



# LAWMAKER URGES MINISTER BUQAMAZ TO CONSIDER RESIGNATION

## Over 10 MPs endorse grilling motion



The Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah's 28th Cultural Season kicked off on Wednesday with its inaugural Music Night. The event, titled 'Singing Shores,' featured a performance by the Hamad Bin Hussein Band for Marine and Folk Music at the Yarmouk Cultural Centre.

Photo by Rizalde Cayan, courtesy of Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah

### Opinion

## Kuwait is tweeting out of the flock

**By Ahmed Al-Jarallah**  
Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

A FEW days ago, the United Arab Emirates, as part of the legal system that it established over the past years to seek the services of geniuses, talented people and investors, granted its citizenship to the artist Ahmad Al-Owainan.

The Vice President of the UAE and the Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid announced that the UAE opens its doors to everyone who has a talent. He wrote, "Under the directives of the President of the State, the Council of Ministers approves an amendment to the executive regulations of the Citizenship Law and allows the granting of citizenship and Emirati passports to investors, talented people, and those with specialized professions."

The UAE revealed that it is in the process of granting citizenship to neurologist Dr. Hamad Al-Enzi with four other distinguished Kuwaiti "Bedoun" individuals.

In this regard, the UAE, a few years ago, also approved granting golden residency to high school graduates and their families, as well as made room for foreigners to own real estate there.

All of this increased its GDP to AED 1.623 trillion during the year 2022, and the non-oil output amounted to AED 1.174 trillion. This is evidence of the presence of a fixed vision related to state management, which seeks to develop and not close in on itself.

In the Emirates and other Gulf countries except Kuwait, there is no such thing as "foreigner complex". Everyone works according to the law, and facilities are granted to those who seek development and progress.

Saudi Arabia, which is the largest population bloc among the Gulf states, made room for foreign ownership and provided facilities to investors. Qatar began strengthening its workforce through benefits offered to residents, as did Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman.

In these countries, there is a state project with its own system that everyone is working on at a steady pace. Kuwait, on the other hand, does not benefit from the capabilities it has, and does not allow any initiative from outside to enter. A pathetic decision has been imposed on experienced residents in Kuwait to pay exorbitant fees after reaching the age of sixty. The same applies to those who have resided in the country for 20, 30, or 40 years, and those of who came today.

In other countries that are more prudent in management, a resident is granted citizenship after five years, or permanent residency, as is the case in Switzerland and other European countries that seek to revive their society and strengthen their local economy.

With us, there is a clause in the nationality law about "great deeds," but it is like a unicorn... We

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Salman Al-Mousawi, a member of the Kuwaiti karate team, waves to the crowd as he clinched the bronze medal in the Kata – Individual event during the 19th Asian Games held in China on Thursday. — See Page 16

## Russian strike on village kills 51: Ukraine officials

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 5, (AP): A Russian rocket struck a village cafe and store in eastern Ukraine on Thursday, killing at least 51 civilians in one of the deadliest attacks in the war in months, according to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other top officials in Kyiv.

The attack came as Zelenskyy attended a summit of about 50 European leaders in Spain to drum up support from Ukraine's allies.

He denounced the strike in the village of Hroza as a "demonstrably brutal Russian crime" and "a completely deliberate act of terrorism."

Presidential chief of staff Andrii Yermak and Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said a 6-year-old boy was among the dead, adding that seven other people were wounded. Hroza, which had a population of about 500 before the war, is located in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

About 60 people were in the cafe, attending a wake after a funeral, said Internal Affairs Minister Ihor Klymenko, who provided the death toll.

According to preliminary information from Kyiv, the village was struck by an Iskander missile. Emergency crews searched the smoldering rubble of damaged buildings. Ukrainian prosecutors released photos showing bloodied bodies.

Hroza and other parts of the eastern Kharkiv region were seized by Russia early in the war and recaptured by Ukraine in September 2022.

The village is only 30 kilometers (19 miles) west of Kupiansk, a key area of the Russian military effort. Zelenskyy had visited the area Tuesday to meet with troops and inspect equipment supplied by the West.

## Expat remittances drop 5.6 pct in Q2

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Kuwaitis spent about 1.016 billion dinars on travel in the second quarter of this year recording a decrease of 25.3 percent compared to the first quarter of 2023, which was about 1.36 billion dinars, while it witnessed an increase of about 21.6 percent compared to the level of spending in the second quarter from last year -- 835.8 million dinars, reports Al-Rai daily.

The total spending on travel during the first half of this year was about 2.377 billion dinars, recording an increase of 20.5 percent compared to its level in the first half of last year, which was 1.972 billion dinars.

Meanwhile, according to the balance of payments data issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait for the State of Kuwait, the total remittances by expatriates was about 1.168 billion dinars in the second quarter of 2023, a decrease of 5.6 percent from the first quarter of this year, which was about 1.237 billion dinars, while it decreased by about 21.9 percent compared to its level in the second quarter of 2022 which was 1.495 billion dinars.

According to the balance of payments data for the State of Kuwait issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait, the total remittances of expatriate workers were about KD 1.22 billion in the first quarter of 2023, which was an increase of 4.48 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, which amounted to KD 1.167 billion. It recorded a decline of about 17.34 percent compared to its value in the first quarter of last year, which was KD 1.476 billion.

### Day by Day

BE cautious when in the company of a hypocrite, as their ways are deceitful. They dine with the wolf, barks with the dogs, and shed tears alongside the shepherd.

Such individuals are akin to dogs among humans. They entangle their spouse, pilfer in their children's name, and point fingers at everyone who clears his path. He betrays confidence, trades in your loyalty, and exchanges what's been entrusted to him.

They are thieves of abodes and opportunities, traitors to trust, and exploiters of systems. Nonetheless, the sun will rise on them, and their clamor, along with their accomplices, will escalate. The night is not everlasting, and daylight will unveil the concealed truths.

He is the thief of apartments and planes, a traitor, and an exploiter of agencies, but with the setting sun his screams and the screams of his gang members are becoming louder and louder and can be heard from a distance. The night will not last forever and the day will reveal what is hidden. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

**Zahed Matar**

### Newswatch

**GENEVA:** Kuwait reiterated on Thursday its unwavering support to the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate rights.

This came during Kuwait's speech, delivered by its permanent representative to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hain, to the Human Rights Council, which discussed the situation in Palestine and other Arab territories occupied by Israel.

Al-Hain said, "While the world celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 75 years have passed since the Nakba of the Palestinian people."

He added, "Kuwait condemns in the strongest terms the repetitive violations targeting the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupying forces." (KUNA)

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**MANAMA:** Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa lauded on Thursday the level of cooperation with the US in the military sector.

Bahrain News Agency said the Crown Prince, also the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Bahrain Armed Forces, lauded the cooperation with Washington during a meeting, held at Al-Gudaiyya Palace, with the Marine Commander at the Central Command and Commander of the Fifth Fleet, Vice Admiral Charles Cooper, and the US Ambassador to Bahrain, Steven Bondi.

The news agency added the Crown Prince praised progress in the Bahraini-US relations and the achievements that have been made as a result of this coordination at diverse levels. (KUNA)

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**ADEN:** Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) chairman Rashad al-Alimi affirmed Thursday openness to all initiatives aimed at achieving comprehensive and sustainable peace based on the references agreed upon nationally, regionally and internationally.

This came during Al-Amimi's reception of US Ambassador to Yemen Stephen Wagen to discuss the developments in Yemen and mediation efforts led by Saudi Arabia and Oman to renew the truce and launch a UN-brokered comprehensive political process, Yemen News Agency (SABA) reported.

Al-Alimi underlined the need to ensure a wide partnership in the future without exclusion or discrimination to guarantee that the rounds of war will not be repeated.

He called for abidance by the constitution and the law, and respecting the resolutions of international legitimacy, public rights and freedoms, and good-neighboring relations, it noted. (KUNA)

### Citizens at forefront

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5:** MP Muhammad Al-Rujaib revealed that he has submitted the priorities for the upcoming parliamentary term to the coordinating committee.

Based on his perspective, he divided the priorities in the following manner:

1. Improving the citizens' standard of living, which include increasing the cost of living allowance from KD 120 to KD 250 per month, increasing the children allowance, amending the laws concerning the retirees to increase the minimum amount of pension, sharing the profits of the Public Institution for Social Security with the retirees, canceling usury loans for retirees, increasing rent allowance and increasing the allowance allocated to students to meet the growing inflation rates.
2. Dealing with infrastructure and housing issues, which include buying the houses located in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and distributing the plots to the housing applicants, toughening the penalties imposed on the violating contractors, completing the infrastructure in the new residential areas before starting the distribution of plots, and continuing to pay rent allowance to beneficiaries for two years after connecting electricity.
3. Tackling employment-related issues, which include ratifying the strategic alternative, increasing the national labor allowance allocated to citizens working in the private sector, amending the law of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises, compensating the owners of small enterprises who suffered damages during COVID-19 crisis, amending chapter 5 of the law of the Public Institution for Social Security, allowing the appointment of citizens in all public institutions with no exceptions, and linking the employment systems of the entire public institutions to the automated system of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

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### Move threatens progress

## 'Iraqi court ruling disrespect to law'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Iraq's Federal Supreme Court's ruling annulling a 2012 agreement on Khor Abdullah displays Iraq's dishonesty in commitment to respecting international law, political agreements and treaties, a scholar has said in a research paper.

The State of Kuwait and Iraq entered in 2012 a joint agreement concerning regulation of maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah. The accord was ratified by parliaments in the two countries in 2013, and subsequently submitted to the UN.

However, the court declared, in a ruling on September 4, 2023, the agreement was unconstitutional which ran counter to established international law governing bilateral agreements.

The ruling "not only demonstrated its immaturity and irresponsibility but also jeopardizes the recently improving relationship between the two countries. This situation threatens to reset the progress made between them," Dr. Faisal Al-Wazzan, Assistant Professor of History at Kuwait University said in his research paper.

"On the international stage, Iraq is displaying a lack of seriousness and dishonesty in its commitment to respecting and adhering to international law, political agreements, and treaties," added Al-Wazzan, also Advisor at the Center for Research and Studies on Kuwait.

The move was part of Iraq's consistent pattern of reneging on these agreements with Kuwait, periodically sparking border crises, which have been spanning more than 90 years.

Al-Wazzan said Iraq's reversals on border agreements typically coincided with domestic turmoil, with Iraqi politicians restoring to rhetorical discourse on Kuwait-related issues to divert attention away from international problems while appearing patriotic.

The court's ruling, he noted, extended beyond the technical aspects of the agreement. "It delves into longstanding and recurring Iraqi claims (in Kuwait). This stance disregards all agreements between the two nations dating back in 1932, including UN Security Council resolution 833.

Al-Wazzan sheds light on history of border issues between Kuwait and Iraq. When Iraq ceased to be part of the Ottoman Empire, it sought to resolve its administrative structures and borders independently.

The establishment of the new Iraqi state, he added, was orchestrated by the British Empire, which installed a Hashemite King in 1921, contrary to Kuwait which functioned as an independent emirate under British protection since 1899.

In 1932, some 11 years after establishment of Kingdom of Iraq, it sought to become member of the League of Nations, and to fulfill admission requirements, it needed to define its borders with neighboring countries.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Saeed, said Al-Wazzan, wrote a letter to British Ambassador in Baghdad Sir F. Humphrys officially acknowledging land borders with Kuwait.

The letter, dated July 21, 1932, was approved by Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on August 10, 1932, to serve as foundation for subsequent agreements, said Al-Wazzan.

In 1938, Iraq's Foreign Minister, Tawfiq Al-Suwaidi, rejected the agreement and expressed a desire to annex Kuwait. He based his position on a misunderstanding of relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Emirate of Kuwait from 1870 to 1899, mistakenly believing that Kuwait was a part of the Ottoman Empire.

**Continued on Page 4**



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:24	Asr .....	14:59
Sunrise ..	05:43	Maghrib ..	17:30
Zohr .....	11:37	Isha .....	18:46

# Local

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

Weather			
Expected weather for the next 24 hours:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over open areas and some			
By Night: Rather hot to mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	39	29	
Kuwait Airport			
Abdaly	39	25	29
Jahra	41	29	30
Salmiyah	36	31	27
Ahmadi	36	27	40
Nuwaisib	38		
Wafra	40		



KUNA photo

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during the inspection visit to the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base.

## Be vigilant, ready to safeguard Kuwait's security: Defense Minister

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmed Fahd Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah underscored the paramount importance of maintaining the highest levels of vigilance and preparedness to safeguard the nation's security and territorial waters. He commended the dedicated efforts of the Kuwaiti Army Naval Force and their collaborative partnership with the General Administration of the Coast Guard.

This declaration was conveyed in a statement by Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd, issued by the Ministry of Defense, during his inspection visit to the Mohammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base on Thursday. He was warmly welcomed by Ma-

ior General Engineer Dr. Ghazi Al-Shammari, Acting Chief of the General Staff, Brigadier General Rear Admiral Hazza Al-Alaty, Commander of the Naval Force, and several senior officers.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd encouraged the Naval Force members to continue to demonstrate commitment and utilize their full potential to achieve the desired levels of efficiency and effectiveness. He extended his best wishes for their ongoing success, progress, and dedication to the welfare, advancement, and stability of the beloved homeland under the wise leadership of His Highness the Emir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

During the visit, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd received a briefing on the responsibilities and missions assigned to the naval force, as well as their ongoing development and modernization initiatives. He also learned about the training and qualification programs for its personnel and their cooperation and coordination with various maritime-related agencies, institutions, and entities in the country. Furthermore, he toured the Muhammad Al-Ahmad Naval Base, which included a variety of naval vessels, technical workshops, and specialized naval units. Throughout the tour, he gained a comprehensive understanding of their operations, duties, and responsibilities. (KUNA)



KUNA photo

A primary school student displays artwork to support children with cancer.

## Awareness cuts treatment journey

## 'Early detection of cancer vital'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Women's Voluntary Society for Community Development has emphasized the critical importance of early breast cancer detection to streamline the treatment process. They highlight that activating awareness campaigns significantly contributes to raising consciousness about breast cancer, its prevention methods, symptoms, and treatment options.

Dr. Mona Al-Qattan, the Association's Secretary, made this statement on Thursday following the launch of the "Positive Support Studio to Support People with Cancer" initiative, sponsored by the Association as part of the "Your Health is Your Capital" awareness campaign.

Al-Qattan expressed the Society's commitment to supporting this campaign for the sixth consecutive year. This commitment stems from the belief of Sheikhha Fadia Sa'ad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, in the importance of supporting all awareness programs related to women, which ultimately have a positive impact on both the family and society.

She highlighted that this campaign is part of the Society's social responsibility programs, aimed at enhancing the cultural and health awareness of the community and conveying positive messages through art. As part of the initiative, female students from Umm Attia Al Ansariyah Primary School are participating by creating artwork

to support children with cancer.

Al-Qattan further explained that the campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of early detection and dispel common misconceptions. It also aims to educate individuals on self-detection methods for breast cancer. The Association is eager to collaborate with the National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN) to conduct events and activities throughout the month of October to promote early detection awareness.

