJ Alok aims to make world a better place

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (AP): Alok is one of the biggest DJs on the planet, but at just 32 years old, he's learned that fortune and fame don't equal happiness.

"I was 24. I was the No. 1 DJ in Brazil. I had financial success, popularity. And I was feeling a huge emptiness because I said if this is the meaning of life for me, life has no meaning," said the Brazilian electronic dance music star who became the first South American to reach global mainstream fame.

Alok was battling another cycle of depression which he first experienced at age 10. After embarking on a quest to find meaning in his life, Alok visited the Amazon rainforest to connect with nature and met the Indigenous Yawanawa people. He



then visited Africa with the humanitarian group Friends Without Borders, which was life changing.

Alok, who didn't believe in God at the time, partly due to rampant global poverty, had an encounter with a blind, elderly woman so starved that she had tied a rope around her stomach area to feel less hungry

Alok

"She told me that she was

praying for God, for someone to go there and help her. And then I told her, 'Listen, God, doesn't exist'... And then her answer changed my life forever,' he said, recalling the woman telling him she prayed, heard God and knew He was present. "I had everything and I was complaining about it...from that moment on, I could not abandon (God) anymore." After that, he began pursuing philanthropic endeavors and "started to fill up my heart with that emptiness."

Celebrated as the world's No. 4 DJ according to DJ Mag, Alok, who released his highly anticipated "Jungle" collaboration with The Chainsmokers and Mae Stephens in September, has made it a priority to make the world a better place while making it dance.

Collaborations

Known for collaborations and remixes with artists like John Legend, Dua Lipa and The Rolling Stones, Alok participated in the United Nations' Climate Week festivities in September for the second consecutive year. Representing his nonprofit Alok Institute, he hosted the "The Future is Ancestral: Music, a secret technology of the Indigenous Peoples" panel which highlighted how music can help preserve indigenous culture, including traditional languages.

Recently, Brazilian Indigenous people cheered a Supreme Court's decision to enshrine their land rights, as a lawsuit attempted to block an Indigenous group from expanding the size of its territorial claim

"We always have the mindset that the Indigenous, they are savage and they have a less developed culture...what exists is different values and goals,' said Alok, who dropped "Car Keys" with Ava Max this summer. "They never had the opportunity to tell their own story, or is (generally) told by another,



Victoria and David Beckham arrive for the premiere of Netflix's documentary series Beckham at the Curzon Mayfair in London, Tuesday Oct. 3. (AP)



Netflix docu explores soccer legend's highs and lows

'Beckham,' an emotional rollercoaster'

LONDON, Oct 4, (AP): David Beckham delves back into the hateful treatment he received following his infa-mous 1998 World Cup red card - and its impact on him - in a new Netflix documentary series pegged to the 10th anniversary of his retirement.

"This whole process has been like an emotional rollercoaster," Beckham said of the "Beckham" series in an exclusive video interview with The Associated Press. "I've never talked about these certain moments in my career and in my life.

The intimate four-part series explores Beckham's upbringing, his courtship with his wife and his triumphs on the field, but perhaps the most difficult part was revisiting his painful sending off during England's World Cup match against Argentina. "I hadn't actually watched it and I hadn't actually watched the interviews and what people said about me after," he said, adding that it left him "shocked and emotional." Beckham was red carded for deliberately kicking the back of Diego Simeone's leg. He lashed out after the Argentina captain pushed him to the ground. England's World Cup hopes were crushed, and Beckham instantly went from hero to villain. "Beckham" includes footage of the hatred the soccer star received condemnation in British tabloids and constant fan abuse, including one who hung his effigy from a noose outside a London pub.

person, but I was able to block things out that were challenging and difficult for me at the time" he added, saying it helped him grow as a player and as a person.

"I'm not a person that sits and reflects on past achievements and things like that" Beckham said, explaining that he learned from an early age that you can win a trophy and celebrate that evening, "but then the next day you're on to the next season and you're on to something else. "

The first episode, which debuts Oct. 4, explores young David's upbringing in Chingford, Essex, and his relationship with his father. "He was a very disciplined dad

from a very early age. And when I didn't play well, he told me and when months and then "the explosion happened."

Beckham's teammate and close friend Gary Neville jokes on "Beckham" about the pair's long phone calls into the early hours before a game and says Beckham would drive for four hours just to spend 20 minutes with her. Neville and Gardner are executive producers on "Beckham," with Beckham's Studio 99 among the film's production companies.

Pressures

Part three and four of the series were not available for review prior to Beckham's interview, but those episodes explore his explosive fallout with Ferguson, his sale to Real Madrid and tabloid allegations of Beckham's extra-marital affairs. "There are pressures, but you work hard," Beckham said of his marriage. And despite press speculation, the couple recently celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary and remain a united force. "I suppose that's one of the reasons why we're so, so strong as a couple, because, yes, we have amazing kids, we have amazing careers, but we ... make time for each other as well." Beckham's career spread far beyond his success as a player to cultural icon and entrepreneur. He was a trailblazer for collaborations with brands like Adidas, Armani, Breitling and more. While players weren't really doing similar deals at the time, he said it felt like a natural progression enabled by his success on the football pitch. He knew early on that "Brand Beckham" would broaden and lengthen his career if he could achieve a good bal-"I always made sure that whatever I was doing off the field never affected what I was doing on the field because that was what I loved and what was important to me.'

usually a white man.

Alok, who is also involved in philanthropic programs in three African countries, has dedicated himself to making sure Brazilian Indigenous communities have a voice, and he's working to literally amplify their voices with an upcoming album, called "The Future is Ancestral." Due out next year, it will feature Indigenous musicians.

"I'm not releasing the album as Alok, I'm releasing the album as a producer because I feel that who has to be in front of it? ... the Indigenous people. And it can't be myself representing them - a white guy, "said Alok, who used the Yawanawa tribe to connect with other tribal musicians across Brazil. "We're always talking about protecting the forest and stuff, but we're so disconnected with the forest... a very good way to do it is listening to the indigenous songs.

The "Hear Me Now" and "All By Myself" artist, which have each racked up nearly 700 million and 100 million Spotify streams respectively, headlined the biggest show of his career earlier this month at Rio de Janeiro's historic Copacabana Palace Hotel which celebrated its 100-year anniversary. Resembling Times Square on New Year's Eve, thousands partied on the beach for free, while millions more streamed online and watched on TV, .Fireworks danced in the sky as Alok spun records from the top of a giant futuristic pyramid.

Performances

But as he appears at international festivals, residences and recent US performances, you won't find the married, father of two complaining.

"(I am) very tired, but very happy as well because honestly, I'm doing what I love and I'm seeing so many things going on and all the dreams being materialized...(but) it seems I'm not sleeping for the last five months," said Alok, who's also been embroiled in copyright controversy. "It's just more about how I can find the balance to be with my familv and do all of this. But I'm very happy."

Born in Goiânia, located in Brazil's agricultural heartland, he's the son of two influential underground psytrance DJs, Swarup and DJ Ekanta. Alok and his fraternal twin brother, Bhaskar who's also a professional DJ and producer, learned how to spin records as children. Alok says his parents didn't force them into the family business.