Dr. Hessa Al-Shaheen, a Board of Directors member of the National Campaign for Cancer Awareness (CAN) and the individual responsible for the "Your Health is Your Capital" campaign, emphasized that the psychological well-being of cancer patients is a top priority. This is crucial in supporting their overall health and encouraging their acceptance of treatment.

She elaborated on the initiative's focus on the importance of consuming healthy food to reduce the risk of cancer. Additionally, it raises awareness about potential risk factors for tumors and identifies their early warning signs, particularly those that can be detected in the initial stages, such as breast cancer.

Al-Shaheen pointed out that increased awareness among women has led to earlier cancer diagnoses, where treatment yields positive outcomes, resulting in recovery rates exceeding 90 percent in many cases without the need for organ removal.

## 'Come to work between 7 and 9 am'

## Flexible working hours at MC

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Acting Secretary General of the Municipal Council (MC) Dr. Fahad Al-Otaibi issued an administrative circular yesterday to declare that the official working hours in the Secretariat General of the Municipal Council will be as per the flexible working hours, which is seven working hours from Sunday to Thursday.

According to the circular, the start of work will be between 7:00 am and 9:00 am. An employee is allowed to report at any time within that period, and they can leave work after completing seven working hours from the time they reported to work.

This timing is applied without prejudice to the grace period specified for the employee at the beginning of the work which is 30 minutes, or the 15-minute grace period set for female employees at the end of work, or the permission system or other rules and provisions contained in Civil Service Council Resolution No. 41/2006 regarding the rules and provisions governing flexible official work in government agencies.

The circular specified three controls for

calculating the grace period and the delay period for reporting in at the beginning of work, as follows:

1. The grace period is calculated at the beginning of the work day after the end of the last attendance time, that is, after 9:00 am.

2. The minutes of delay at the start of work are calculated after the end of the grace period set at the start of work from 9:30 am.

3. The hours for seeking permission to leave work are calculated after the employer approves, at the beginning of the work day from the time specified by the employee during the period from 7:00 am to 9:00 am.

The aforementioned controls are not applied to those subject to reduced working hours or those subject to the system of partial absence without pay for any reason. The working hours for this category are from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm or from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm, or from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm or from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

In addition, the employees in the aforementioned category are obligated to notify the Administrative Affairs Department about the timings they have chosen through their departments, within five working days of the issuance of the circular.

# Cut in burn patients going abroad

Most ops done at Babtain Center

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Head of the Department of Plastic, Cosmetic and Congenital Deformities at the Saud Al-Babtain Center for Burns and Plastic Surgery Dr. Aqeel Lari highlighted the center's success in reducing by about 60 percent in less than two years the referral of patients abroad for the treatment of congenital deformities and reconstructive surgeries after deep burns and severe injuries.**

In a televised interview, Dr. Lari explained that the Saud Al-Babtain Center is not only for burns, but also for reconstructive operations and congenital deformities in children, including the palate, cleft lip, and skull deformities, which are complex medical conditions that previously required traveling abroad for treatment. Due to the modern technologies and the efforts of doctors at the center, the rate of overseas referrals have reduced significantly, saving the state millions of dinars.

Dr. Lari revealed that the center will launch a hyperbaric oxygen therapy unit next week in order to stimulate tissues damaged by burns and chronic wounds for diabetics as well as other diseases and problems through hyperbaric oxygen.

In addition, the center's anesthesia and critical care specialist Dr. Ahmed said in a similar statement that treating doctors face a major problem in dealing with burn cases, especially at the beginning of burns.

He highlighted the center's capabilities in dealing with burn cases of various types, such that there are almost no deaths resulting from burns, as well as severe burns, the rate of which reaches about 90 percent, as they are treated with a success rate of about 100 percent.

## UK parliament nods to hike in entry visa fees

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The United Kingdom has announced that the British Parliament has given the go ahead to increase entry visa fees effective from October 4, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The alterations pertaining to fee increments will not impact the new Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system, set to be implemented in February 2024, for citizens of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and Jordan. Similarly, the electronic visa exemption will remain unchanged at around 30 British pounds, approximately 12 Kuwaiti dinars.

Consequently, individuals applying at the visa center will be subject to the new prices following Wednesday's activation of the increases. However, citizens from Gulf countries can utilize the electronic visa currently in effect, which maintains its value at 12 dinars.

As per the updated fees, the cost of a tourist visa (short-term visit for 6 months) has been raised to 115 British pounds, equivalent to 46 Kuwaiti dinars. The cost of a student visa will see an increase to 490 British pounds, approximately 196 Kuwaiti dinars.

Furthermore, the cost of the "urgent" priority service will surge to approximately 500 British pounds, equivalent to 200 dinars. This service's price will encompass all visa types.

It's worth noting that, based on the proposal, a visitor visa for travelers from around the world for a period of less than six months will be priced at 115 pounds sterling. For a two-year period, it will cost 400 pounds sterling, and for a five-year period, it will be 771 pounds sterling. Additionally, student visa fees will increase by 127 pounds sterling to 490 pounds sterling for travelers globally.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah during his participation in the 120th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee.

## Finance minister in GCC meeting

Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah took part on Thursday in the 120th meeting of the GCC committee of financial and economic cooperation, hosted by the Omani capital Muscat.

The Ministry of Finance said in a statement that the ministers and officials who took part in the meeting took a number of decisions "compatible with the council leaders' vision for increasing coordination and cooperation and cementing the bonds" among the GCC member states.

They also examined issues such as outcome of the 81st meeting of the central committee of the GCC central banks

governors, results of the fifth meeting of the board of the GCC custom authority, in addition to endorsing the final draft of the regulations for exempting industrial products from tariffs.

Moreover, the officials discussed outcome of the 38th meeting of the joint GCC committee and the sixth meeting of the team of the finance ministries for addressing the "G20" initiative.

Furthermore, the talks touched on schedules of forthcoming meetings of the GCC committee of economic and financial cooperation and the finance undersecretaries for 2024. (KUNA)

## 'Official end of summer begins'

## Kuwait may see above normal rainfall in Nov – meteorologist

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Meteorologist Fahd Al-Otaibi expected that during the transitional period between summer and winter, the country will witness rainfall within the annual normal rate or slightly above this rate, pointing out that the maximum temperature would drop below 40 degrees Celsius after the middle of this month.

Al-Otaibi told Al-Rai that "according to medium-term expectations, the country will witness heavy rains during the transitional period compared to the rainfall that the country witnessed last season during the same period."

He pointed out that the classification of rain rates from light to medium and heavy depends on the amount of rain that falls within an hour, meaning, "If we notice that the rainfall reaches 10 mm per hour, it can be classified as heavy rain."

He added, "The occurrence of water accumulations as a result of rain expected to fall at the end of this month or the beginning of next November depends on the readiness of rainwater drainage networks for the quantities that will be recorded by rain measuring stations," explaining that a rainfall of 25 mm or more means the presence of water accumulations in many locations.

For his part, meteorologist Issa Ramadan said that tomorrow marks the first

day of the Surfah horoscope, which is the beginning of the end of the heat, the official end of summer, and the beginning of autumn in Kuwait, where maximum temperatures begin to drop below the 40 degree Celsius barrier during the day, and are below 30 at night and drop to 22 at dawn on land during the coming days.

He pointed out that during this period, the movement of air depressions begins, clouds appear, and the first sign occurs after the 15th of this month.

Ramadan warned of some heavy rainfall next November due to the global El Nino phenomenon (an irregular change in winds and temperatures in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean).

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**4,266 get jobs:** The Civil Service Commission announced a batch of 4,266 Kuwaitis has been selected to work in government institutions who had registered with the CSC, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The CSC said it continues to receive requests from Government institutions needs for specializations that are appropriate to the nature of the work of each government agency.

The CSC said candidates must contact the employer directly without the need to visit the Civil Service Commission.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## ‘Kuwait Hackathon’ proposal to help ID and hire exceptional talents’

“If you spend more on coffee than you do on IT security, you’re going to get hacked. Moreover, you deserve to be hacked. – Richard Clarke.

“MP Abdul Wahab Al-Issa and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi have put forth a proposal advocating for the National Center for Cyber Security to organize a “hackathon” competition, aimed at attracting skilled professionals in programming and hacking operations. The objective is to identify exceptional talents and hire them, bypassing conventional government agency requirements such as certifications and age restrictions,” columnist **Abdulaziz Al-Kandari** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

“First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, has embraced and endorsed the “Kuwait Hackathon” proposal. The proposal’s goal is to enhance the cybersecurity apparatus’s recruitment process and evaluate government systems’ effectiveness using innovative and contemporary approaches. Prompt action was taken by his excellency the minister, given the urgency of the matter.

“Cybersecurity involves safeguarding systems and networks from digital threats, with cyberattacks aiming to access critical information for theft or destruction, often demanding financial compensation through blackmail. In 2021, individuals in the United States lost approximately \$7 billion due to cybercrime, as reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

“The proposal from the two representatives and the subsequent response by his excellency the minister of the interior are timely, particularly following a recent breach where hackers infiltrated the Ministry of Finance’s website and copied sensitive documents, including chalet rental contracts and civil card copies. This incident serves as a warning, necessitating preparation for future cyber conflicts. The potential risks are significant, urging us to exercise caution and readiness.

“Preparedness is crucial. Consider the scenario if hackers gained control over and infiltrated the electricity network and bank accounts, obtained private security information, disrupted air traffic at the airport, or targeted any vital ministry or institution in the country. It is imperative to act proactively and not wait for such events, preparing through the youth of Kuwait. This initiative must be integrated into the government’s agenda. Students should be sent to top global universities specializing in this field, focusing on cybersecurity as a defense priority surpassing the significance of conventional weaponry.

“The responsibility lies heavily on the government and representatives. Urgently ceasing disputes and allegations, reaching a consensus on a legislative roadmap that incorporates cybersecurity, alongside previously agreed-upon topics through coordination between the government and the National Assembly, is paramount.

“Currently, the nation faces formidable challenges that even the mightiest



Al-Kandari

armies cannot withstand – the armies of science, progress, and technology. Adequate preparation is imperative to face this transformation responsibly, within the context of our time, leaving behind past conflicts and false heroics. Failure to do so may relegate us to early retirement and a marginalized existence, mirroring the fate of numerous Arab countries indicated by economic failures and other markers.”

**Also:**

“I receive several calls, repeatedly from time to time, from numbers unknown to me, to the extent that such calls have become an almost daily occurrence. It should not come as a surprise that many of these calls are intended to ask about my desire to invest in banking through various platforms,” columnist **Tariq Boursely** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

“Not only that, but a “link” is also sent via private message or text message as if it was from a bank or an official body.

“Many people have been deceived, mostly under the pretext of electronic investment. There are many ways of doing so, and electronic fraud is a reality. Perhaps I will write this article to address this modern type of theft.

“This type of theft and fraud is global, not just in our Arab and Gulf region. These thefts are more dangerous than bank robberies in broad daylight. The saddening thing is that this fraud has happened to many male and female citizens. The amount withdrawn may even reach hundreds of thousands of dinars. In fact, these stories have become a topic of conversation.

“Who protects us from electronic fraudsters? Shouldn’t the specialists and stakeholders look into the issue and tighten the penal punishment? What about arrests, summons, imprisonment and fines, as this is a type of advanced fraud that sometimes makes us lose everything we have? They need to check whether these networks are managed from Kuwait or from outside Kuwait.

“We need awareness and guidance on how to protect ourselves when these intruders barge into our lives, take our money, and tamper with the future of our children. How much wealth has been lost due to the promotions practiced by these people through persuasion in e-commerce or to purchase a commodity or consumer product through gentle questions and naive responses?!

“It is time for us to know how to protect ourselves by activating the role of cybersecurity to maintain the systems of official countries, including banks, government companies, and others.

“When a hacker sends a message claiming to be from a bank or an official body, it may mean that there are electronic security breaches taking place, which requires technical intervention to confront it.”

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“Our democracy is going through a severe crisis, and we fear that it will turn from a blessing into a curse as long as there is a shift from participation

to monopolization, and from the public good to personal benefit and gain!” columnist **Dr. Mohammad Al-Moqatea** wrote for **aljarida** daily.

“Although our democracy started with unity and proceeded rationally, it became distorted and went on to destroy the state in a remarkable and sad way!

“The political and democratic system, as established by the founding fathers and embodied in the 1962 Constitution, is a balanced, robust, and advanced system of government that is capable of accommodating changes.

“However, what is sad is that it has been distorted, first with frequency limits, then with fanaticism, and finally with interests that diverted it from its path by transforming members into transaction brokers.

“Instead of their concern being the general interest of the state and the people and their development, their focus eventually was to tamper with the entity of society politically, which is the most dangerous of all, with files and arrangements that threaten national sovereignty and security.”

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“Tampering with the demographic structure is one of the most dangerous things this country has been exposed to. When it occurs, it is difficult to rectify and its risks are unsafe,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Mulaifi** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

“There is an abnormal exodus to Kuwait from the north and south, some of which may have economic and livelihood reasons. However, we cannot ignore the political and security reasons, especially since ambitions have existed throughout history and still exist. Unfortunately, the ruling authority participated in a large part of this absurdity in order to achieve temporary balances, rather imbalances, which have become permanent and fatal. Politicians and financiers participated in this absurdity for commercial and financial interests.

“Whatever is happening in Kuwait in terms of population imbalance is represented by random naturalization that is not matched by the inculcation of good citizenship, and forgery that is difficult to detect. There is also the tampering with the demographic structure through marginal workers, something that is not accompanied by a strict application of the law.

“Putting the country’s important facilities such as the Amiri Diwan, the Council of Ministers, and the National Assembly in the hands of non-Kuwaitis, along with the sensitive sites of a security and information nature in the Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait Army, and the financial and IT departments of the ministries and government agencies, has turned the country into an open book. It is open to anyone who wants to exploit it to use the information, or sell it to those who are interested in it.

“A group of politicians and parliamentarians are still continuing this absurdity through legislative proposals whose interests do not go beyond the noses of those who propose them, and are met with governmental indifference and negligence that sometimes reaches the point of submission.”

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## Heavy fines imposed on firms not fulfilling pacts

We are protecting public funds: MoH



The Asian suspect and local liquor in water bottles.

### Liquor, drugs seized

Personnel from the Jahra Security Directorate have arrested an unidentified Asian for selling home-made alcohol and peddling in drugs, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The daily added, the arrest came after an unidentified person saw the bootlegger moving suspiciously near a residential building in Jahra. It has been reported the man tried in vain to escape when he saw the police car leaving behind 18 bottles of alcohol and a piece of hashish. He was chased and arrested by police and handed over to the concerned authority.

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, the Minister of Health, has given his approval for the imposition of 2,176 penalties on several companies with contracts with the Ministry of Health since the beginning of the fiscal year on April 1, reports Al-Rai daily.**

Reliable sources indicated that these penalties, which are part of safeguarding public funds, were imposed on various companies involved in health service implementation or the supply of medical consumables.

The fines and penalties imposed by the Minister of Health on these companies, in accordance with the correct contractual procedures, amounted to approximately 5 million dinars.

The sources affirmed that these penalties were imposed to uphold the protection of public funds and to enforce penal conditions outlined in the contracts signed between the ministry and the concerned parties. Notably, this number of fines is being applied for the first time, and these measures aim to address a multitude of observations from regulatory authorities that have persisted for years.

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**Drug dealer admits crime:** When a Kuwaiti drug dealer was produced before the Criminal Court he admitted to bringing in 50 kilograms of hashish by sea, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

When the judge asked him if he admits to bringing in the drugs, he said, “Yes, I am a drug dealer and I am the one who brought these drugs into the country via the sea. I know that I will be put to death or put behind bars for life. I am now 50 years old, and I want to say that the rest of the three defendants who are no more than 20 years old had no knowledge of drugs. I took advantage of their youth and their need for money since they are bedoun and unemployed. “I was previously imprisoned on charges of drug trafficking,” he added. The court has set another date to issue a verdict in the case.

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**Factory shut down:** Inspectors from the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce, with the help of technical inspectors from the General Traffic Department have shut down a factory that manufactured “exhaust systems” that made annoying noises, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The daily quoting GTD sources said this is considered a violation of environmental law.

The Ministry of Commerce stated that more than 100 manufactured hydrators ready for sale and installation were seized and the issue has been referred to the Commercial Prosecution.

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**‘Fake’ text messages:** The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy warned the public against dealing with text messages, claiming to be sent from the ministry, that contain an electronic payment link, reports **Aljarida** daily.

Through its official account on the “X” platform, the ministry stressed the need to verify the sending party and the attached images to differentiate between what is real and what is fake.

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**Drenched in blood:** A 50-year old man who is wanted by law and has a criminal record was found drenched in blood in a building in Mangaf area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about a screaming man who was covered in blood, police officers, paramedics and investigators immediately rushed to the building in Mangaf. They attended to the man, who was covered in blood, and referred him to the nearest hospital.

### Other Voices

## Edging closer to ‘deal of the century’

By Ahmad alsarraf

Israel fully understands the significance of normalizing ties with Saudi Arabia, an understanding reciprocated by Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, who recognizes the strategic leverage he holds for both Israel and its ally, the USA.

In July 1972, former Egyptian president Anwar Al Sadat abruptly expelled 20,000 Soviet experts, aiming for a purely Egyptian victory in the anticipated conflict with Israel in October 1973.

However, Sadat missed the opportunity to obtain benefits for rejecting Soviet influence in Egypt. This unwise move led Henry Kissinger, the then National Security advisor to US president Richard Nixon, to regret the lack of prior knowledge, stating they would have paid the price had they known in advance.

It’s evident that Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman is determined not to repeat Sadat’s mistake. He is not willing to sacrifice the strategic advantage he possesses for minimal gains. He intends to craft a mutually beneficial deal, particularly advantageous for his own country.

As days pass, we edge closer to the much-discussed “deal of the century,” anticipated to be settled before the spring of 2024, preceding the start of the presidential elections campaign.

In an interview with Fox News, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman expressed that negotiations are progressing positively. He emphasized that if the deal is reached, it will be the most significant one since the end



alsarraf

of the Cold War.

Saudi Arabia’s primary objectives with the “deal of the century” include ensuring the rights of the Palestinian people and realizing their aspirations through a two-state solution.

Additionally, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman seeks to sign a treaty with the USA, ensuring American commitment to defend Saudi Arabia in case of foreign attacks -- similar to treaties between the USA and Japan, South Korea, and various European countries.

He also aims to secure American weaponry without facing obstacles in the US Congress, paralleling Israel’s ease of obtaining weapons. Saudi Arabia desires to become a commercial partner with the USA, opening up American markets to Saudi products with reduced or no customs fees. The Saudi government will request President Joe Biden’s approval for uranium enrichment on Saudi soil under American supervision, as part of the normalization deal with Israel.

However, this proposition has been rejected by the USA in the past, with an alternative offer resembling the one signed with the United Arab Emirates -- forgoing uranium enrichment.

Saudi Arabia aspires to be recognized as a strategic ally by the USA, akin to other nations. The demands from Saudi Arabia demonstrate political maturity and a comprehensive understanding of the importance of their available capabilities and negotiation assets.

The final structure of the deal involving the USA, Saudi Arabia, and Israel remains unknown. However, Israel’s involvement adds complexity, given its paramount concern for preserving national security, an aspect it is unwilling to compromise for any potential advantages.

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## 22 senior posts vacant in MEW: minister

By Muhammad Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5:** The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Jassim Al-Mustad says the number of vacant supervisory positions in the sector of electrical power and water distillation stations is 22.

In response to a parliamentary question submitted by MP Ahmad Lari, Dr.

Al-Mustad explained that the morning work shift is from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm during the weekdays, from Sunday to Thursday, and the number of workers in the morning shift is 2,420.

There are also 4,317 employees who will work in 12-hour shifts throughout the week.

Meanwhile, Dr. Al-Mustad revealed that the ministry will invite bids for the use of canteens in the electric power

generation and water distillation stations. He explained that the company that fulfills the bidding conditions, has previous experience, and with the potential and ability to provide quality products will be selected to carry out the work.

It will also be obligated in the contract documents to comply with all provisions related to applying health procedures and requirements in the preparation and processing of food.

## Info inks deal to set up joint ‘digital platform’

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5:** The Ministry of Information announced the signing of the contract for the bidding for the establishment of an integrated digital platform for the Ministry, visual and audio, via the Internet, with a five-year contract worth 5.5 million dinars, which includes the Ministry obtaining 10% of the net profits of the platform, with the winning company bearing the responsibility for establishing, operating and marketing the platform, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The Ministry’s official spokesman, Badr Al-Enzei, said in a statement that, under direct instructions from the Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, the contract was signed, after obtaining all necessary approvals from the regulatory authorities in the country, and ensuring the validity of all procedures related to the contract, which is the first of its kind and the highest in terms of revenue in the field for the ministry, with returns expected to be unprecedented.

Al-Enzei added that this platform is concerned with broadcasting media content in a way that goes beyond traditional methods and models, to transmit content through all possible applications, which gives the user the opportunity to access the television content he desires via the Internet through his subscription to the platform.

He explained that the subscriber will receive many services, including watching the live broadcast of all Kuwaiti TV channels, in addition to listening to all Kuwaiti radio stations, with the ability to watch archived and new television works, and listen to archived and new radio programs.

He stated that the operating company will work to produce and purchase programs, series and films in accordance with the controls followed by the Ministry of Information to display them through the platform.



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HH the Crown Prince, PM send similar cables

# HH Amir condolences with Indian president on floods’ victims

## Egypt Embassy announces 5-yr multiple entry visa for Kuwaitis

Maximum each stay no more than 90 days: official

### Arab League holds training session

Kuwait’s Sheikha Jawaher commends Arab efforts on empowering women

CAIRO, Oct 5, (KUNA): Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Sabah, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs, extolled Thursday the Arab countries’ efforts aiming to empower woman to play a role in mediation and peacekeeping.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement at the end of a training session on female mediation organized by the Arab League, Sheikha Jawaher said that the session focused on enhancing capabilities of the members of the Arab Network for Women and challenges facing the Arab world.

She added that the session shed light on means of involving women in addressing the causes of conflict mainly related to climate change.

Sheikha Jawaher, a member of the network, referred that there are basic links among the conflicts over resources, climate change and the session’s topics.

There are important matters that deserve research as they interpret the UN Resolution 1,325 on women, peace and security, she said.

She commended the Arab League’s keenness on highlighting the role of women in playing a mediation role and taking part



KUNA photo  
Sheikha Jawaher receives an award after participating in the training session.

in negotiations that lead to peace and national reconciliations.

The five-day session adopted an interactive approach during practical trainings and studding cases related to natural resources, conflicts, and climate change and its repercussions, she elaborated.

Sheikha Jawaher pointed out that the session is a pioneering initiative for Arab female diplomats that helps them share expertise in preventing conflicts and achieving peaceful settlements.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Ambassador Heba Zaki, the Consul General of Egypt, announced a new five-year multiple-entry visa for Kuwaiti citizens traveling to Egypt. Each stay should not exceed 90 days, and a fee of up to 250 dinars will be charged, simplifying visits for Kuwaitis to their second home.

Consul General Zaki explained that the decision to grant a five-year multiple-entry visa to Kuwaitis was in line with the Minister of Interior’s approval for citizens in several countries, including Kuwait, to receive such a visa.

This decision is part of the effort to streamline and expedite procedures for Kuwaiti citizens entering Egypt. These actions are a result of mutual coordination and cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait, showcasing the warm welcome extended by Egypt to the Kuwaiti people to visit at any time.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, Osama Shaltout, said the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait is prepared to facilitate Egyptian citizens’ participation in the upcoming presidential elections scheduled for December 1, 2, and 3, 2023, for Egyptians residing abroad.

During a press conference held at the embassy, Ambassador Shaltout encouraged the Egyptians living in Kuwait to exercise their constitutional right to vote in the forthcoming elections. He commended their enthusiasm in showing support for presidential candidacy, underlining that this action marks the initial step towards actively shaping the nation’s future.

Ambassador Shaltout emphasized that Egyptians in Kuwait, as well as across the globe, participating in the December presidential elections, will convey a message to the world regarding the essential role of Egyptian communities abroad in influencing their nation’s future.

Furthermore, Ambassador Shaltout mentioned the process for those seeking media coverage at the electoral headquarters. Interested individuals need to submit an application to the embassy, which will then be forwarded to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The ministry will, in turn, send it to the National Elections Authority to obtain the necessary permits. Shaltout informed that there are approximately 467,000 Egyptians in Kuwait with work permits and a total of 671,000 Egyptians, including those joining family members.

He also revealed that the electoral headquarters location would be announced the following week, with ongoing coordination with the Kuwaiti authorities and the National Elections Authority. Contracts have been signed with various Internet companies to review their efficiency within the electoral headquarters for the election day, which will also have election observers.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Thursday a cable of condolences to President Droupadi Murmu of India over the victims of the floods that engulfed the country due to heavy rains.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished a speedy recovery to the wounded, praying to Allah the Almighty to bestow His mercy upon the souls of the victims and to help Indian officials overcome this natural disaster.

Several people were killed, wounded or reported missing due to the rains, which also caused damage to public utilities and properties.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Droupadi Murmu over the victims of the floods that engulfed the country due to heavy rains.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished a speedy recovery to the wounded, praying to Allah the Almighty to bestow his mercy upon souls of the victims and for recovery of the missing.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to President Droupadi Murmu.

See Also Page 7



One of the acts from the play.

KUNA photo

### Kuwaiti director’s IMEDEA concludes in Shubbak theater festival in London

LONDON, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti playwright and director Sulayman Al-Bassam concluded his award winning play IMEDEA in Shubbak Festival, which is the UK’s largest biennial festival of contemporary Arab culture.

Al-Bassam’s four sold out shows played at the Stone Nest hall, built in 1888. It is an arts organization and performance venue in the heart of London’s West End.

In a press release, Al-Bassam affirmed the qualitative addition of his play to Kuwaiti and Arab theater in England at the most prestigious festival, called Shubbak (meaning ‘window’ in Arabic) which supports and celebrates the diversity of Arab artists’ creativity and innovation.

The Kuwaiti director expressed his joy

over the public turnout to his four shows adding that the audience included Kuwaiti students studying in the UK in addition to the Kuwaiti ambassador and other Kuwaiti prominent figures.

The play also drew Arab nationals and cultural foreign professors, he added.

IMEDEA is a bold reimagining of the infamous Greek myth that draws on the eroding infrastructures of fact in a digital world, to re-imagine Medea for an era of tech-driven authoritarianism.

The play had been touring the world from Kuwait, Tunisia, Cairo, Beirut, Casablanca, Hanover, Napoli, Mexico City and London.

The play won four major awards in writing, scenography and acting in both Tunis and Cairo theatrical festivals.

### Kuwait is

Continued from Page 1

hear about it but we never see it. This is why the state suffers from a drought of ideas, projects, industries, and innovations. On the other hand, those with a shortsighted outlook adhere to a naive saying that “All is well.”

In Switzerland, for example, there are professions that citizens do not take up, such as construction workers. The state seeks the services of craftsmen and masons from Eastern European countries, and sponsors them. There is no heresy of “Kuwaiti sponsor,” or the “kafala” system, which is why there is no human trafficking. Its citizens work in banks, the watch industry, chocolate factories, etc.

Kuwait cannot develop in light of the current prevailing mentality, which has caused the country to close down and pushed many Kuwaitis to flee with their money to neighboring countries.

This is what happened with the young owners of small and medium enterprises, who found themselves suffering from the poor performance of their support fund, just as the state did not benefit from those with experience.

It is as if there is someone intentionally making Kuwait tweet out of the region’s flock. For this reason we will continue to suffer from isolation until the current situation comes to pass.

### Over 10

Continued from Page 1

4. Solving education-related issues, which include amending the education and teacher profession law, and improving educational levels to meet the international criteria related to the classification of educational institutions.

5. Enhancing the health sector, which include establishing a national center for health to ensure the quality of medical service provided to patients, and amending the law on the establishment of health zones.

6. Handling matters related to the national identity and citizenship, which include amending the law related to the Administrative Court to extend its authority to judge the cases concerning granting and withdrawal of Kuwaiti citizenship, ratifying the law on granting civil right to the illegal residents (Bedoun residents), and amending the audiovisual law to increase freedoms and nullify the imprisonment penalties.

Al-Rujaib insisted that cooperation with the government is linked to the latter’s commitment to respond to popular demands as well as the need for the government to take the necessary procedures to carry out the execution of the Amiri amnesty and ensure it covers all the beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, MP Meteb Ayed Al-Anzi submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the State Minister of Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban, asking him about the business licenses suspended for Kuwaiti citizens, and a copy of the suspension decision.

He wanted to know the reasons behind the suspension, and asked if any businesses have been exempted from suspension in the last ten years.

Regarding the grilling motion filed recently by MP Mubarak Al-Tasha against

the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqamaz, more than ten MPs announced their support of it including MP Jinan Boushahri, MP Abdul Kareem Al-Kandari, MP Hamad Al-Obaid, MP Muhammad Al-Mahan, MP Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi, MP Muhammad Al-Sayer, MP Hamad Al-Elyan and MP Fahd Al-Masoud.

MP Jinan Boushahri said she supports the grilling motion especially the first item concerning the failure to carry out any road maintenance, which she had highlighted a few days back. Also, the response of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to questions revealed that the relevant tenders do not match the statements issued by MP Buqamaz.

MP Abdul Kareem Al-Kandari said Dr. Buqamaz fulfilled none of her commitments, affirming his support for the grilling motion.

MP Muhammad Al-Rujaib stressed the need for Dr. Buqamaz to face the grilling motion for citizens to figure out who supports corruption and for the government to realise the fact that the MPs will not flatter anyone against the citizens’ interests.

MP Hamad Al-Obaid also supported the grilling motion, insisting that Dr. Buqamaz has been granted enough time but she has not made any serious efforts to maintain the roads or punish those responsible.

MPs Muhammad Al-Mahan and Bader Nashmi Al-Anzi stressed the fact that Dr. Buqamaz took more than enough time but ended up wasting the chance to meet the promises through her inaction.