Despite being known in Latin America, Europe and China, he says making more headway in the US is important because receiving the American seal of approval is still significant.

"US brings a validation... we're always taught that in our country what is best is what comes from outside America and Europe, and we are inferiors, said Alok. "But that's not true. But what's true is that we just have to work a lot to cross the frontiers to be here.'

He points to Brazilians seeing themselves represented on American TV, highlighting Anitta winning the VMA for best Latin video two years in a row as a point of pride - not only for the country, but for himself.

"I still think there is so much things (to accomplish). And every time you think that you're too big, you just don't leave space anymore to grow. And I always feel that I'm just starting.'

PARIS: As Chanel's models took their sashay down the Paris runway, guests could practically hear the faint splashes from the

pools of the villa Noailles. This historic cubist space in the south of France, once graced by luminaries like Luis Buñuel. Man Ray, Dalí - and also Karl Lagerfeld - has for almost a century been a beacon for art.

Anna Wintour arrives for the premiere

of Netflix's documentary series Beck-

ham at the Curzon Mayfair in London,

Tuesday Oct. 3. (AP)

Variety

Virginie Viard's spring collection emerged as a sun-drenched ode to the villa's gardens. With **Gigi Hadid** leading the pack in flip-flops, the stalwart was stripped of its typical high-brow allure, grounding Chanel styles in an earthy, relaxed summer vibe

Here are some highlights - including an interview with **Paris Hilton**, and when Penélope Cruz told The Associated Press why the memory of her grandmother drew her to fashion.

"Sophistication juxtaposed with informality, the ever-present tweed, sporty touches, and delicate lace: I aimed for a harmonious blend of contrasts," Viard said Using the sunlit flora and tranquil pool of the villa as a muse, her collection leaned away from Lagerfeld's signature high-glam aesthetic, presenting a panorama of comfort, chicness - and, gasp, relatability.

The parade began with multicolored tweed dressing gowns, their luxurious threads catching the light as models moved. Easygoing, low-slung outfits that evoked an air of carefree leisure faintly contrasted with detailed geometric designs gracing several pieces. Lace trimmings whispered of femininity and delicate craftsmanship, while sporty accents gave the ensembles a touch of the everyday.

This was a confident Viard, four years since taking the creative helm of the storied maison, making low key designs that seemed as if they had nothing to prove.

There were moments when the display would have benefitted from a touch more innovation, perhaps a fresh design twist that could have set the collection apart, especially when keeping Lagerfeld's innovative legacy in mind. Some ensembles, though impeccably tailored, played it too safe.

Yet, the point of this collection lay not in dramatic novelty but in its accessibility The use of mid-size models, for instance, was a relatable gesture that speaks volumes of Viard's intent to make Chanel resonate with a broader audience.

In making Chanel relatable, she's not only navigating but is redefining her space.

In a rare, candid moment with the AP, Cruz's love for fashion was poignantly traced back to a handcrafted family symbol: the Manton di Manila.

"My grandmother made by hand a Manton di Manila," Cruz shared at Chanel's spring collection, her eyes alight with emotion. "If I had to keep only one thing from the objects that I have and materials, it would be that one because she spent 40 hours, or maybe even more, sewing by hand." This Manila shawl, an embroidered silk shawl derived from the Filipino pañuelo, not only stands as a testament to her grandmother's craftsmanship but has also profoundly influenced Cruz's appre-

Backlash

"I knew it was bad at the time, but going over that whole that whole thing was quite a tough one," he told the AP. The backlash continued throughout

the next season.

"It wasn't just stepping onto a football pitch, it was every time that I went out in my car and people stopped me and spat at my window and you know, all of those things, and then walking into a restaurant knowing that everybody in there hates you."

Best friend David Gardner recalls how Beckham even had to be accompanied by friends in the bathroom for his safety, yet never retaliated.

Despite the full support of Manchester United fans and club manager Sir Alex Ferguson, Beckham said there wasn't the same knowledge or concern about mental health that exists now.

"Back then there wasn't anyone turning round to me and saying, 'Are you OK? Are you sure you're OK? Let's talk about it."

Even his own family struggled to understand. "Twenty five years ago, if I'd have turned around to my dad and said that I don't feel great, he would have said, 'Boy, just get on with it'. So that's how I grew up and that's how I knew how to kind of handle a situation like that," he said.

"I became, I wouldn't say a cold

ciation for artisanal fashion.

with Chanel's enduring commitment to craftsmanship, stating, "When you go to a building, like 19 rue Cambon at Chanel and you see all the materials, the people working in such an artisanal way, working with their hands, I really hope the world will not lose that.

Drawing on heartwarming memories, Cruz added, "When I was a little girl, I used to play with my sister like we would I did play well, he kind of told me that I did play well, but not too much," Beckham said with a smile.

Dream

It had always been his father's dream that his son play in the premiership for Manchester United and it soon became their shared dream, turned reality. After being spotted by a scout playing on London's Hackney Marshes, Beckham moved to Manchester at 15. The tough love continued under Ferguson. Their partnership helped Beckham win six Premier League titles, two FA Cups and one Champions League

"Without a doubt, me getting out of London at that time and becoming a Manchester United player, in the north, surrounded by unbelievable people -- that for me without doubt helped me have the success and have the career that I had had and have,' he said. "Having the discipline of Sir Alex Ferguson possibly was one of the biggest reasons why I was able to succeed."

But the discipline didn't rub off when it comes to his own four children Brooklyn, Romeo, Cruz and Harper Seven, who all appear in the documentary. Beckham admits his wife is "pretty strict" and he finds it hard to lay down the law.

"I always thought growing up, if I was to become a young dad, I would be like my dad. I would support my kids with going into football and be hard with them. But I was nowhere near like my dad was. I'm a bit of a softie."

Meeting Spice Girl Victoria Adams was a pivotal moment in Beckham's life. She was already a global superstar as "Posh Spice" and he was a rising talent with Manchester United.

"It wasn't something that normally happens, you know, a footballer and a pop star coming together and the pressures of that but also her being on the world tour, me really wanting to see her. But obviously I couldn't travel. So, we used to sneak around.'

He said they managed to keep their relationship secret for the first few

> draw on top of the magazines to change the designs. Never change a Chanel design, of course," she said, smiling.

> Last month, Cruz alongside her sister, Mónica Cruz, unveiled a fashion collection on Instagram, hinting at her deep-seated respect for the craft. Yet, as the longtime ambassador for Chanel confessed, her profound appreciation for fashion is tied to cherished memories and heirlooms, noting, "I've always had it, probably because of their relationship with my grandmother." (AP)



Hilton

Cruz

Ĥis business savvy culminated in ownership of his own soccer team, Inter Miami.

"I had the opportunity to play in different countries, move to America, obviously have my own franchise and my own team, become an owner," he said. "So then once I finished playing, I knew that the moment I finished playing, I could then jump into the business. But, we were working on that a long time before that."

Looking back on his career's highs and lows, it's natural to wonder: Does Beckham have regrets?

"Do I wish things hadn't happened? Absolutely. Do I wish '98 hadn't happened? Absolutely."

But he said he realized it all happened for a reason.

"It made me stronger as a person, as a player, as a human being, and as a father, as a husband," he said. "And if that hadn't have happened, I maybe I wouldn't have had the career that I had.

She beautifully juxtaposed this sentiment

HEALTH

Health

New vaccine tech

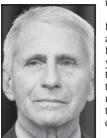
Years of research paves the way for COVID shots

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (AP): The Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded Monday to two scientists whose work led to the mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.

As countries prepared to roll out those shots, The Associated Press took a look at how the vaccines were developed so quickly. Below follows the original story, first published on Dec. 7, 2020.

How could scientists race out COVID-19 vaccines so fast without cutting corners? A head start helped -- over a decade of behind-the-scenes research that had new vaccine technology poised for a challenge just as the coronavirus erupted.

"The speed is a reflection of years of work that went before," **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, the top US infectious disease expert, told The Associated Press. "That's what the public has to



understand." Creating vaccines and having results from rigorous studies less than a year after the world discovered a never-before-seen disease is incredible, cutting years off normal development. But the two US frontrunners are made in a way that promises speedier development may become the norm - especially if they prove to work long-term as well as early testing suggests. "Abject giddiness," is how Dr. C.

Fauci

Buddy Creech, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert, described scientists' re-

actions when separate studies showed the two candidates were about 95% effective.

"I think we enter into a golden age of vaccinology by having these types of new technologies," Creech said at a briefing of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Both shots - one made by Pfizer and BioNTech, the other by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health - are so-called messenger RNA, or mRNA, vaccines, a brand-new technology. US regulators are set to decide this month whether to allow emergency use, paving the way for rationed shots that will start with health workers and nursing home residents.

Billions in company and government funding certainly sped up vaccine development - and the unfortunately huge number of infections meant scientists didn't have to wait long to learn the shots appeared to be working.

But long before COVID-19 was on the radar, the groundwork was laid in large part by two different streams of research, one at the NIH and the other at the University of Pennsylvania - and because scientists had learned a bit about other coronaviruses from prior SARS and MERS outbreaks.

Pandemic

"When the pandemic started, we were on a strong footing both in terms of the science" and experience handling mRNA, said Dr. Tal Zaks, chief medical officer of Massachusettsbased Moderna.

Traditionally, making vaccines required growing viruses or pieces of viruses - often in giant vats of cells or, like most flu shots, in chicken eggs - and then purifying them before next steps in brewing shots.

The mRNA approach is radically different. It starts with a snippet of genetic code that carries instructions for making proteins. Pick the right virus protein to target, and the body turns into a mini vaccine factory.

"Instead of growing up a virus in a 50,000-liter drum and inactivating it, we could deliver RNA and our bodies make the protein, which starts the immune response," said Penn's Dr. Drew Weissman.

Fifteen years ago, Weissman's lab was trying to harness mRNA to make a variety of drugs and vaccines. But researchers found simply injecting the genetic code into animals caused harmful inflammation.

Weissman and a Penn colleague now at BioNTech, Katalin Kariko, figured out a tiny modification to a building block of lab-grown RNA that let it slip undetected past inflammation-triggering sentinels.

"They could essentially make a stealth RNA," said Pfizer



Permanent Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences Hans Ellegren, (center), announces the winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, at the Royal Academy of Sciences, in Stockholm, Wednesday, Oct. 4. The Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded to scientists Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexi Ekimov for discovery and synthesis of quantum dots. (AP)



Chickens on a chicken farm in Lichtenburg, South Africa, Thursday, March 23, 2023. South Africa has culled nearly 2.5 million chickens in an effort to contain outbreaks of two separate strains of avian influenza that have threatened to create a shortage of eggs for consumers and are hitting an industry already struggling because of the country's electricity supply crisis, the government said on Tuesday Oct. 3. (AP)



S.Africa culls 7.5m chickens: South Africa has culled about 7.5 million chickens in an effort to contain dozens of outbreaks of two separate strains of avian influenza that threaten to create a shortage of eggs and poultry for consumers, the government and national poultry association said Tuesday.

Nobel

Chemistry prize-winners' work used in medical imaging Trio wins Nobel for quantum dots work

STOCKHOLM, Oct 4, (AP): Three scientists in the United States won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for their work on quantum dots - particles just a few atoms in diameter that can release very bright colored light and whose applications in everyday life include electronics and medical imaging.

Moungi Bawendi, of MIT; Louis Brus, of Columbia University; and Alexei Ekimov, of Nanocrystals Technology Inc., were honored for their work with the tiny particles that "have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps," according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which announced the award in Stockholm.

"Why does it matter, right, that we can make tiny particles that nobody can see, but they have colors?" Pernilla Witting Stafshede, a member of Nobel committee that awarded the prize. This is actually used today both in medicine and technology already out today. ... But we have displays on TVs, in your cell phone, that use quantum dots inside to make just brighter colors." The suspense surrounding the academy's decision took an unusual turn when Swedish media reported the names of the winners several hours before the prize was announced. The advance notice apparently came from a news release sent out early by mistake. Quantum dots' electrons have constrained movement, which affects how they absorb and release visible light, allowing for very bright colors. The dots are nanoparticles that glow blue, red, or green when illuminated or exposed to light. The color they emit depends on the size of the particles. Larger dots shine red, and smaller dots shine blue. The color change is due to how electrons act in more or less confined spaces.

color-change properties as early as the 1930s, creating quantum dots of specific controlled sizes was not possible in the lab for another five decades.

Ekimov, 78, and Brus, 80, were early pioneers of the technology, while Bawendi, 62, is credited with revolutionizing the production of quantum dots "resulting in almost perfect particles. This high quality was necessary for them to be utilized in applications," the academy said.

"The community realized the implications in the mid-90s, that there could potentially be some real-world applications," he said.

Judy Giordan, president of the American Chemical Society, said she was thrilled at the selection of the winners.

"What we care about a lot in chemistry is being able to make and tailor novel structures and architectures to solve problems that help people and the planet," Girodan said.

Discovery

Swedish media reported hours before Wednesday's announcement that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences had sent out a news release that identified Bawendi, Brus and Ekimov as the latest Nobel laureates. Public broadcaster SVT said the release said the trio were receiving the prize for the "discovery and synthesis of quantum dots." After officially announcing the three winners, Secretary-General Hans Ellegren said the Swedish academy would investigation how the information got out in advance. "There was a press release sent out for still unknown reasons. We have been very active this morning to find out exactly what happened,", said during the news conference where the award was announced. "This is very unfortunate and we deeply regret what happened."

The academy, which awards the physics, chemistry and economics prizes, asks for nominations a year in advance from thousands of university professors and other scholars around the world.

A committee for each prize then discusses candidates in a series of meetings throughout the year. At the end of the process, the committee presents one or more proposals to the full academy for a vote. The deliberations, including the names of nominees other than the winners, are kept confidential for 50 years.

Bawendi told the news conference he was "very surprised, sleepy, shocked, unexpected and very honored." Asked about the leak, Bawendi said

Asked about the leak, Bawendi said he didn't know he'd been made a Nobel laureate until he was called by the academy.

He said he was not thinking about the possible applications of his work when he started researching quantum dots.