MP Badr Sayyar Al-Shammari said it is better for Dr. Buqamaz to resign willingly in order to save the time of the parliament.

### ‘Iraqi court

Continued from Page 1

However, the British Ambassador in Baghdad, Maurice Peterson, refuted his claim in a legal response. Peterson pointed out that according to Article 16 of the Treaty of Lausanne, Turkiye’s rights and titles, which it had relinquished in 1923, could not be reclaimed by another country through heredity. In 1963, the Baath Party, which had toppled Abdulkareem Qassem, the leader who had threatened to invade Kuwait and had refused to acknowledge the independence of the state of Kuwait, re-acknowledged Kuwait’s sovereignty and its borders as outlined in the 1932 letters. Prime Minister Ahmad Al-Baker signed an agreement with Kuwait’s head of delegation, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

In 1994, following the failed Iraqi attempt to re-invade Kuwait, the Saddam Hussein regime agreed to acknowledge the sovereignty of Kuwait and its borders. Iraq sent letters to UN to substantiate and authenticate its position before the international community.

On the maritime borders, Al-Wazzan said that in 1959, Iraq sought to appoint a Norwegian hydrographer and maritime border expert to assist the Baghdad government in demarcating its maritime borders with Kuwait and Iran.

Consequently, Captain Coucheron-Aamot accepted the position and authored a report that established a median line as the boundary in the Khor Abdullah. This report received authentication from the Iraqi Ministry of Petroleum.

# October

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It is our collective duty to hold our teachers in high esteem: Dr Al-Manea

Kuwait’s education minister commends teachers on World Teachers Day



Minister of Education Dr. Adel Al-Manea talking to students during World Teachers' Day celebration.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Adel Al-Manea commended on Thursday teachers for their dedication and efforts to prepare and educate future generations.

“It is our collective duty to hold our teachers in high esteem,” said Dr. Al-Manea during the ministry’s celebration of World Teachers Day, affirming the importance of this annual commemoration to show appreciation and gratitude for their hard work.

Expo 965 team for heritage and craft exhibitions and Kuwaiti innovators as well as a number of boy and girl scouts participated in the celebration.

**Commemorates**

World Teachers’ Day is held annually on October 5 to celebrate all teachers around the globe. It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions.



Minister of Education Dr. Adel Al-Manea and ministry’s officials during World Teachers’ Day celebration.

KUNA photos

Stronger ties, collaborative initiatives

Japanese FM offers continued ‘cooperation’ with Arab world

TOKYO, Oct 5, (KUNA): Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa affirmed on Wednesday that Japan will stand by the Arab world, while the Middle East is facing dynamic changes and the international community is at a historical turning point, Japan’s Foreign Ministry said.

Kamikawa made remarks during a luncheon in Tokyo with 20 members of the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Japan, including Kuwaiti Ambassador Sami Al-Zamanan, the ministry said in a press release.

The minister said she is willing to promote cooperation with the Arab world under the “three pillars” for future cooperation with the region, which was proposed by Japan at the Third Japan-Arab Political Dialogue in Cairo last month.

The pillars include such as strengthening economic relationship from a long-term perspective in a wide range of areas with Middle Eastern countries, and cooperation in the area of security and defense that con-



Kamikawa

tributes to regional stability, according to the ministry.

Kamikawa also referred to future cooperation in the fields of energy security, the vision to make the Middle East region become a global supply hub for clean energy and critical minerals, as well as the entry of Japanese companies into the Arab market. The minister also expressed Japan’s intention to continue to contribute to the peace and stability in the region, including addressing the Palestinian issue.

**Appreciation**

Meanwhile, Waleed Siam, Representative of the Permanent General Mission of Palestine and Dean of the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Japan, expressed his appreciation and gratitude for Japan’s role and assistance in its relations with the Arab world. He also expressed his hope to develop Japan-Arab relations in various fields.

At the luncheon, Kamikawa and the participants discussed future cooperation between Japan and Arab countries, such as promotion of economic relations including startups and cooperation in the field of climate change, along with discussions on the regional situation including the Middle East Peace and refugee issues, the ministry added.

Scandal unveiled in decision-making process for 3 new substations project

Minister Al-Ostad calls for accountability and penalties

**By Mohammed Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad says the Contract No. 18053001 for the construction of three new substations with a capacity of 132/132 KV and related power line cables of KV 132, which was issued by the Council of Ministers’ Decision No. 56 on 10/01/2022, confirmed the soundness of the opinion of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). The matter has been referred to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Oil to take a decision that he deems necessary and**

**in the public interest, in line with the measures taken by the Ministry of Electricity and Water and Renewable Energy regarding the rehabilitation of a company.**

In response to a parliamentary question submitted by the National Assembly member MP Muhallhal Al-Mudhaf, Al-Ostad explained that the report of the investigation committee that was formed by the ministerial Resolution No. 50/2022 and amended by the ministerial Resolution No. 51/2022 concluded with the soundness of the opinion of PAHW in terms of the validity of the qualification of the company under investigation.

The insistence of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy in the letter dated 16/08/2022, which included confirmation of the validity of the qualification, was contrary to real-



Dr. Jassim Al-Ostad, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

ity and the law, which requires that whoever signed it be held accountable and should be disciplined.

The committee recommended that the undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy issue a decision to cancel the decision to qualify the

company and leave the assessment of the appropriate penalty to the undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy (at the time).

This is either by imposing a warning based on article 60 of the civil service law or referring him to the Civil Service Council as a disciplinary body. Likewise, a senior electrical specialist engineer may be sanctioned with a warning penalty due to a violation of negligence in performing job duties based on articles 24 and 28 of Decree Law No. 15/1979.

**Recommendations**

Al-Ostad stressed that the committee’s recommendations included punishing a senior electrical specialist engineer with a warning due to a violation of negligence in performing job duties based on Articles 24 and 28 of the Decree Law No. 15/1979, and punishing a department head with a penalty of deducting two days from his monthly salary due to the violation of negligence in performing job duties based on articles 24 and 27 of the Decree Law No. 15/1979.

News agency marks 47th anniversary

KUNA commits to professional, responsible media message

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) marks the 47th anniversary of its establishment on Friday by restating its commitment to delivering its professional and responsible media message, maintaining credibility and objectivity and keeping abreast of cutting-edge technology.

Since it was founded on October 6, 1976, Kuwait’s official news agency has been striving to revamp its media services, boosting its national staff’s capabilities, establishing its regional and world status and highlighting Kuwaiti issues and activities at home and abroad.

KUNA was established under an Amiri decree with the goal of gathering and generating news for distribution to individuals and media institutions, providing them with news reports in an objective and unbiased manner.

In March 1978, KUNA started local transmission for six hours per day and doubled it in June to 12 hours and then 16 in October, while Arabic transmission was launched in November 1978 for three hours before increasing broadcasting time to 12 hours a day.

In November 1979, the agency launched a special bulletin for Kuwaiti embassies abroad, providing news services to 38 embassies and consulates.

In January 1980, KUNA began local transmission in English for four hours a day, increasing

it to eight hours a day in February 1981. It then boosted English local and foreign broadcasting hours to nine and four a day in January 1982.

During the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, Iraqi army forces seized the agency’s equipment and archives and sent them to Baghdad. However, thanks to its national staff, the agency managed to re-operate and transmit its news reports in October 1990 through its office in the British capital, London.

The agency had reported a total of 16,110 news stories until November 1991.

Following the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991, the agency returned to its main headquarters in Kuwait on November 15 of the same year. It was honored to broadcast the liberation news, with its cameramen having documented the country’s devastation caused by the Iraqi occupation forces.

In 1992, it began to depend upon a network of its correspondents in Arab and foreign capitals, covering Kuwaiti main events and activities abroad.

The agency invented a new trend in 1992 for choosing the year’s personality, whether an individual or institution, as a model for others to follow in view of serving humanity, spreading peace and achieving a better life for humanity.

The agency then launched its SMS news service in 1994 in a bid to deliver local, Arab and world news stories to subscribers through its

phone number: 120 round the clock.

Out of its belief in the significance of staff training, KUNA launched a media training center in 1995 with a view to upgrading the capabilities of media staff in both public and private sectors, along with Gulf media figures.

On March 31, 1997, the late Kuwaiti Minister of Information Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah inaugurated the new building of the agency in Kuwait City’s Shuwaikh area, to commence a fresh shift in its developed services.

Having launched its website to cope with media technology, the site came second on the list of the best government sites in Kuwait in 2006.

In 2011, KUNA announced a new service giving people access to its news stories in both Arabic and English languages through social media, and in 2012 a new website covering news and informative services as well as photographic archives was launched.

Publish

The agency, further, began in 2014 to publish a quarterly magazine highlighting Kuwait’s major events, ancient and modern facilities, development plans and future projects. In the same year, KUNA Al-Sagheer, a children’s periodical, was published at the advent of the new school year in a bid to boost children’s media knowledge.

Furthermore, a French bulletin was launched in 2018 as part of KUNA’s plan to develop its news services, while its Arabic and English sites were updated in order to keep abreast of internet technological advancement.

In 2016, the agency won the best Arab news agency award from a Lebanese newspaper thanks to its credible and objective coverage of local, regional and international events. In 2018, it was also given the Sharjah Government Communication Award.

Since its inception, the Kuwaiti agency has committed itself to promoting and developing its relations with media organizations from different world countries.

In 2000, KUNA joined the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) and effectively participated in a summit of world news agencies in Moscow in 2004.

Last May, Kuwait News Agency launched its space on the Spatial metaverse platform, the first step of its kind amongst news agencies in the region. On May 4, it launched its first virtual news anchor.

Barjas Al-Barjas was the agency’s board chairman and director general from 1976 to 1992. Youssef Al-Sumait held the post between 1992 and 1998. Mohammad Al-Ujairi took over from 1998 to 2006.



Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) building.

KUNA photo

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 Al 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 Al 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 Anbae, 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 Tarehsh
3	Rafat Tahat	25	Noor Arar
4	Mahrugh Shakeel	26	Risalyn Lacorte
5	Younes Karam	27	Zahra Khodor Albou Hasan
6	Tyrone Navarantraja	28	Hanan Fahed
7	Soudat 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	34	Lyn Mohamad Fawzi
13	Zahraa Kasem Kambar	35	Zahraa Kasem Kambar
14	Fahed AL Gharib	36	Safia Issa
15	Boudour Khaled Al Belloushi	37	Ouhoud Amin Saleh
16	Hasan Hekmat Amin	38	Ghala Al Zafiri
17	Shilpa Kelkar	39	Batoul Poland
18	Abrar Nabil Al Taher	40	Hayaa Ayed Mohamed
19	Nitin Kumar Birla	41	Fatemah Youssef Al Friej
20	Sawsan Al Sibai	42	Ouhoud Amin Saleh
21	Qutbudin Paliwala	43	Faby John
22	Hassan Mohamad Al Belloushi		



World News Roundup

Europe

Border checks in Slovakia

Nearly 50 EU leaders stress Kyiv ‘support’

GRANADA, Spain, Oct 6, (AP): Almost 50 European leaders used a summit in the southern Spanish city of Granada on Thursday to stress they stand by Ukraine at a time when Western resolve appears somewhat weakened.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that besides maintaining such unity, more military aid to get through the winter was just as essential.

Despite the political, economic and military support, the desperate struggle to rid Ukraine territory of invading Russian forces has ground to a stalemate, and Zelenskyy insisted that it was no time for wavering in the face of Russian President Vladimir Putin. And especially now that questions about continued support are growing in the United States too.



Zelenskyy

“Europe must be strong” despite what happens in other places around the globe, Zelenskyy said, calling for more air defense systems, artillery shells, long-range missiles and drones.

He said that victory or defeat in Ukraine would determine Europe’s fate. Zelenskyy flew in early in the morning to the third meeting of the European Political Community forum, which was formed in the wake of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 that drastically reset the continent’s political agenda and fundamentally undermined long-held beliefs on peace and stability on the continent.

Support from Europe has become all the more important after US Congress hastily sent President Joe Biden legislation over the weekend that kept the federal government funded, but left off billions in funding for Ukraine’s war effort that the White House had vigorously backed.

Aid

Biden called other world powers on Tuesday to coordinate on Ukraine in a deliberate show of US support at a time when the future of its aid is questioned by an important faction of Republicans who want to cut off money to Kyiv.

“The main challenge that we have that is to save unity in Europe,” Zelenskyy said.

Last weekend’s election in Slovakia, where pro-Russia candidate Robert Fico was the big winner, and Hungary’s continued recalcitrance to fully back Ukraine have cast increasing shadows on Europe’s commitment. That counts especially for the European Union where many decisions on Ukraine need unanimity among the bloc’s 27 members.

In Slovakia early this week, the president refused a plan by her country’s caretaker government to send further military aid to Ukraine, saying it doesn’t have the authority and parties that oppose such support are in talks to form a government following last week’s election.

On Thursday, though, the overall mood was supportive. Like most leaders, summit host and Spanish caretaker Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez stood firmly behind Ukraine and offered Zelenskyy a new package of anti-aircraft and anti-drone systems and training for Ukrainian soldiers to use them.

And just as Zelenskyy maintained a steadfast belief that the United States would come through with continued aid, EU leaders also felt U.S. issues could be overcome.

Timing

“I am very confident of support for Ukraine from the United States. What the United States is working on is the timing,” European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

Even if the EU promised to continue its support for Kyiv, it could never replace Washington’s contribution if funds were to dry up there, EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said.

“Everybody that doesn’t want Putin winning this war is to look for ways for the U.S. to retake this issue and continue supporting Ukraine,” Borrell said. “Certainly we can do more. But the U.S. is something irreplaceable for the support of Ukraine.”

Zelenskyy insisted that Putin’s attempts to divide the West would not cease.

“Russia will attack by information, disinformation, by fakes, etc.,” he said.

Also:

**SAHY, Slovakia:** Slovakia began conducting traffic checks on its border with neighboring Hungary on Thursday amid what it says is a dramatic rise in migrants crossing onto its territory. The policy joins a flurry of similar border measures other Central European countries have imposed in recent days.

The increased border protection came as a reaction to Slovakia’s neighbors, including Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland, reintroducing controls at their own borders with Slovakia on Wednesday to curb migrants coming in from the country. Each of the border control policies are set to last for at least 10 days.

At a border crossing in Sahy, Slovakia - a 90-kilometer (55-mile) drive north of Hungary’s capital, Budapest - two Slovakian police flagged down vehicles Thursday to conduct inspections. It’s a departure from the ease of travel long afforded to members of Europe’s visa-free Schengen area, last restricted when some countries sealed their borders in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**LONDON:** Scottish authorities have signed an extradition order for an American fugitive accused of faking his own death to avoid a rape charge in Utah.

In response to a freedom of information request, the Scottish government on Thursday said an extradition order for the man local officials refer to as Nicholas Rossi had been signed on Sept. 28. The government provided no other information.

The suspect has fought a prolonged court battle to prevent his return to the United States since he was arrested in December 2021 at a Glasgow hospital, where he was being treated for COVID-19. Rossi, who insisted he was an Irish orphan named **Arthur Knight** and had never set foot on American soil, repeatedly appeared in court in a wheelchair using an oxygen mask and speaking in a British accent.

The government signed the order after Judge **Norman McFadyen** of Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Aug. 2 ruled that the suspect could be extradited, saying he was “as dishonest and deceitful as he is evasive and manipulative.”

The man had said he was framed by authorities who took his fingerprints while he was in a coma so they could connect him to Rossi.



Former US president Donald Trump speaks during a commit to caucus rally on Oct 1, in Ottumwa, Iowa. Over the past two weeks, Trump said shoplifters should be immediately shot, suggested that America’s top general be executed and mocked a political opponent’s husband who was beaten with a hammer. (AP)

Politics

McCarthy’s ouster could cost GOP its best fundraiser

US Republicans urged to stop chaos

NEW YORK, Oct 5, (AP): Most of the top Republican candidates running for president in 2024 reacted grimly to the ouster of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy by a faction of hard-liners in their own party, while one contender embraced the chaos and the front-runner for the nomination notably did not denounce the move.

Many agreed that it was a clear sign that new leadership was needed, not just in the House of Representatives but also in the party as a whole.

Former President Donald Trump, who has shown an unabashed willingness to go after his fellow Republicans, asked: “Why is it that Republicans are always fighting among themselves?”

He has not weighed in on whether McCarthy, an ally, should have been removed by a flank of the party also closely aligned with him, though he did say Wednesday that he had not encouraged the effort.

Downfall

McCarthy’s downfall as House leader is in many ways a reflection of how Trump’s influence has upended and reshaped the party over the years. Almost nowhere is that influence more apparent than in the 2024 GOP presidential race, which polls show Trump is leading by a large margin.

Trump, speaking Wednesday outside the New York courtroom where he is facing a civil fraud trial, said that his focus is on his presidential campaign and that there are “some great people” in the party who could do a great job in the role.

“I’ll do whatever it is to help, but my focus - my total focus - is being president and quite honestly, making America great again because we are living in a country in decline.”

Former New Jersey Gov Christie, a presidential rival and one of Trump’s strongest critics, called McCarthy’s ouster “unfortunately incredibly predictable” and a “political assassination.”

Christie, speaking on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” on Wednesday, said he would tell voters who think his party seems ungovernable that “you’ve got to judge each Republican on their own merits.”

Trump’s lawyers seek to postpone classified docs trial until after poll

WASHINGTON, Oct 5, (AP): Lawyers for former President Donald Trump have asked a judge to postpone his classified documents trial until after next year’s presidential election, saying they have not received all the records they need to review to prepare his defense.

The trial on charges of illegally hoarding classified documents, among four criminal cases the Republican former president is facing, is currently scheduled for May 20, 2024, in Florida.

In a motion filed late Wednesday, Trump’s lawyers urged US District Judge Aileen Cannon to push back the trial until at least mid-November 2024. The presidential election is set for Nov. 5, 2024, with Trump currently leading the GOP field in the months before the primary season.

The defense lawyers argued that a postponement was necessary because of scheduling conflicts - another federal trial is scheduled for March 2024 in Washington, and one of Trump’s attorneys, Christopher Kise, is also representing him

in an ongoing civil fraud trial in New York - and because of what they say are delays in obtaining and reviewing the classified records cited in special counsel Jack Smith’s indictment.

Meanwhile, over the past two weeks, Trump said shoplifters should be immediately shot, suggested the United States’ top general be executed and mocked a political opponent’s husband who was beaten with a hammer.

The former president and current front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination also in recent weeks encouraged the impeachment of Democratic President Joe Biden because the “low-lives Impeached me TWICE,” urged his party to shut down the U.S. government with the hope it would stall some of the criminal cases he faces, and said that, if elected to the White House again, he would threaten NBC News and MSNBC’s access to the airwaves over news coverage of him that he called “Country Threatening Treason.”

Former Vice President Mike Pence described the House leadership turnover as a distraction.

“Well, let me say that chaos is never America’s friend. And it’s never a friend of American families that are struggling,” he said Tuesday at a national security and foreign policy event at Georgetown University co-hosted by The Associated Press.

Pence said he was “deeply disappointed that a handful of Republicans would partner with all the Democrats in the House of Representatives to oust the speaker of the House.”

His comments were largely echoed by Florida Gov Ron DeSantis, who had been critical of McCarthy but called his removal “a lot of theater, a lot of chaos.” Meanwhile, biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy welcomed the chaos.

McCarthy spent years raising mountains of Republican campaign cash, flying around the country to recruit top candidates in key districts and painstakingly building political relationships as he worked his way toward becoming speaker of the House.

Now that he’s been ousted from the post after less than nine months, some in the GOP are wondering if anyone can take his place as a fundraising dynamo and party builder.

The House isn’t scheduled to vote on who could replace McCarthy until at least next week with all legislative work suspended as the chamber navigates a situation never before seen in the nation’s history. In the meantime, House Republicans have no clear leader heading into next year’s election as they cling to a razor-thin majority.

paint with a sign reading “Stop celebrating genocide” leaning against its pedestal. In 2020, the statue was removed.

Activists say celebrating Columbus ignores the rape, murder and genocide endured by Indigenous people during the European settlement of North America.

Johnston Mayor **Joseph Polisena Jr** said residents of his heavily Italian-American town are pleased to give the statue a new home. (AP)

**3 officers hurt in shooting:** Three Philadelphia police officers responding to a home where people were arguing about a video game were wounded in a shootout Wednesday evening, authorities said.

Acting Police Commissioner John Stanford told reporters the suspect was killed. The officers were taken to an area hospital, where they were in stable condition.

Stanford said officers were dispatched to the residence shortly after 7 p.m. A 12-year-old boy said his father had shot his uncle following a dispute about a video game, FOX 29 reported.

The boy and the uncle called police. Stanford said when police arrived the father opened fire. The man was killed when officers returned fire, he said.

The uncle was hospitalized in critical condition. (AP)



In this photo provided by Johnston, R.I., Mayor Joseph Polisena, Jr., a statue of Christopher Columbus stands in a park on Sept 26 in Johnston, R.I. Three years after the statue was removed from a square in Providence, R.I., following protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd by police, the statue has re-emerged, this time in the park, in Johnston. (AP)



Mayorkas



Polisena

America

**WH waives 26 federal laws:** The Biden administration announced it waived 26 federal laws in South Texas to allow border wall construction on Wednesday, marking the administration’s first use of a sweeping executive power employed often during the Trump presidency.

The Department of Homeland Security posted the announcement on the US Federal Registry with few details outlining the construction in Starr County, Texas, which is part of a busy Border Patrol sector seeing “high illegal entry.” According to government data, about 245,000 illegal entries have been recorded so far this fiscal year in the Rio Grande Valley Sector which contains 21 counties.

“There is presently an acute and immediate need to construct physical barriers and roads in the vicinity of the border of the United States in order to prevent unlawful entries into the United States in the project areas,” **Alejandro Mayorkas**, the DHS secretary, stated in the notice.

The Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Endangered Species Act were some of the federal laws waived by DHS to make way for construction that will use funds from a congressional appropriation in 2019 for border wall construction. (AP)

**Shooting claims life of baby:** A shooting claimed the life of a baby that was delivered after its mother was one of several people hit by gunfire during a fight Wednesday on a downtown street in the western Massachusetts city of Holyoke, authorities said.

The pregnant woman was shot in the afternoon while seated on a public bus and taken to a hospital in critical condition, the Hampden District Attorney’s Office said.

“The infant, who was delivered, and needed life-saving medical services, tragically passed away,” it added.

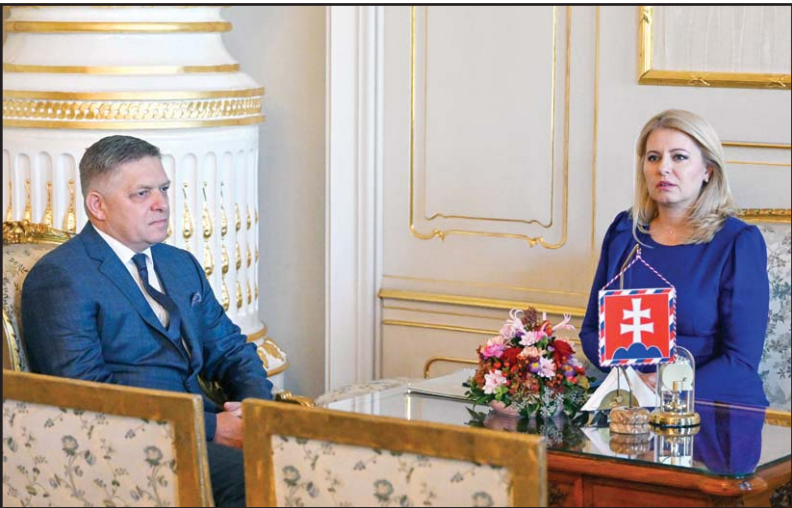
Police responded to the shooting at 12:38 p.m. and said it appeared three male suspects were involved in an altercation before gunshots were fired.

All involved suspects were believed to have been identified, taken to hospitals and are in custody, according to the District Attorney’s Office. No further information was immediately given on their conditions. (AP)

**Columbus reemerges in town:** Three

years after a Christopher Columbus statue was removed from a square in Providence, Rhode Island, the bronze cast has re-emerged, this time in a park in Johnston, Rhode Island, about 9 miles (14 kilometers) west of the capital.

The statue had been targeted by vandals, at one point being splashed with red



Slovakia’s President Zuzana Caputova (right), meets Robert Fico (left), leader of the Smer party, in Bratislava, Slovakia on Oct 2. On Oct 4, Slovakia’s president has opposed a plan of her country’s caretaker government to send further military aid to Ukraine that faces the Russian aggression after the parties that are against such help are in talks to form a new government following last week’s election. (AP)



Africa

Violations continue

UN probe into Ethiopia rights abuses set to end

GENEVA, Oct 5, (AP): A UN backed probe of human rights abuses in Ethiopia is set to expire after no country stepped forward to seek an extension, despite repeated warnings that serious violations continue almost a year since a cease-fire ended a bloody civil war in the East African country.

While the European Union led talks on the issue, in the end, no resolution was submitted to extend the mandate of the independent International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia before a deadline expired Wednesday at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The probe will therefore be disbanded when its mandate expires this month.

The commission’s experts all but pleaded on Tuesday with the council to extend the investigation, warning that atrocities continue in Tigray, Ethiopia’s war-battered northernmost province.

The experts say Eritrean troops allied with Ethiopia’s military are still raping women and subjecting them to sexual slavery in parts of Tigray. They also cited reports of extrajudicial killings and mass detentions amid new fighting in Amhara, Ethiopia’s second-most populous state,

“There is a very real and imminent risk that the situation will deteriorate further, and it is incumbent upon the international community to ensure that investigations persist so human rights violations can be addressed, and the worst tragedies averted,” said commission member **Steven Ratner**.

European countries had previously supported the probe as a means of ensuring accountability for war crimes committed during the two-year civil war in Tigray.

Ethiopia has long opposed the commission, preventing its experts from conducting investigations in Ethiopia and criticizing it as politically motivated. As a result, it was forced to work remotely, from an office in Uganda.

Recommended

The commission was established in December 2021 after a joint report by the UN and Ethiopia’s state human rights commission recommended further independent investigations into abuses. Since then it has published two full-length reports.

It concluded that all sides committed abuses during the Tigray war, some of them amounting to war crimes. Its first report accused Ethiopia’s government of using hunger as a weapon of war by restricting aid access to the region while rebels held it.

In their second report, published last month, the commission experts said a national transitional justice process launched by Ethiopia “falls well short” of African and international standards.

On Tuesday, the European Union announced a 650-million-euro (\$680 million) aid package for Ethiopia, the bloc’s first step toward normalizing relations with the country despite previous demands for accountability first.

A diplomat from an EU country acknowledged that the bloc had agreed not to present a resolution, and called on the Ethiopian government to set up “robust, independent, impartial and transparent” mechanisms to foster transitional justice in light of the “extreme gravity of crimes” and rights violations in Ethiopia.

“We expect quick and tangible progress in the coming months,” the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the subject. “Lack of progress could jeopardize the ongoing gradual normalization of relations between the EU and Ethiopia.”

Critics decried the inaction at the 47-member-country council.

Laetitia Bader, Horn of Africa director at Human Rights Watch, said the failure to renew the mandate in essence allows Ethiopia to drop off the council’s agenda, and amounts to “a scathing indictment of the EU’s stated commitment to justice.”

“It’s yet another blow to countless victims of heinous crimes who placed their trust in these processes,” she added.

The UN probe was the last major independent investigation into the Tigray war, which killed hundreds of thousands and was marked by massacres, mass rape and torture.

In June, the African Union quietly dropped its own probe into the war’s atrocities, after extensive lobbying by Ethiopia - which has played up its own domestic efforts at transitional justice after the cease-fire.

Also:

**KAMPALA, Uganda:** Ugandan security forces on Thursday briefly detained opposition figure Bobi Wine and foiled a planned street demonstration by his supporters who intended to welcome him at the airport.

Wine, a singer and former lawmaker whose real name is **Kyagulanyi Ssentamu**, was driven under police escort to his home outside Kampala after his arrival from a trip abroad, police said.

Wine’s political party said he had been unlawfully detained at the airport.

“The cowardly regime has arrested our President upon arrival at Entebbe Airport,” **Mathias Mpuuga**, the leader of the opposition in parliament, wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, referring to Wine. “We set out to receive him today, but the panicky regime security could not even allow him into immigration.”

Ugandan police frequently detain opposition figures in “preventive arrest” measures they say are necessary to preserve public order.

Opposition rallies are rarely allowed in the East African country.

**NAIROBI, Kenya:** Kenyan lawmakers said Wednesday that parliamentary approval is required before the deployment of police to the Kenya-led peacekeeping mission in Haiti to combat gang violence that was approved by the UN Security Council this week.

Opposition lawmaker **Anthony Oluoch** told a session of Parliament’s lower house that the conditions for foreign deployment hadn’t been met under the National Police Act.

He also said that the country’s security needs “ought to take first precedence before any foreign commitments,” alluding to the internal attacks by the East Africa-based al-Shabab extremist group, which has links to al-Qaida.

Another lawmaker, **Junet Mohamed**, said the matter should be tabled in Parliament for approval “before any police officer leaves the country” for what he called a “dangerous mission,” citing Kenyan police officers’ inexperience in combating local crime.



A Philippine supply boat, center, maneuvers around Chinese coast guard ships as they try to block its way near Second Thomas Shoal, locally known as Ayungin Shoal, at the disputed South China Sea on Aug 22. Two Philippine supply boats breached a Chinese coast guard blockade in the South China Sea on Oct 4, in a recurring confrontation near the disputed shoal some fear could spark a larger security crisis that could draw in the United States. (AP)

Philippine boats breach Chinese coast guard blockade in faceoff near shoal

Two Philippine supply boats breached a Chinese coast guard blockade in the South China Sea on Wednesday in a recurring confrontation near a disputed shoal some fear could spark a larger security crisis that could draw in the United States.