"The motivation really is the basic science. A basic understanding, the curiosity of how does the world work? And that's what drives scientists and

chief scientific officer Dr. Philip Dormitzer.

Other researchers added a fat coating, called lipid nanoparticles, that helped stealth RNA easily get inside cells and start production of the target protein. Meanwhile at the NIH, Dr. Barney Graham's team figured

Meanwhile at the NIH, Dr. Barney Graham's team figured out the right target - how to use the aptly named "spike" protein that coats the coronavirus to properly prime the immune system.

The right design is critical. It turns out the surface proteins that let a variety of viruses latch onto human cells are shapeshifters - rearranging their form before and after they've fused into place. Brew a vaccine using the wrong shape and it won't block infection.

"You could put the same molecule in one way and the same molecule in another way and get an entirely different response," Fauci explained.

That was a discovery in 2013, when Graham, deputy director of NIH's Vaccine Research Center, and colleague Jason McLellan were investigating a decades-old failed vaccine against RSV, a childhood respiratory illness. At least 205,000 chickens have died from bird flu in at least 60 separate outbreaks across the country, with more than half of those outbreaks in Gauteng province, which includes the country's biggest city, Johannesburg, and the capital, Pretoria.

Some grocery stores in Johannesburg were limiting the number of eggs customers were allowed to buy this week - in some cases to one carton of six eggs - and the government acknowledged there were "supply constraints."

The government announced approximately 2.5 million chickens bred for their meat had been culled. The South African Poultry Association said another 5 million egg-laying chickens had been culled. The 7.5 million birds represented about 20-30% of South Africa's total chicken stock, South African Poultry Association general manager Izaak Breitenbach said. (AP)

While physicists had predicted these

academic scientists to do what they do," he said.

Brus said he didn't pick up the phone when the early morning call came from the Swedish academy to notify him.

"It was ringing during the night, but I didn't answer it because I'm trying to get some sleep, basically," he told The Associated Press. He finally saw the news online when he got up around 6 a.m.

"I certainly was not expecting this," Brus said.

Brus said he was glad to see recognition for the area of chemistry he practices. The practical applications of quantum dots, like creating the colors in flatscreen TVs, are something he was hoping for when he started the work decades ago,he said.



Burnley strike late to beat Luton and get 1st win of the season

Liverpool coach Klopp wants Spurs game to be replayed after VAR error

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 4, (AP): Jurgen Klopp is calling for Liverpool's Premier League game against Tottenham to be replayed after a VAR error cost his team a goal.

SOCCER

The governing body of England's referees admitted its mistake when Luis Diaz's strike was wrongly ruled offside and announced changes to protocols to avoid a repeat in the future.

But the Liverpool manager does not

appear to be ready to let the issue drop after his team's 2-1 loss.

"I think there should be solutions for that. I think the outcome should be a replay," Klopp said Wednesday. "The argument against that would be it opens the gates. It is unprecedented, it has not happened before.

ⁱⁱÎ'm used to wrong and difficult decisions, but something like this never happened and so that is why I think a replay is the right thing to do."

The Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) announced the findings of its review into the incident on Tuesday.

Changes implemented as a result include improved communication between Video Assistant Referees.

It also said it would reiterate that the speed of decision-making must not be at the expense of accuracy.

PGMOL released audio of the decision-making process when VAR Darren England failed to award Diaz's first half strike. "The audio didn't change it at all. It

is an obvious mistake," Klopp said. England and his assistant Dan Cook

were stood down from further duty over the weekend and will not officiate any games during the next round of fixtures. Liverpool would have moved to the

top of the Premier League with a win against Tottenham. Afterward it raised

questions about "sporting integrity" as a result of the error. The club issued a statement on Sunday saying they would "explore the range of options available given the

clear need for escalation and resolution." When asked if Liverpool would formally ask the Premier League for a replay - or had done so already - Klopp said: "At this stage we are still going

through the information we have.

Jacob Bruun Larsen's dramatic strike snatched Burnley its first Premier League win of the season with a 2-1 victory at Luton.

The Dane's goal-of-the-season contender came after Lyle Foster's opener had been canceled out by Hatters striker Elijah Adebayo.

Burnley went ahead in first-half stoppage time. Sander Berge did well to find Foster who tucked his effort away.

Adebayo grabbed Luton the goal they deserved after 84 minutes. Reece Burke got on the end of a deep cross and provided the knockdown to the striker, who sorted his feet out and tapped home to level.

14

But Luton's joy was short-lived as Burnley scored a second a minute later to stun Kenilworth Road into silence. Bruun Larsen cut inside and produced an outstanding curled effort which found the top corner in front of the away fans.

Rob Edwards' Luton side were left to rue missed chances once again as they failed to build on Saturday's 2-1 win at Everton. Luton searched for a second equalizer during seven added minutes but Burnley held on for the win to move up to 18th in the table.

A previous meeting between Al Arabi and Burgan.

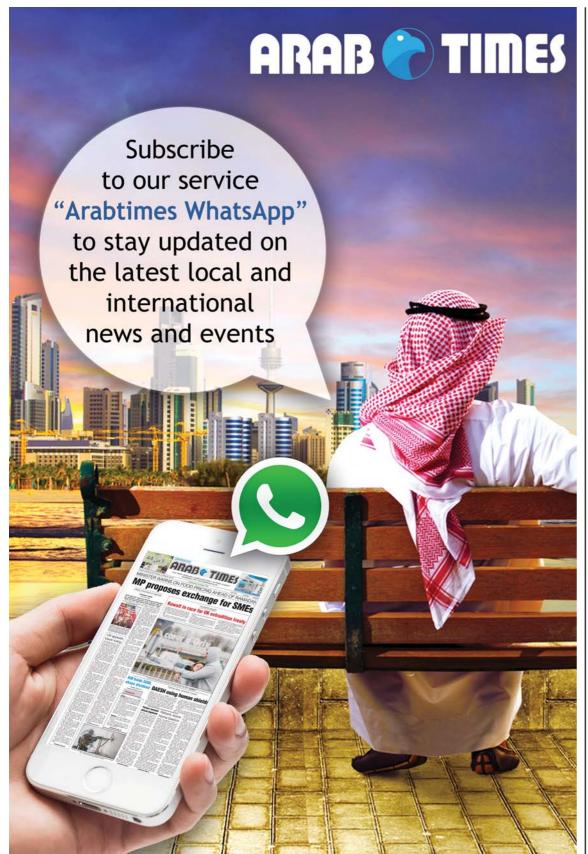
2nd round of volleyball tournament features 4 games

The second round of the Al-Ittihad volleyball tournament for the 2023-2024 season will feature a total of four matches. In the Al-Ittihad hall at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, Al-Sahel will face Al-Shabab at 5:00 PM. Simultaneously, in the same hall, Burgan will go head-to-head with Al-Arabi at 7:00 PM.

Yarmouk will take on Al-Qadisiyah at the Yousef Al-Shaheen Al-Ghanim Hall in Adailiya. Concurrently, Al-Tadamon will clash with Kazma at the Fajhan Hilal Al-Mutairi Hall in Hawalli.