Two Philippine coast guard ships escorted the smaller supply boats, but it wasn’t immediately clear whether the ships were blocked by the Chinese coast guard from coming closer to the Second

Thomas Shoal, where a small contingent of Filipino marines has stood guard for years aboard a long-marooned but still actively commissioned warship, the BRP Sierra Madre.

China also claims the shoal and has surrounded it with its coast guard ships and militia vessels to prevent the Philippines from delivering construction materials that Beijing fears could be used to reinforce the Sierra Madre and turn it into a permanent

territorial outpost.

“Despite attempts by a significant number of China coast guard and Chinese maritime militia vessels to block, harass, and interfere with the routine rotation and resupply mission,” the two Philippine boats managed to deliver provisions to the Filipino forces at the shoal, a Philippine government body overseeing the disputed waters said in a statement late Wednesday. (AP)

Weather

1 dead, more than 300 hurt as Koinu sweeps Taiwan

Flash floods kill at least 14 in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 5, (AP): Rescue workers were searching for more than 100 people on Thursday after flash floods triggered by a sudden heavy rainfall swamped several towns in northeastern India, killing at least 14 people, officials said.

More than 2,000 people were rescued after Wednesday’s floods, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority said in a statement, adding that state authorities set up 26 relief camps for more than 22,000 people impacted by the floods.

The Press Trust of India news agency reported that 102 people were missing and cited state government officials saying 14 people died in the floods.

Affecting

Among the missing were 22 army soldiers, officials said. One soldier who had been reported missing on Wednesday was later rescued by authorities, local media reported. Some army camps and vehicles were submerged under mud following the floods.

Eleven bridges were washed away by the floodwaters, which also hit pipelines and damaged or destroyed more than 270 houses in four districts, officials said.

The flooding occurred along the Teesta River in the Lachen Valley in Sikkim state and was worsened when parts of a dam were washed away.

Several towns, including Dikchu and Rangpo in the Teesta basin, were flooded, and schools in four districts were ordered shut until Sunday, the state’s education department said.

Parts of a highway that links Sikkim, the state capital, with the rest of the country were washed away.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s office said in a statement that the government would support state authorities in

the aftermath of the flooding.

The flooding was caused by cloudbursts - sudden, very heavy rains - which are defined as when more than 10 centimeters (3.9 inches) of rainfall occurs within 10 square kilometers (3.8 square miles) within an hour. Cloudbursts can cause intense flooding and landslides affecting thousands of people.

The mountainous Himalayan region where Sikkim is located has seen heavy monsoon rains this season.

Nearly 50 people died in flash floods and landslides in August in nearby Himachal Pradesh state. Record rains in July killed more than 100 people over two weeks in northern India, as roads were waterlogged and homes collapsed.

Disasters caused by landslides and floods are common in India’s Himalayan region during the June-September monsoon season. Scientists say they are becoming more frequent as global warming contributes to the melting of glaciers there.

“This is, incredibly sadly, another classic case of a cascading hazard chain that amplifies as you go downstream,” said Jakob Steiner, a climate scientist with the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development, commenting on Wednesday’s flash flooding.

Earlier this year, Steiner’s organization published a report saying that Himalayan glaciers could lose 80% of their volume if global warming isn’t controlled.

In February 2021, flash floods killed nearly 200 people and washed away houses in Uttarakhand state in northern India.

Also:

**TAIPEI, Taiwan:** Typhoon Koinu swept southern Taiwan on Thursday,

killing one person and injuring more than 300 as it brought pounding rain and record-breaking winds to the island, leading to school and office closures.

One person was killed by flying glass in the central city of Taichung and at least 304 were injured around the island, **Taiwan’s** fire department said. Gusts of wind downed trees and caused damage to some buildings.

Koinu, which means “puppy” in Japanese, made landfall early Thursday in Cape Eluanbi, the southernmost tip of Taiwan, and is expected to weaken as it moves west toward the Guangdong and Fujian provinces of southern China.

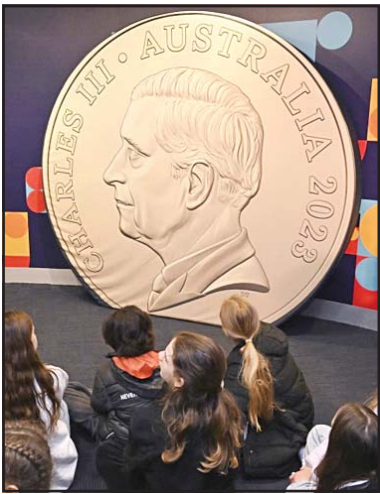
The typhoon brought the fastest wind ever recorded in Taiwan as it approached on Wednesday night. A weather monitoring station on the outlying Orchid Island, southeast of the main island, measured a gust of 342.7 kph (212.9 mph) at 9:53 p.m., as well as sustained winds that reached 198.7 kph (123.5 kph) at 9:40 p.m. Both values set all-time highs since Taiwan began keeping records of wind speeds in 1897, said **Huang Chia-mei**, head of the Central Weather Administration’s Taitung Weather Station, according to the official Central News Agency.

The device measuring the wind speeds broke shortly afterward, Huang said.

Images shared on social media from Orchid Island showed buildings with broken windows and boats sunk in a harbor.

On Thursday evening, Koinu’s maximum sustained winds measured 137 kph (85 mph) with gusts of 173 kph (107 mph).

The heaviest rain fell in the east-coast counties of **Taitung** and **Hualien**, and in the mountainous Pingtung county in the south.



School children look at a large mock up of a new coin at The Royal Australian mint in Canberra on Oct 5. An image of King Charles III will soon appear on Australian coins more than a year after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, officials said. (AP)



Hasebe



Kim

Asia

Shibuya not venue for Halloween:

The mayor of Tokyo’s busy Shibuya shopping and entertainment district is asking Halloween celebrants not to visit, fearing that a large number of partygoers following the COVID-19 pandemic could cause a disaster similar to last year’s fatal crowd surge in South Korea’s capital.

“This year, we are making it clear to the world that Shibuya is not a venue for Halloween events,” Shibuya city Mayor **Ken Hasebe** said at a news conference Thursday. “Please, do not come to the Shibuya station area for Halloween.”

Hasebe said he understands that Halloween is a fun celebration around the world, but noted that a crowd crush like the one that killed about 160 people celebrating Halloween last year in Seoul’s Itaewon district could happen in Shibuya. (AP)

**Charles image in Aussie coins:** An image of King Charles III will soon appear on Australian coins, more than a year after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II, officials said Thursday.

The gold Australian dollar coin will be the first with an image of the new British monarch, who is also Australia’s head of state, Royal Australian Mint chief executive Leigh Gordon said.

About 10 million of the dollar coins will be circulating by Christmas, he said.

Assistant Minister for Treasury Andrew Leigh said the government had not wanted to rush the coin transition following the queen’s death in September last year. (AP)

**‘Monitoring movements’:** The intelligence authorities of South Korea and the US are closely monitoring for signs that North Korea appears to have halted operations of a nuclear reactor in its Yongbyon nuclear complex, Seoul’s Defense Ministry was reported by Yonhap News Agency as saying.

The allies’ intelligence authorities had reportedly detected signs indicating the 5-megawatt reactor temporarily stopped operations late last month, and South Korean and US officials believe the move could be related to reprocessing spent fuel rods to extract weapons-grade plutonium. At the meeting, North Korean lead-

er **Kim Jong-un** touted the move as a “powerful political lever” to strengthen its defense capabilities, while calling the ongoing trilateral security cooperation between South Korea, the US and Japan as the “worst actual threat.” (KUNA)

**Japan lifts tsunami advisory:** Japan issued a tsunami advisory Thursday after a strong earthquake struck near its outlying islands in the Pacific Ocean, but lifted it about two hours later. No damage was reported.

The advisory, the second-lowest of a



A vehicle that got washed away lies atop a submerged building after flash floods triggered by a sudden heavy rainfall swamped the Rangpo town in Sikkim, India, Oct.5. The flooding took place along the Teesta River in the Lachen Valley of the north-eastern state, and was worsened when parts of a dam were washed away. (AP)

four-stage warning system, asked people on islands in the Izu chain, which stretches south from the Tokyo region, to stay away from the coast and river mouths.

The US Geological Survey said a series of offshore earthquakes hit the area on Thursday morning. The strongest measured magnitude 6.1 and was located at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles), it said.

The quake was not felt on the islands or in the Tokyo region, but the Japan Meteorological Agency warned that a tsunami as high as 1 meter (3.2 feet) could hit the coasts of the islands. A small tsunami measuring about 30 centimeters (1 foot) was observed at Yaene on Hachijo island, the agency said. (AP)

**Urban kills businessman:** A guerrilla group claimed responsibility Wednesday for this week’s fatal shooting of a businessman accused of being an arms dealer for Myanmar’s military, in the latest assassination carried out by militants opposed to military rule.

Gunmen fatally shot Nyan Lwin Aung while he was eating fried rice at a street food stall in downtown Yangon at 10 p.m on Monday, according to a witness, media reports and a statement from the guerrilla group Urban Owls.

A person who ate at the same stall the night of the attack told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he saw a customer there with a serious head wound who was then sent to Yangon General Hospital. (AP)



Tourism accounts for about 8% of global emissions

# Climate change could affect where, when people travel

By Sam Kemmis  
NerdWallet

Travelers encountered many weather surprises this summer, from wildfires in Europe to knee-deep mud at Burning Man. Indeed, it was the hottest summer on record around the globe, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

"The dog days of summer are not just barking, they are biting," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a prepared statement published Sept. 6. "Our planet has just endured a season of simmering - the hottest summer on record. Climate breakdown has begun."

Shifting weather patterns are raising questions about where, when, how and whether tourists will travel.

For example, does it still make sense to visit Italy in July, despite high temperatures, large crowds and minimal air conditioning? Or should "peak" Travel season move to the more hospitable autumn or spring months?

Tourism destinations are starting to take note - and get worried - about the toll climate change could take on this enormous industry.

### Hot destinations

Escaping to the Spanish coast for the summer used to sound like a dream. This year it turned into more of a nightmare for Mediterranean Travelers. The coastal city of Valencia, Spain, saw temperatures reach 116 degrees Fahrenheit in August, a record high. That came amid Spain's limits on air conditioning use in public spaces, leaving tourists to sweat it out.

These trends are only likely to get worse, driving Travelers away from hot beachside destinations in Europe, according to a July report from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Southern coastal regions such as Greece, Italy and Spain are expected to see a drop in tourism if temperatures continue to increase.

On the other hand, colder destinations in Northern Europe could actually see more vacationers. Denmark, France and the United Kingdom could receive more tourists because of higher temperatures, according to the report. Greenland, which is mostly covered with ice, is expecting to see far more tourists in the coming decades, with a new airport set to open in 2024.

Closer to home, many popular destinations have already been affected by rising temperatures. The namesake glaciers of Glacier National Park have lost an average of 40% of their size between 1966 and 2015, according to the National Park Service. Florida's coral reefs were bleaching and dying under the stress of record ocean temperatures this summer.

### Travel season

Summers are for vacations - that's a truth so universally acknowledged as to be almost self-evident. Families Travel while kids are out of school, and office workers flee to vacation in ideal weather.

Yet, as summers continue to warm, these vacations could give way to "shoulder season" alternatives in spring and autumn months. In other words, tourists could change when (rather than where) they visit.

Indeed, this change may already be taking place. Short-term rental analytics platform AirDNA reported that occupancy rates at mountain and lake destinations in October 2022 were nearly as high as 2019's peak occupancy (in July), bucking the typical sharp downward trend after the summer.

Cherry blossoms in Japan are flowering 11 days earlier than they used to, according to a 2022 report in the journal Environmental Research Letters. (21) This has shifted the tourist-attracting cherry blossom festival from April into March. (AP)



This image provided by the Philippine Department of Tourism shows Shangri-La Mactan, Cebu in 2017. The Philippines has long been interested in attracting Filipinos in the US to come and add to the economy, but its incentives have mostly drawn retirees or immigrants catching up with relatives. Today, they are honing in on young Filipino American professionals who live on TikTok and Instagram. (AP)

Young Filipino Americans explore their roots though travel

# Manila aims at young Fil Am travelers

NEW YORK, Oct 5, (AP): As the head of her own marketing agency in Los Angeles, Shaina Renee Manlangit has made it a mission to elevate Filipino American talent and culture. But, it occurred to her last year, she still had never actually been to the Philippines.

Knowing there were other young Filipino Americans who felt that gap, the 28-year-old promptly "cold-emailed" the Philippine Department of Tourism. That led to her visiting the country in March for the first time.

"It was a very big cultural shock," Manlangit said. "Once I got a taste of it, I just wanted to learn more."

She tasted regional foods, saw both cities and beaches. She learned that the Philippines is a top diving destination, and now she is trying to learn the Tagalog language. Manlangit has since parlayed her journey of discovery into a collaboration with the government to launch trips especially geared toward young Filipino Americans.

The Philippines has long been interested in attracting Filipino Americans to come and add to the economy, but its incentives have mostly drawn retirees or immigrants catching up with relatives. Today, they are aiming a younger generation of Filipino American professionals who live on TikTok and Instagram.

Two Filipino American influencers were recruited to join a group VIP tour in July. Manlangit also has a state-endorsed, eight-day tour slotted for 2024 through the capital city, Manila, and the islands of Cebu and Coron is being marketed as a vibrant introduction for any Filipino American willing to join.

Generations (cross head)

For some young Filipino Americans, or Fil Ams, unfamiliarity with their parents' home country and language makes the idea of planning a trip there overwhelming. But younger generations also have grown up encouraged to show cultural pride. So as adults, some are searching for a connection to the Philippines.

October is Filipino American History Month, and Manlangit is hoping her peers might focus on exploring their family roots through travel.

Alexander Martin Jr., 31, has already committed to one of the 10 spots on the trip she designed. Born and raised in San Leandro, California, the entrepreneur only knows the Philippines from family photos and stories. School, sports and then work always seemed to make it impossible to squeeze in a visit.

Also, the thought of planning a trip to the Philippines was intimidating somehow. It feels reassuring to be going with other young Filipino Americans.

"I'm just hoping to get familiar with my culture, and be familiar with it so one day I can bring my son to all these places I got to experience," Martin said.

Nobody was more elated than his mother.

"If I were to go with family," Martin said, "it's gonna be like a lot of visiting cousins or visiting family out there. But this trip, she's excited that I get to experience like the whole Philippines in its entirety."



This image provided by the Philippine Department of Tourism shows Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila in 2022. (AP)

The Philippines' efforts to integrate Filipinos in America goes back more than a century. After the Philippine-American war and the ensuing US occupation, both countries passed the Pensionado Act in 1903. Exchange students from the Philippines were chosen to travel to the US. The goal was they would further their education and advocate for the American way of governing upon their return.

"Those were like the first sort of American or Americanized Filipinos," said Evelyn Ibatan Rodriguez, a sociology professor and part of the University of San Francisco's Philippine Studies Program. "I think that kind of sets the tone, this idea that what is na-

tive to the Philippines is less than."

**Incentives**

In 1973, Philippine President and dictator Ferdinand Marcos, whose son and namesake is the current president, enacted the Balikbayan Program to draw Filipinos residing in the US to come work part-time. Incentives included an extended visa for a year and lower taxes. Roughly 30 years later, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's administration granted dual citizenship to Filipino Americans born in the US after 1973 to a Philippine national.

"That becomes the game changer because then you've got US 'foreign' Filipinos like myself... who can be-

come dual citizens and then benefit under this Balikbayan legislation," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez hadn't heard of tourism efforts targeting young Filipino American adults. But she knows a lot of college students and college-educated Filipino Americans who have expressed interest in visiting the Philippines. And they want something that isn't just visiting relatives or playing tourist.

"Coming to university... where Asian Americans are such a significant presence, it's sort of given them permission to be like, 'Wait a second, there's actually something I can learn from the Philippines.'" Rodriguez said. "Not just the Philippines is sort of a 'charity case.'"

Even Gen Zers with social media may "want more than an Instagram-friendly visit to their parents' or grandparents' homelands, she added.

"They want to visit sites that may not be glamorous or photogenic, but that have historical or contemporary significance to Filipino people and society," Rodriguez said. "They want the chance to learn from and exchange ideas with Philippines-born peers, artists and leaders."

Among the activities on Manlangit's planned tour next year are snorkeling, hiking and viewing sites like Fort Santiago in Manila. She said she took into account what tourism officials would like to promote but also what her peers are seeking. "There's a lot of room to grow with this," she said. Someday, she hopes "it's eventually not just targeting Filipino Americans."

## Association celebrates 19 years of 'Niram'

## Kala(Art) announces children's painting competition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kala(Art) Kuwait presents "NIRAM-2023" Children's Day Painting Competition in association with 'American Tourister', will be held on Friday, 10th November 2023 at Aspire Indian International School, Kuwait on the occasion of Children's Day celebration by marking the birth day of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of India. Kala(Art)

Kuwait is delighted to celebrate 19th Anniversary of "NIRAM" Painting Competition which is opened for all students of Indian Schools in Kuwait. The organizers conducted a press meet on Wednesday, Oct 4 led by Jai-son Joseph, President, Kala(Art) Kuwait, Rakesh P. D, General Secretary, Ashraf Vithura, Treasurer, Mukesh V. P., Media Secretary, American Tourister Marketing Manager Noun-

fal, Niram Registration Conveners Ajith Kumar and Sunil Kumar. "Children's Day" is a day to remember the great leader, who in his quiet but determined way, laid foundation to convert a nascent nation into a world power. His contributions to India and the world would always be remembered. The Painting Competition will be conducted in four different age

groups. Group 'A' from LKG to 1st-Standard, Group 'B' from 2nd to 4th Standard, Group 'C' from 5th to 7th Standard and Group 'D' from 8th to 12th Standard. The media for Group 'A' and 'B' will be Crayons or Color Pencil while Group 'C' and 'D' are Water Colors. Crayons, Color Pencil and watercolors shall be brought by the participants. Stamped Drawing papers will be supplied by the Organizers. Clay modeling competition also will be conducted for 7th to 12th Standard Students. Clay will be provided by the organizers. A Marathon Open Canvas Painting for parents, visitors and Guests is conducting in a view to display everyone's views and talents through their vivid creations. Kala(Art) Kuwait, emphasize the exclusive prizes for the winners as first place with gold coin and gold medal, second place with silver medal and third place with bronze medal along with memento and certificate. Besides the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, there will be 75 participants to Merit Prizes and Ten (10) percent of the participants will be awarded with consolation prizes. Parents also have the opportunity to win prizes for Open Canvas Painting. The online registration will be continued until 7th November 2023. For more details, please visit www.kalakuwait.net, by e-mail kalakuwait@gmail.com and telephone numbers, 97959072, 66015466 and 66114364 according to Mrs. Ambili Rakesh, Program Convener, Niram-2023.

# YOUTH EXHIBITION

**OPENING SHOW:**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH**  
**FROM 11AM-1PM**

**JOIN US TO DISCOVER THE INCREDIBLE WORKS OF ART CREATED BY THE TALENTED YOUNG MEMBERS!**

**EGAILA, BLOCK 1, STREET 117, VILLA 50**

**ARTSPACE**  
you create.



A photo from the Kala(Art) Kuwait's press meet.

A flyer of the event.



Elba reveals gold’s untold stories

Today the World Gold Council announces the release of a new documentary: created in partnership with Pioneer Productions. Immersed in adventure, Idris Elba (Luther, Beasts of No Nation, Hijack) explores the mysteries, stories and untold human relationship with our most precious metal: gold. As his journey unfolds, we’re taken around the globe as he conquers his claustrophobia down Canadian mine shafts, explores his heritage in Ghana and delves into the journey to responsi-

ble mining in South Africa.

From the 1800s Gold Rush stimulating early demand for Levi’s jeans, to the recent production of a \$1m gold bar in Canada and the quest for the new gold seams in Peru; Elba uncovers the unique moments and milestones that bring the human story and socio-economic impact of gold to life.

Explores the value of gold past, present and future, while discovering its powers of transformation on individuals, communities and economies.

It also highlights how the industry is navigating current challenges, from post-mining regeneration and energy consumption to the future of the workforce in gold mining. Idris Elba said: “I feel very thankful to have been able to experience what gold means to people, what gold means to history and also to tradition. Gold has the power to transform. I’ve learnt so much about gold that wasn’t obvious or expected and now my eyes have been opened which is a wonderful thing.” (Business Wire)

EP extends rules on preferential trade scheme

The European Parliament (EP) voted on Thursday with 561 in favour, five against and two abstention to extend current rules on the scheme of generalised tariff preferences (GSP) for over 60 developing countries until 31 December 2027.

The current GSP regulation was set to expire at the end of 2023, and the negotiations between the Parliament and the EU Council of member states began in January 2023 to establish new rules.

In June, talks were paused as the gap between the position of the Parliament and

member states could not be bridged, and as a result, the current rules were prolonged, said an EP press release.

The extension gives more time for the European Parliament and EU member states to agree on the new rules.

The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) has been the EU’s preferential trade arrangement with developing countries since 1971. Under this scheme, developing countries get to pay reduced import duties when exporting to the EU. (KUNA)

Market Movements

05-10-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
↑ JAPAN	- Nikkei	+1.80	31,075.36	↓ UAE	- DFM	-1.18	4,142.92
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+0.80	47,484.56	PHILIPPINES	- PSEi	-1.90	6,178.60
				SAUDI	- Tadawul	-0.70	10,764.85

Business

Raw materials still represent the largest share of exports

Dhaman: Arab trade in goods, services grew by 32.4 pct in ’22

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Arab trade in goods and services grew by 32.4 percent during 2022 to reach USD 3.5 trillion, the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) said Thursday.

The Corporation’s Director-General Abdullah Al-Sabeeh said in a press release, on the occasion of issuing the second quarterly bulletin for 2023, that Arab merchandise trade increased by 32.6 percent to USD 2.9 trillion, as a result of the record growth of the region’s merchandise export by 43 percent.

Arab merchandise trade share rose to 5.7 percent of the global total, and about 13.2 percent of merchandise trade in developing countries, he added.

Raw materials still represent the largest share of Arab exports by more than 75 percent as fuel exports alone make up around 62 percent of total merchandise trade, while manufactured goods represent 60 percent of Arab merchandise imports during 2022, he added.

Al-Sabeeh pointed out the continuation of geographical concentration in merchandise trade in the Arab region in 2022, with five oil exporters

contributing 81 percent of total exports, while five countries contributed 74 percent of total imports. The UAE alone accounted for more than a third of total Arab merchandise trade in 2022.

Based in Kuwait, the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) was established in 1974. It comprises as members all Arab countries and four joint Arab financial institutions. It provides specialized insurance services against credit and political risks with a view to facilitating the inflow of foreign direct investments into Arab countries, and promoting Arab exports and imports.

Layoffs remain historically low

US applications for jobless ‘claims’ up

WASHINGTON, Oct 5, (AP): Slightly more Americans applied for jobless claims last week, but layoffs remain low and the labor market continues to show resiliency amid elevated interest rates imposed by the Federal Reserve.

Applications for unemployment benefits ticked up by 2,000 to 207,000 for the week ending Sept. 30, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

Jobless claim applications are considered a proxy for the number of layoffs in a given week.

The four-week moving average of claims, a less volatile measure, fell by 2,500 to 208,750.

Though the Federal Reserve opted to leave its benchmark borrowing rate alone at its meeting two weeks ago, it is well into the second year of its battle to knock down persistent inflation. The central bank has raised its benchmark rate 11 times since March of 2022, with part of its goal to cool hiring and bring down wages. But the labor market has held up better than expected.

On Tuesday, the government re-

ported that job openings jumped unexpectedly in August, with American employers posting 9.6 million job openings, up from 8.9 million in July and the first uptick in three months. Analyst were expecting vacancies to remain flat from July.

The government reported that U.S. employers added a healthy 187,000 jobs in August. Though the unemployment rate ticked up to 3.8%, it’s still low by historical measures. The Labor Department issues its September jobs report on Friday.

U.S. businesses have been adding an average of about 236,000 jobs per month this year, down from the pandemic surge of the previous two years, but still a strong number.

Besides some layoffs early this year - mostly in the technology sector - companies have been trying to retain workers.

Overall, 1.67 million people were collecting unemployment benefits the week that ended Sept. 23, about 5,000 fewer than the previous week.

AI-generated political deepfakes

Meta and X ‘questioned’ by lawmakers over lack of rules

WASHINGTON, Oct 5, (AP): Deepfakes generated by artificial intelligence are having their moment this year, at least when it comes to making it look, or sound, like celebrities did something uncanny. Tom Hanks hawking a dental plan. Pope Francis wearing a stylish puffer jacket. U.S. Sen. Rand Paul sitting on the Capitol steps in a red bathrobe.

But what happens next year ahead of a U.S. presidential election?

Google was the first big tech company to say it would impose new labels on deceptive AI-generated political advertisements that could fake a candidate’s voice or actions. Now some U.S. lawmakers are calling on social media platforms X, Facebook and Instagram to explain why they aren’t doing the same.

Two Democratic members of Congress sent a letter Thursday to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and X CEO Linda Yaccarino expressing “serious concerns” about the emergence of AI-generated political ads on their platforms and asking each to explain any rules they’re crafting to curb the harms to free and fair elections.

“They are two of the largest platforms and voters deserve to know what guardrails are being put in place,” said U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota in an interview with The Associated Press. “We are simply asking them, ‘Can’t you do this? Why aren’t you doing this?’ It’s clearly technologically possible.”

The letter to the executives from Klobuchar and U.S. Rep. Yvette Clarke of New York warns: “With the 2024 elections quickly approaching, a lack of transparency about this type of content in political ads could lead to a dangerous deluge of election-related misinformation and disinformation across your platforms - where voters often turn to learn about candidates and issues.”

X, formerly Twitter, and Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday. Clarke and Klobuchar asked the executives to respond to their questions by Oct. 27.

The pressure on the social media companies comes as both lawmakers are helping to lead a charge to regulate AI-generated political ads. A House bill introduced by Clarke earlier this year would amend a federal election law to require disclaimers when election advertisements contain AI-generated images or video.

“That’s like the bare minimum” of

what is needed, said Klobuchar, who is sponsoring companion legislation in the Senate that she hopes will get passed before the end of the year. In the meantime, the hope is that big tech platforms will “do it on their own while we work on the standard,” Klobuchar said.

Google has already said that starting in mid-November it will require a clear disclaimer on any AI-generated election ads that alter people or events on YouTube and other Google products. This policy applies both in the U.S. and in other countries where the company verifies election ads. Facebook and Instagram parent Meta doesn’t have a rule specific to AI-generated political ads but has a policy restricting “faked, manipulated or transformed” audio and imagery used for misinformation.

A more recent bipartisan Senate bill, co-sponsored by Klobuchar, Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri and others, would go farther in banning “materially deceptive” deepfakes relating to federal candidates, with exceptions for parody and satire.

AI-generated ads are already part of the 2024 election, including one aired by the Republican National Committee in April meant to show the future of the United States if President Joe Biden is reelected. It employed fake but realistic photos showing boarded-up storefronts, armored military patrols in the streets, and waves of immigrants creating panic.

Klobuchar said such an ad would likely be banned under the proposed rules. So would a fake image of Donald Trump hugging infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci that was shown in an attack ad from Trump’s GOP primary opponent and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

As another example, Klobuchar cited a deepfake video from earlier this year purporting to show Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren in a TV interview suggesting restrictions on Republicans voting.

“That is going to be so misleading if you, in a presidential race, have either the candidate you like or the candidate you don’t like actually saying things that aren’t true,” Klobuchar said. “How are you ever going to know the difference?”

Klobuchar, who chairs the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, presided over a Sept. 27 hearing on AI and the future of elections that brought witnesses including Minnesota’s secretary of state, a civil rights advocate and some skeptics.

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Local banks experienced a significant drop in their deposits with foreign banks during the first eight months of 2023, registering a 17.6 percent decline, which amounts to 1.16 billion dinars. This decline is noteworthy, especially when comparing it to the figure of 6.614 billion dinars in December, which had decreased to 5.446 billion dinars by August. On an annual basis, this reduction stands at 16.6 percent or 1.09 billion dinars, as it was 6.535 billion dinars in August 2022. Furthermore, on a monthly basis, deposits fell by 4 percent, equivalent to approximately 226.7 million dinars, compared to the 5.673 billion dinars reported at the end of July.**

In contrast, deposits of foreign banks with local banks showed a positive trend over the same eight-month period in 2023, increasing by 2.8 percent, amounting to 144.5 million dinars. This growth brought the figure down from 5.082 billion dinars at the end of December 2022 to 4.897 billion dinars in August. However, on an annual basis, there was a decrease of 240.3 million dinars, or 4.6 percent, as it was 5.137 billion dinars in August 2022. On a monthly basis, deposits dropped by 3.6 percent, or approximately 184.9 million dinars, compared to the 5.082 billion dinars reported at the end of July.

Decline

Regarding foreign currencies, deposits in foreign currencies held by the private sector in local banks also witnessed a decline of 6.7 percent, totaling 120.2 million dinars. This decrease occurred between December 2022 when it was 1.774 billion dinars and August, where it reached 1.654 billion dinars. On a monthly basis, there was a 1.4 percent drop, approximately 25 million dinars, from the 1.679 billion dinars reported in July. Yearly, there was a decrease of 4.4 percent, equivalent to 76.4 million dinars, from 1.73 billion dinars in August 2022.

The Central Bank of Kuwait is actively working to strengthen the flow of cash between the banking sector and the national economy. It seeks to maintain the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti dinar as a secure and profitable currency for savings, thereby increasing the appeal of deposits with Kuwaiti banks. These measures align with the Central Bank’s conservative policies, mirroring the decisions of the US Federal Reserve to ensure the competitiveness of the Kuwaiti dinar against the dollar. These policies aim to navigate local and global economic conditions, as well as geopolitical developments, particularly the substantial increases in global inflation rates driven by rising energy and commodity prices, and supply chain disruptions, which contribute significantly to imported inflation and its impact on the consumer price index in Kuwait.