In the current standings, the "Kuwait" team lead the pack in the absence of the second round. They hold the top spot with a points difference over Al-Arabi in 2nd place, Kazma in 3rd place, and Al-Qadisiyah in 4th place, with each team earning 3 points. Meanwhile, Burgan are in 5th place, Al-Shabab in 6th place, Al-Tadamon in 7th place, and Al-Sahel sit at 8th place, currently without any points.

The tournament operates on a single-round league system, with all participating clubs following the International Federation points system. At the conclusion of the tournament, the top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals. The first-ranked team will compete against the fourth-ranked team, and the second-ranked team will face off against the third-ranked team. The winners of these two matches will advance to the final match.



Japan edge rivals China, win men's world gymnastics title

US claim first medal since 2014

ANTWERP, Belgium, Oct 4, (AP): Japan are back on top in men's gymnastics.

The five-man group led by reigning world and Olympic champion Daiki Hashimoto edged rivals China in the team finals at the 2023 world championships on to earn Japan's first major international gold medal since 2015. The Japanese posted a team total

The Japanese posted a team total of 255.594 points, nearly two points clear of China at 253.794. China, which finished eighth during a sloppy performance in qualifications to barely make the final, bounced back

GYMNASTICS

with a medal on the line but couldn't quite catch Japan.

The U.S. men's program took a significant step forward by earning their first bronze at a world championships or Olympics since 2014. The five-man team of Asher Hong, Paul Juda, Khoi Young, Yul Moldauer and Fred Richard finished at 252.428.

The Americans avoided major mistakes early and then showed considerable growth late. Needing to put together a solid set on high bar in the final event, Young, Juda and Richard came through with nervy performances.

Richard, a 19-year-old sophomore at Michigan, celebrated when he

Uruguay excited to face All Blacks PARIS, Oct 4, (AP): After plotting

and scheming and hatching ways to

stuck his dismount while his teammates broke out in chants of "USA!" "I'm so pumped, this is crazy,"

Richard said. "Is this reality?" The U.S. finished second behind Japan in qualifying, though the issue with the men's program in recent years has been falling short during the finals. That didn't happen on Tuesday.

While the Americans were far from perfect, they maintained their composure to hold off Great Britain, which has eclipsed the U.S. of late as the top team in the world not named Japan, China or Russia.

With the Russian team not allowed to participate as part of the politi-

cal fallout of the country's war with Ukraine, there was an open spot on the podium. The Americans took advantage to give the program a jolt with less than a year to go to the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

All five members plus alternate Colt Walker figure to be in the mix to make the Olympic team, a group that should include two-time national champion and 2020 Olympian Brody Malone, who is recovering from a leg injury but is expected to return to training this winter.

"I know we have so much potential to go," Richard said. "I think it's only up from here."

'A massive game'

Cricket World Cup 'picks up' where it left off. with England vs New Zealand

Japan's Kenta Chiba competes on the rings during the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium. (AP)

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contain New Zealand, Uruguay's Los Teros couldn't help but reveal their inner fan boys at the prospect of facing the All Blacks in the Rugby World Cup on Thursday. The pool match in Lyon will be an

historic first between them.

"As a player, for me it is a dream," Uruguay captain Andres Vilaseca says. "You grow up watching the All Blacks on TV. Except in a World Cup, I doubt there will be an opportunity like this." Esteban Meneses, Uruguay's coach

for nearly eight years, says, "Analyzing them is a dream. They do the simple perfectly. It is a professional challenge, a luxury, and I am very grateful to be in this situation."

Vilaseca says they have a surprise in store for when they face their first All Blacks haka.

"The idea is to enjoy it," he says. "Seeing the haka on TV makes your skin crawl, it is a tremendous moment, and we are going to be in front of it. It won't shrink us, it will motivate us."

Both teams go into their last pool game in quarterfinal contention, though New Zealand are a lot closer to clinching than Uruguay. New Zealand need a win with a four-tries bonus point. Uruguay's minimum requirement is to beat New Zealand by 80 points.

It's instructive that on the four occasions the Uruguayans met the other southern hemisphere giants South Africa (last time in 2005) and Australia (last time in 2019), they lost them all by an average of 49.8 points.

"It is very difficult to set a goal in terms of the result against a great team," Vilaseca says. "This team is prepared to fight the All Blacks when we can, where we can. It is our last bullet, before our World Cup is over."

The Uruguayans have given a good account of themselves in Pool A. Namibia were overcome last week for a third Los Teros win in tournament history, France were given a proper scare, and Italy were led at halftime. They have nine tries, all from set-piece ball. Their previous best Rugby World Cup total was six in 2003 and 2019.

"It is the perfect match to close the World Cup and this cycle," Vilaseca says. "We will enjoy it to the fullest, fighting them at everything and making it difficult. We will continue to show how much Uruguay have grown."

The All Blacks love novelty, love doing something a first time. Los Teros will be the first new team they have faced since Georgia at the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The All Blacks played in Montevideo once and beat a Uruguay XV 64-3 in a non-cap match in 1976, almost to the day.

Aside from securing a quarterfinal, they are also motivated to extend the rush they got from smashing Italy 96-17 last week with another performance of determination and rhythm.

AHMEDABAD, India, Oct 4, (AP): After combining to produce the most dramatic finish ever to a Cricket World Cup, England and New Zealand will meet again this time to open the 2023 edition in India.

England was awarded its first title four years ago at Lord's on a contentious countback against the New Zealanders after the final finished tied and a so-called Super Over also failed to separate the teams.

The tiebreaker was a heavily derided and subsequently dumped countback of boundaries, giving England the narrowest of victories as they hosted the pinnacle competition in cricket's one-day format for the fifth time.

The defending champions and runners-up will get the six-week tournament started Thursday at the 134,000-seater Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. This same venue will host the highly anticipated India-Pakistan showdown on Oct. 14 and the final on Nov. 19.

Top-ranked England arrived in India aiming to be just the third team - following West Indies (1975 and '79) and Australia (1999, 2003 and '07) - to win back-to- back ODI World Cups.

Jos Buttler has taken over from 2019 skipper Eoin Morgan, but England's attacking approach - high risk, high reward - remains the same.

Ben Stokes returned from his shortlived ODI retirement to rejoin the likes of Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran, Moeen Ali and Chris Woakes - all players who can play multiple rules, thus allowing the batting to run deep.

England are coming off a series win over New Zealand at home last month, and a four-wicket win over Bangladesh



England's Sam Curran attends a training session ahead of the ICC cricket world cup match against New Zealand in Ahmedabad, India. (AP) in an unofficial warmup at Guwahati on Monday. "We had a valuable outing in terms

"We had a valuable outing in terms of bowlers getting to bowl and some batters getting time in the middle," Ali said after the win over Bangladesh. "We are ready. It's going to be a massive game (against New Zealand) ... They're a dangerous side."

Stokes is back as a specialist batter. Slotting in at No. 4, Stokes scored 182 from 124 balls in the series-clinching third game against New Zealand last month at The Oval, where England won by a thumping 181 runs. Stokes was the key player in England's victory in the 2019 final and his return to ODI duty only bolsters his team's chances of backto-back titles. However, he is not certain to play against New Zealand because of a sore hip.

Buttler, speaking ahead of his side's

CRICKET

final training session, said: "He's got a slight niggle with his hip, but fingers crossed that it'll be good news for us. We'll see."

England are spoilt for choices in terms of batting power, with Harry Brook's chances of breaking into the starting XI linked to Joe Root's form. The veteran Root has been a long-term leader in the England lineup but has posted only one half-century in his last nine ODI innings.

nine ODI innings. In their last ODI outing in India, back in March 2021, England lost a threematch series 2-1. It posted totals of 251, 337-4 and 322-9 in those three games at Pune, and Buttler's lineup will be aiming to replicate those last two scores on a regular basis in this tournament.

For New Zealand, this tournament presents a chance to go one step further, without worrying about the boundary countback.

A simpler rule has replaced it: this time tied finalists will keep contesting Super Overs until there is a clear winner. But it's too early for the Black Caps to be thinking about that, particularly after a run of injuries.

Veteran pace bowler Tim Southee's thumb injury is likely to keep him on the sidelines until later in the tournament.

Kane Williamson, who scored 54 and 37 in the two warmup games, also won't play the opener against England because he needs more time to recover from a long-term knee injury.

"I'm really fortunate to be a part of this World Cup. Five months ago, that didn't seem a possibility," he said after New Zealand's warmup win over Pakistan. "There is still some time to go (to full fitness), and it is great to get through some batting in the middle."

SPORTS





File photo of players in action during Zain Premier League match.

Al Salmiya play Kazma in 4th round of Zain Premier League

Kuwaiti women's bowling team.

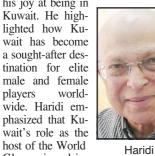
Kuwait embark on World Cup quest

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Today marks the commencement of the competitive journey for Kuwait in the World Bowling Championship, that Kuwait proudly host from October 4 to 15. Anticipation is high, with strong hopes of securing prominent posi-tions in the face of stiff competition.

The participating teams have wrapped up their preparations, culminating in final training sessions at the bowling complex hall. The enthusiastic atmosphere during these sessions guarantees intense competitiveness and strength as they vie for the coveted championship titles in both men's and women's categories.

Numerous male and female players, as well as technical directors of the teams, have expressed their delight at being in Kuwait. They lauded the nation's vast potential and the exemplary organization of the event, which is poised to significantly contribute to the tournament's success. Farouk Haridi, President of the African Confederation and a member of

the Executive Office of the International Bowling Federation, expressed his joy at being in



Championship underscores its competence in organizing such prestigious events, attracting top talents from across the globe.

Haridi noted that the competition in the tournament will be fierce, given the presence of teams comprising both male and female players who have converged on Kuwait with a single goal - to deliver an outstanding performance and contend for the championship title.

He also commended the significant efforts put forth by the International Federation of the Game, led

BOWLING

by Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Talal's unwavering commitment to surmounting obstacles and advancing the sport worldwide, coupled with his dedication to expanding its reach, has earned appreciation from all continental federations. These federations collaborate closely with the International Bowling Federation to realize shared goals.

By Hassan Musa Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Zain Premier League's fourth

round is set to kick off tonight with a highly anticipated match between Al Salmiya and Kazma at Thamer Stadium at 7:30 pm.

Tomorrow will see two more exciting matches, as Al-Jahra takes on Al-Fahaheel, and Khaitan faces Al-Nasr. The tour will wrap up the day after tomorrow, on Saturday, with two more thrilling matches. In the first of these, Al-Kuwait will go head-to-head with Al-Fahaheel, while fans eagerly await the upcoming "derby" clash between Al-Arabi and Al-Oadisivah.

Currently, "Al-Kuwait" lead the league standings with 9 points, followed by Al-Arabi in second place with 7 points, tied with Al-Qadsia on goal difference. Al-Nasr, Khaitan, and Kazma share the same score of 4 points, with Al-Salmiya trailing with three points. Al-Shabab follow with two points, Al-Fahaheel with one point, and Al-Jahra at the bottom of the standings with no points.

In today's match, Kazma aim to continue their resurgence and secure their second victory in the competition. They managed to overturn the result against Al-Jahra in the last round, defeating them 2-1. This victory followed a relatively modest start to the tournament, where they drew 3-3 against Al-Nasr in the first round before suffering a "heavy" defeat to "Al-Kuwait," conceding 5 goals while scoring 2 in the second round.

Kazma's new coach, the Portuguese Francisco Challo, made a promising start with the "Orange" club, securing his first victory. This result is expected to significantly boost the team's morale ahead of crucial encounter.

Kazma hope to maintain their recent dominance over Al Salmiya, having defeated them three times last season in the same tournament (3-1, 3-1, 1-0), with only one draw (1-1). However, Al-Salmiya did manage to secure a single victory in the Zain Cup Refresher Tournament, winning convincingly with a score of 5-0. On the other hand, Al-Salmiya are eager to put behind

SOCCER

them the result of their previous match against Kuwait in the last round, where they suffered a defeat by two clean goals that saw them slip in the rankings.

Coach Mohammed Al-Mashaan of Al-Salmiya understands the importance of winning today's match to help his players regain confidence and get back on the path to victory. Al-Salmiya did manage to secure a single victory in the second round against Al-Nasr, winning 3-2. Their campaign in the competition began with a 2-3 defeat to Al-Arabi.

Al-Fayha earn 1st victory

Neymar inspires Al Hilal to 'win' over Nasaji in AFC CL

RIYADH, Oct 4: Al Hilal Saudi Club secured a significant 3-0 victory against Iran's Nasaji Club in the AFC Champions League match. The victory propelled Al Hilal to four points in the standings, tying them with Uzbekistan's Navbahor and putting them one point ahead of Nasaji. Meanwhile, Mumbai City occupy the bottom spot without a single point.

The match saw Alexander Mitrovic provide Al Hilal with an early lead just 18 minutes into the game. Neymar extended their advantage in the 58th minute, and substitute Saleh Al Shehri sealed the victory with a goal in stoppage time.

Pakhtakor remain at the bottom of the group. Al Ain secured their victory by defeating Ahal 4-2.

Iran said Wednesday it has agreed with Saudi Arabia to reschedule an Asian Champions League match after the Saudi team walked out at the last minute.

The walkout appeared to further strain a recent rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. longtime rivals who have backed opposite sides in conflicts across the Middle East. But in the days since, both sides have appeared eager to move past it.

The Saudi Al Ittihad team did not come out onto the field in Isfahan on

Myanmar win first medal



Both teams played with reduced numbers for a significant portion of the match as Salman Al-Faraj and Amir Muhammad Houshmand received red cards after decisions were reviewed by the video assistant referee.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hamid Sabiri led Al-Fayha to their maiden victory in the AFC Champions League, netting twice in a 2-0 triumph over their guests, Pakhtakor of Uzbekistan.

With this victory, the Saudi team climbed to three points in Group A, on par with Ahal. Group A is currently led by Al Ain with six points, while



Monday, where some 60,000 fans were eagerly awaiting their match against Iran's Sepahan.

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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told reporters Wednesday that the two sides would reschedule the match and urged the Asian Football Confederation to review the incident on a "technical" basis.

Al Ittihad released a statement hours after the walkout saying the team had left the stadium and flown home because it was told by league organizers that the match would not take place as scheduled. The Saudi Arabian Football Federation put out a statement expressing support for the team.

The AFC said the match was canceled "due to unanticipated and unforeseen circumstances,' ' without elaborating. On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal club defeated Iran's Nassaji in a match in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

The soccer tournament, which features 40 teams from around Asia, is the first since 2015 to see Saudi Arabian and Iranian teams play on each other's soil. After the countries severed diplomatic relations in 2016, games usually took place in neutral venues.

Bahrain's Birhanu Yemataw Balew celebrates after winning the men's

5000-meter final at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

HANGZHOU, China, Oct 4, (AP): Strife-torn Myanmar won its first medal at the Asian Games in China on Wednesday, beating Indonesia to take home gold in men's sepaktakraw, a popular regional sport also known as kick volleyball.

The Southeast Asian nation took two straight sets from Indonesia in the sport with similarities to volleyball, but played only with the feet,

cratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

ASIAN GAMES

The takeover triggered mass nonviolent protests nationwide and the military and police responded with deadly force. That gave rise to armed resistance, which has since turned into what U.N. experts have characterized as a civil war.

In comments after the sepaktakraw win, Burmese player Tun Thant Zin said the team was dedicating the gold medal "to our people back home.

"This is our first gold medal in Hangzhou," he said. "It has been very difficult for us to win but our coaching staff and the players have been very united and we deserved to win this.'

Sepaktakraw originated in rural Southeast Asia, with several countries laying claim to creating it. Its name is a literal translation, with "sepak" coming from the term used for kick in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, and "takraw" being the Thai word for the

batic, overhead kicks and somersaulting leaps to the height of the net from the two teams of three players each. It was first incorporated into the Asian

Myanmar beat Indonesia two straight in the best of three, 21-13 and 24-22.

The team had lost to Indonesia two days earlier, but coach Aung Cho Myint told reporters after the win that they were confident and prepared for the

final. "We studied their tactics," he said.

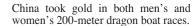
Indonesia's Rusdi Rusdi said his team was grateful for the silver, but had also felt well prepared to win gold. "I thought both teams were equal," he said. "Maybe it wasn't meant for us today.'

In women's sepaktakraw Indonesia's team took the first set from Vietnam, but then lost two straight to have to settle for silver themselves.

"It's always very difficult when we meet Indonesia, but we were confident in everything we did," said gold medalist Thi Ngoc Huyen Nguyen.

"I'm proud of my team because we were carrying some injuries, but we kept fighting together.'

In another regionally popular sport,



The long, narrow boats decorated with Chinese dragon heads and tails are powered by teams of 12 paddlers, who row to the cadence of a drummer in the front and are guided by a steerer in the rear.

The sport was incorporated into the Asian Games in 2010.

The Chinese women's team beat Indonesia to win gold, with Thailand taking bronze. The men's team beat Thailand, with Indonesia taking bronze.

Hosts China are easily leading in medals, going over the 300 mark on Wednesday, more than half of them gold.

In Day 11 of the 15-day event China was already well past its total of the 287 mark it set in the last Asian Games in Jakarta. Indonesia.

It's trailed by South Korea and Japan, each of which have fewer than half the overall number of medals that China does.

China opened the day with a gold in the 35-kilometer mixed walking race, finishing more than 5 minutes ahead of second place Japan. It was more than 34 minutes ahead of bronze-medalist India.

China's Wang Qin, one of two men on the four-person team, said his friends and relatives had come in to watch the games in Hangzhou, and that the home crowd had been a boost for him and his teammates.

"From the beginning we saw so many spectators shouting and cheering for us, I felt so excited," he said. "I felt like I had to fight for the medal no matter what and do my best to achieve the best result in this race."

'Experience' tilted scales in favor of Al-Kuwait vs Al-Wahdat, says Bonjak

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Boris Bonjak, the Serbian coach of Al-Kuwait, attributed the victory to the high concentration, meticulous preparation, and the invaluable experience of his players in high-stakes encounters against Al-Wahdat.

Neymar celebrates after scoring.

In the second round of the AFC Cup's Group Two, "Al-Abyad" secured a 2-1 win over Jordan's Al-Wahdat.

SOCCER

This victory propelled "Al-Abyad" to the second spot in the standings with four points, thanks to their superior goal difference over Iraq's Al-Kahraba, who claimed the top spot by defeating Syria's Al-Ahly Aleppo with a decisive 2-0 victory. Al-Wahdat, on the other hand, slipped to the third position.

During a press conference, Bonyak

acknowledged that facing an experienced team with exceptional players was a challenging task. He praised the skills of Jordanian goalkeeper Ahmed Abdel Sattar, considering him a key reason for "Al-Abyad's" delay in finding the net.

Bonyak also acknowledged that his team faced challenges due to the absence of both local and professional players. Nevertheless, they managed to secure a well-deserved victory with the resources they had.

Rashid Jaber, the coach of Al-Wahdat from Oman, remarked that his team performed admirably in the match despite the loss. He noted that occasional lapses in focus squandered opportunities, including the potential for a draw against Kuwait.

Jaber emphasized that the path to qualification in Group Two still has four matches ahead, and he expressed confidence in Al-Wahdat's players and their ability to bounce back from the loss against Kuwait.

knees, head and chest. Myanmar has been overwhelmed by violence since the military seized power in February 2021 from the demo-

Games in 1990.

woven ball. It's known for its eye-catching acro-



Gold medalist Yousef Al-Youha kisses a child upon his arrival from the Asian Games.



Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com **Minister of Youth extols Kuwaiti stars' success**

'Immense joy and pride brought to Kuwait'

KUWAIT CITY. Oct 4: Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Muhammad Al-Aiban, expressed his pride at the remarkable accomplishments of Kuwaiti athletes at the ongoing 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. Kuwait have clinched six medals, comprising two gold, three silver, and one bronze.

Minister Al-Aiban, while speaking to reporters upon the return of the Kuwaiti medalists in shooting and athletics, commended the dedication of these Kuwaiti sports heroes and heroines. He emphasized that their victories were the outcome of their unwavering commitment to realize the directives of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, Al-Sabah, who had personally motivated and encouraged them to excel and elevate Kuwait's reputation on the international stage.

Furthermore, Minister Al-Aiban

ASIAN GAMES

lauded the exceptional efforts of Duaij Al-Otaibi, the President of the Kuwait Shooting Federation, and the entire Federation's team, which played a pivotal role in securing four out of the six medals for Kuwait. He also expressed his admiration for both male and female athletes who have brought immense joy and pride to Kuwait, touching the hearts of officials and fans alike.

In his remarks, Duaij Al-Otaibi, the President of the Shooting Federation, expressed deep appreciation for the generous support provided by Kuwait's political leadership to sports and athletes, recognizing its substantial contribution to the substantial medal count. He extended heartfelt gratitude to Minister Al-Aiban and the Authority's officials for their unwavering backing of Kuwaiti athletes throughout the tournament. Al-Otaibi further conveyed the Shooting Federation's commitment to continuing its pursuit of sporting excellence in major international competitions, with a particular focus on securing qualifications for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games, building



Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban with Kuwaiti athletes during a reception to welcome back home from the Asian Games.



Arsenal, Man United stunned

More Bellingham heroics for Real in CL

MANCHESTER, Oct 4, (AP): It was an English player's night in the Champions League, even as both of the English teams in action lost.

Jude Bellingham made the difference again for Real Madrid in a thrilling 3-2 win at Napoli as Manchester United and Arsenal were beaten by Galatasaray and Lens, respectively.

Nine games into his Real Madrid career and Jude Bellingham is fast becoming the team's star attraction. The England midfielder assisted

Bayern kept up their record winning run in the Champions League group stage - now at 15 games going back to 2020 - but it was a tricky feat in a 2-1 win over a determined Copenhagen team.

Bayern's Jamal Musiala leveled the score after Lukas Lerager had given the Danish team the lead, and it was 18-year-old Mathys Tel who scored the winner after combining with 34-year-old teammate Thomas Müller. The action wasn't over yet, and

Kuwait cricket team stay on WCup track

DOHA, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait's cricket team Wednesday defeated the Maldives, 84-83 scores as part of the Asian competition currently hosted by Doha that qualifies for the 2024 Cricket World Cup due in the US.

The Kuwaiti team made

on the success of shooter Khaled Al-Mudhaf's qualification.

Yousef Al-Youha, a member of the Kuwaiti athletics team who secured the gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles competition, shared his overwhelming joy at this significant victory. He highlighted the intense competition he faced from Japanese and Chinese athletes in the final and dedicated this triumph to the people of Kuwait.

Shooter Talal Al-Tarqi, a two-time silver medalist in the Trapp competition (individual and team events). attributed these victories to relentless training and thorough preparation. He expressed his belief that these remarkable achievements by Kuwaiti shooters in the tournament will serve as motivation to secure even more victories in future competitions.

The sports delegation, which also included shooters Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Abdul-Rahman Al-Faihan, winners of the silver shooting team (skeet team), received a warm welcome upon their return by Yousef Al-Baidan, the Director General of the General Sports Authority, along with numerous sports officials and the families of the players.

Napoli's Elif Elmas (right), challenges Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham during the Champions League group C soccer match between Napoli and Real Madrid at the Diego Armando Maradona stadium in Naples, Italy. (AP)



Kuwaiti clears a hurdle during the equestrian event at the Asain Games.

3 South American countries added

2030 WC set to be hosted by Spain-Portugal-Morocco

GENEVA, Oct 4, (AP): A unique 2030 World Cup is set to be played in Europe and Africa with the surprising addition of South America in a deal to allow the men's soccer tournament to start with a 100th birthday party in Uruguay.

FIFA reached an agreement Wednesday between soccer's continental leaders to accept only one candidate for hosting the 2030 tournament, the sport's governing body said.

The Spain-Portugal bid grew to add Morocco this year and now also includes long-time bid rivals Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

A key lure of the unprecedented three-continent project is being able to open in the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo, where the Centenario Stadium hosted the inaugural 1930 World Cup final.

"The centennial World Cup could not be far from South America, where everything began," said Alejandro Dominguez, the president of South American soccer body CONMEBOL. "The 2030 World Cup will be played in three continents.'

The consensus reached by once-rival soccer continents also let FIFA fast-track the opening of the 2034 World Cup bidding contest, limited to member federations from Asia and Oceania.

Saudi Arabia has targeted the 2034 edition and Australia also is interested after successfully co-hosting the Women's World Cup this year with New Zealand. Either way, the 2034 tournament will almost certainly played in November and December - like last year's World Cup in Qatar.

The FIFA Council's acceptance of a unified 2030 candidacy still needs formal approval next year at a meeting of the 211 member federations. That should be just a formality.

SOCCER

"In 2030, we will have a unique global footprint, three continents - Africa, Europe and South America six countries - Argentina, Morocco, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay - welcoming and uniting the world while celebrating together the beautiful game, the centenary and the FIFA World Cup," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

Vinicius Junior for one goal to level the score at 1-1 and then tore apart the Italian champion's defense on his own to score. Even then, it needed an owngoal from Napoli goalkeeper Alex Meret - after some unfortunate deflections - to hand Madrid the win.

It was the second Champions League game in a row where Bellingham played a vital role for Madrid after scoring the winning goal against Union Berlin. The 20-year-old player has eight goals and three assists so far this season since joining Madrid from Borussia Dortmund.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti paid tribute to Bellingham, saying he found it hard to believe the midfielder was

SOCCER

still only 20.

Manchester United and Arsenal both lost to teams whose better days in European soccer were in the late 1990s and early 2000s - before Bellingham was born.

A 3-2 loss at home to Galatasaray despite two goals from Rasmus Højlund - United's sixth defeat in 10 games in all competitions - means more pressure on manager Erik ten Hag.

In the space of 10 minutes, United gave up a 2-1 lead and had midfielder Casemiro sent off as Ten Hag's team fell apart late against its Turkish opponent. Galatasaray scored in the 71st, won a penalty and missed it - with Casemiro picking up a second yellow card in the process - then scored again in the 81st. The winning goal was scored by Mauro Icardi, who had missed the spot kick shortly before.

That leaves United bottom of their group and four points behind Galatasaray in second place. United have conceded seven goals in their opening two Champions League games after losing their opener 4-3 to Bayern Munich last month.

Arsenal's victory over PSV Eindhoven last time out was a landmark - a win in its first Champions League game since the 2016-17 season - but the wait for Lens were much longer. The French team last won a Champions League game back in 2002 against AC Milan and hadn't qualified for Europe's top club competition again until this season.

Bayern goalkeeper Sven Ulreich had to dive to stop an own-goal deep into added time.

Bayern haven't lost for 36 groupstage games going back to 2017.

Two games, two heartbreaking losses in stoppage time for Union Berlin. What an introduction to the Champions League!

The German club lost their first-ever home Champions League game 3-2 to Braga on a goal in the fourth minute of added time from André Castro, two weeks after a 1-0 loss at Madrid on an equally late goal from Jude Bellingham.

Union had been leading 2-0 on two counterattack goals from Sheraldo Becker, but let Braga back into the game with two goals after failing to clear set pieces before the late winner from 35-year-old midfielder Castro. Madrid and Napoli are the other two teams in the group, meaning Union's qualifying chances have already taken a heavy blow. The 2-2 draw between PSV and Se-

villa had more than its share of drama, with goals in the 86th, 87th and fifth minute of stoppage time as PSV twice fourth victory in the qualifier.

CRICKET

Thursday's game between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia is a decisive as the winners will qualify for the second round of the qualifiers due in Nepal in November.

The competition kicked off on September 28 in Doha and will run until October 5, with the participation of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Maldives.

recovered from a goal down.

Real Sociedad had a smoother time as they picked up their first Champions League win for 20 years, beating Salzburg 2-0 on first-half goals from Mikel Oyarzabal and Brais Méndez.

Marcus Thuram scored the only goal of the game for last season's Champions League runners-up Inter Milan in a 1-0 win over Benfica to move level on four points with Sociedad at the top of their group.



Galatasaray's Mauro Icardi (top), heads the ball with Manchester United's Raphael Varane during the Champions League group A soccer match between Manchester United and Galatasaray at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)



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