In the realm of interbank deposits,



27-megawatt (MW) Wind Farm located at Al Sila in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Breakthrough low wind speed innovation achieved

Masdar launches UAE’s first utility scale wind project

ABU DHABI, UAE, Oct. 5, (PR Newswire): Under the directives of the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, inaugurated the UAE Wind Program.

The 103.5 megawatt (MW) landmark project developed by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar, demonstrates for the first time the latest technology and innovation to capture low wind speeds at utility scale, adopting advances in material science and aerodynamics to make wind power possible in the country. The project marks the debut of cost-effective, large scale, utility wind power on the UAE’s electricity grid, diversifying the country’s energy mix and advancing its energy transition.

The UAE Wind Program is expected to power over 23,000 UAE homes a year. It will displace 120,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, equivalent of removing over 26,000 cars from the road annually. The development underscores the UAE’s commitment to tackling climate change as it looks forward to hosting an inclusive COP that focuses on delivering results.

The project spans four locations including the picturesque Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, which is home to free-roaming wildlife. A 45 MW capacity wind farm plus 14 MWp (megawatt peak) solar farm has been developed on the island. The other wind farm locations include the historical pearl-diving center, Delma Island (27MW) in Abu Dhabi, Al Sila, Abu Dhabi (27MW) and Al Halah, Fujairah (4.5MW).

HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan attended the inauguration ceremony held on Sir Bani Yas Island, where he witnessed the signing of a landmark Power Purchase Agreement between EWEC (Emirates Water and Electricity Company) and Masdar for the wind power generation from the Sir Bani Yas Island, Al Sila, and Delma Island projects. With the addition of wind power, EWEC’s portfolio now encompasses multiple sources of

strategic green energy, solidifying the UAE’s energy transition leadership.

The event was also attended by H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, Chairman of Masdar and COP28 President-Designate; H.E. Eng. Awaidha Al Marar, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy; Mr Chen Guanfu, President of PowerChina International; and Mr Wu Kai, Chairman of Goldwind Group. PowerChina was the main Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor for the program and GoldWind Group was the main supplier of equipment.

H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President-Designate and Chairman of Masdar, said, “The UAE Wind Program is a great source of national pride and a demonstration of Masdar’s ability to pioneer and implement innovations in wind and renewable energy technologies. More than twenty years ago, before Masdar was created however, His Highness Sheikh Zayed, our founding father, someone who cared deeply about the environment, oversaw the completion of a wind turbine on Sir Bani Yas Island. As the UAE’s clean energy powerhouse, Masdar continues this legacy by supporting the nation’s vision as a global leader in sustainability and climate action as it unlocks the new potential of wind power. For a viable energy transition, the world must triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement goals. As we look forward to hosting COP28, today’s inauguration shows the UAE’s firm commitment to this target, boosting clean energy investments both at home and abroad.”

The project marks the first time that the UAE has added utility-scale wind power to its energy mix. Energy generated by landmark solar, nuclear and waste-to-energy plants already feeds into the UAE’s national grid and earlier this month the country was recognized as a world leader in solar energy use, according to the latest data from The Energy Institute Statistical Review of

World Energy.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Masdar’s Chief Executive Officer, said: “As the UAE’s flagship renewable energy company, this is an incredibly proud moment for Masdar. Today’s launch of the UAE’s first utility-scale wind program is the result of years of hard work and collaboration. It would not have been possible without the vision and the unstinting support of the UAE’s leadership, we were able to pioneer cutting-edge technology to overcome the UAE’s low wind speeds and harness the power of this formidable natural resource. As we accelerate our path to Net Zero by 2050, the UAE wind program shows that anything is possible when you have vision, passion and a pioneering spirit.”

Previously wind energy was not viable due to low wind speeds in the UAE, but innovations within climate technology and UAE-led expertise made wind power possible. Bigger turbine sizes, lower hardware prices and the discovery of a unique weather phenomenon that generated high winds at night made this project scalable and economically viable. As wind power is strongest at night in the UAE this complements the country’s existing solar power generation, further diversifying the nations renewable energy mix.

By working with global technology leaders and turbine manufacturers, this project is paving the way for the commercialization of further utility scale, low-wind speed projects. The project is creating a foundation of critical scientific wind data, which will form the basis of the UAE’s next phase of development.

Led by its founding CEO and now COP28 President-Designate, Dr Sultan Al Jaber, Masdar has been pioneering clean energy since 2006. A decade ago, the company launched the 100 MW Shams project, which was the first concentrated solar power plant to be developed in the Middle East. In Indonesia, Masdar is at the final stages of developing the Cirata Floating Solar Plant, Southeast Asia’s largest floating solar plant.

there was a notable decrease of 26.5 percent over the first eight months of the year, amounting to 495.4 million dinars. This decline brought the figure down from 1.867 billion dinars in December to 1.372 billion dinars in August. However, on a monthly

basis, there was a 6 percent increase, approximately 77.6 million dinars, after a low of 1.294 billion dinars in July. Yearly, interbank deposits fell significantly by 41.7 percent, a value of 981.8 million dinars, compared to 2.35 billion dinars at the end of Au-

gust 2022. These trends are based on data from the Central Bank’s monthly reports over the past year, highlighting both growth and decline in the local interbank market, with recent recovery seen in August after a period of decline from March to July.



Baobab Network to invest In 1000 African tech cos

Baobab Network (“Baobab”), an early-stage investor and accelerator that backs technology companies across Africa, has this week announced that they intend to invest in 1000 companies between now and 2033.

Having launched their accelerator in 2019, Baobab has consistently been one of the most active investors across Africa, backing locally led companies from day one. The accelerator provides

\$100,000 in funding for each company, as well as a 12-week accelerator designed to set each business up for scale.

Announcing their latest 5 investments, Toby Hanington (Co-founder, Baobab) said they now have the platform to dramatically scale the number of investments they review and execute across Africa. Baobab’s new cohort includes Brando, PocketFood and Bunce (all Nigeria), as well as Kawu (Uganda)

& Alal (Senegal). Each company has received \$50,000 directly from Baobab, with another \$50,000 investment from their newly launched Co-Investment Vehicle.

Africa has not been immune to global market dynamics, but Baobab continues to be one of the most active pre-seed investors in Africa. Baobab Network has already completed 10 deals this year, with another larger cohort expected in Q4. (PR Newswire)

TrueBridge elevates presence in EMEA

TrueBridge, the premier interim, fractional and advisory executive search firm, announced today it has appointed strategic business leader Alastair Coutts as Head of TrueBridge EMEA. Coutts joins the accomplished EMEA team to expand TrueBridge’s impact across the continent.

“The current interim space is experiencing significant growth driven by the evolving landscape of work and changing preferences,”

said Coutts. “This environment presents numerous opportunities for those considering interim roles, and I look forward to leveraging my commercial and team-building experience delivering exceptional value in this space to our clients and candidates alike.”

As Head of TrueBridge EMEA, Coutts will help TrueBridge clients take advantage of opportunities across the True platform, which includes full-time global execu-

tive search firm True Search. Clients will not only gain access to a broader pool of exceptional candidates, but will also benefit from True’s high-touch, white-glove service and domain expertise, especially in high-growth sectors. TrueBridge’s emergence as a leading provider in this space also opens up countless opportunities for candidates seeking interim, fractional, and advisory roles. (Business Wire)

Fears about Amazon and Microsoft cloud computing dominance ‘trigger’ UK probe

Ofcom says found features that could limit competition

LONDON, Oct 5, (AP): Concerns from regulators about the dominance of Amazon and Microsoft in Britain’s cloud computing market have triggered a investigation into the competitiveness of the key industry.

The U.K. communications regulator Ofcom said Thursday that its yearlong study of the cloud communications services market found features that could limit competition. British businesses face barriers when they try to switch or use multiple cloud suppliers, it said.

Cloud computing uses data centers around the world to store photos and emails or run software. It has become a vital service for many businesses, which turn to cloud providers to avoid the cost of buying expensive equip-

ment and real estate to run their own data centers.

Ofcom asked the U.K. antitrust watchdog, the Competition and Markets Authority, to take a closer look at the 7.5 billion-pound (\$9 billion) cloud market. The watchdog said it was opening an in-depth investigation that’s expected to wrap up by April 2025.

“Some U.K. businesses have told us they’re concerned about it being too difficult to switch or mix and match cloud provider, and it’s not clear that competition is working well,” Ofcom’s director responsible for the market study, Fergal Farragher, said in a press release. “So, we’re referring the market to the CMA for further scrutiny, to make sure business customers continue to benefit from cloud services.”

Ofcom said it was concerned about the position held by Amazon and Microsoft, which together account for 70% to 80% of the cloud market. Google trailed behind with 5% to 10% of the share, and smaller players make up the rest.

Amazon Web Services, the online retail giant’s cloud computing business, said it disagrees with Ofcom’s findings, which it said “are based on a fundamental misconception of how the IT sector functions, and the services and discounts on offer.”

“The cloud has made switching between providers easier than ever. Any unwarranted intervention could lead to unintended harm to IT customers and competition,” the company said in a statement.

Both companies said they would work constructively with the CMA.

“We are committed to ensuring the UK cloud industry remains innovative, highly competitive and an accelerator for growth across the economy,” Microsoft said in a statement.

Ofcom said it was concerned about fees, technical barriers and discounts that could discourage customers from changing or using more than one provider. The CMA said it would investigate whether competition is working well and what needs to be done if it isn’t.

IMF expects continuing Washington support for Ukraine despite Congress ‘dropping’ aid

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 5, (AP): Officials from the International Monetary Fund say they expect the United States will continue playing its key role in amassing multinational support that has helped keep Ukraine’s economy afloat during Russia’s invasion.

That’s despite Congress recently passing a short-term funding package that averted a U.S. government shutdown but dropped \$6 billion in aid to Ukraine. It’s not clear if, when or how that aid installment might be restored.

The U.S. has already sent or committed \$69.5 billion in military, financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, according to the Institute for the World Economy in Kiel, Germany.

“President Biden has made an announcement ... that he is fully committed to supporting Ukraine,” Uma Ramakrishnan, IMF European department deputy director, said at a news conference Wednesday in Kyiv. “And so from our standpoint, the baseline assumption remains that the U.S. remains committed.”

She added that “it is premature for us to comment on what will materialize or not, because we have to wait for the process to play out.”

Officials from the Washington-based IMF also said Ukraine’s economy was showing surprising resilience despite widespread damage from Russia’s war.

The Ukrainian economy has shown improving growth and lower inflation this year after the disastrous loss in 2022 of around a third of its output, including from war destruction and Russian occupation of key industrial areas.

Key to that improvement has been foreign financial aid, which gets less attention than military supplies but helps Ukraine keep paying civil servants and pensioners. It also has helped keep people’s savings and salaries from vanishing due to price spikes.

The budget aid means Ukraine’s government can avoid using the central bank to print money to cover its bills - an emergency necessity it turned to in the first days of the invasion, but a practice that can lead to runaway inflation.

Kuwait Business Council, ADCI discuss joint investment

By Salem Al-Muthen

ABU DHABI, Oct 5, (KUNA): A delegation from Kuwait Business Council (KBC) met on Wednesday the Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ADCCI) Abdullah Al-Mazoue to discuss ways of enhancing cooperation in various fields and facilitating the Kuwaiti investments in the United Arab Emirates.

The discussions dealt also with cooperation with UAE private sector investors in a

ways that could serve the common interests of both sisterly countries, KBC Chairman Ferash Al-Salem told KUNA following the meeting.

“KBC seeks to expand the Kuwaiti investments in the UAE particularly in the area of technology and open new horizons of cooperation between the private sectors of both countries,” he noted.

Al-Salem praised as constructive the cooperation showed by the UAE side with Kuwait Business Council in Dubai and the Kuwaiti

private sector investors, citing the provision of suitable environment for investment in all fields in the UAE.

“The UAE helps the Kuwaiti investors and entrepreneurs tap into the promising opportunities for expanding their business regionally,” he went on.

The meeting gathered KBC treasurer Mishal Al-Fors and Chairman of UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Humaid Ben Salem.

Deal valid until the end of December

KFH: 10% discount for Oasis Club cards

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), in collaboration with Kuwait Airways, is offering KFH Oasis Club credit/prepaid card holders, until the end of December, a 10% discount on tickets and holiday packages for all classes and destinations. The new offer is part of KFH efforts to provide the best exclusive deals and promotions.

KFH Oasis Club card holders will receive an instant discount of 10% on bookings through the following link: [kuwaitairways.com/ar/kfh](https://kuwaitairways.com/ar/kfh) by selecting the first 6 digits of the credit or prepaid cards for all flights operated by Kuwait Airways.

Customers can also get a 10% discount on holiday packages and reservations. Kuwait Airways will double the miles balance for the Oasis Club for every KD 1 spent on booking through the following link: [Booking.com/oasisclubku](https://Booking.com/oasisclubku). It is worth noting that the discount applies to all classes of travel and flights operated by Kuwait Airways.

KFH customers can get the discount by booking through a particular link to Kuwait Airways website using KFH Oasis Club World Elite Credit Card, World Credit Card and Oasis Club Prepaid Card. The offer



10 percent discount

is valid for both one-way and round trips. The discount does not include multi-city flights and stopovers, and it applies to flights operated by Kuwait Airways only.

The discount is valid on the

base fare only excluding taxes or fees, and cannot be used for bookings through travel agents, or combined with any other offer. Receiving the discount is subject to flight availability at the time of the booking.

have kept a low profile since the invasion, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has fired several top government officials suspected of misconduct to show he is serious in fighting corruption.

Ukraine’s economy “is certainly adapting to the war environment and showing remarkable resilience,” with increasing consumer demand boosting growth, deputy mission chief Nathan Epstein said.

He added that economic growth should be at the upper end of the IMF forecast of 1%-2% this year.

Bolt.Earth raises 20 mln dollars funding to power EV ecosystem

BANGALORE, India, Oct 5, (Business Wire): Bolt.Earth, India’s leading EV infrastructure and software company, is excited to announce the successful completion of its funding round, securing a substantial \$20 million in investment. The landmark funding round was spearheaded by a consortium of both longstanding and new investors, featuring notable names including Union Square Ventures, Prime Venture Partners, ITIGO Funds, and several others who share Bolt.Earth’s vision for a sustainable and electrified transportation ecosystem.

Bolt.Earth Founders with Bolt.Earth Clusters and Speedometers

Recently, Bolt.Earth has achieved the milestone of successfully deploying more than 30,000 EV charging points within its charging network. The company caters to a wide spectrum of charging needs, with options ranging from slow to fast charging, featuring power outputs from 3.3 kW to 240 kW.

The funding will be instrumental in advancing the company’s stellar product portfolio with a balanced mix of slow and fast charging points, catering to a varied customer base namely Bolt.Earth Lite, Bolt.Earth Lite Connected, Bolt.Earth LEVAC, Bolt.Earth Level 2 & 3.

Bolt.Earth OS embodies a commitment to a smarter and safer tomorrow, going beyond technology to promise a greener future. For OEMs and EV dealers seeking seamless upgrades, our low-code integration platform enables EVs

to become software defined vehicles.

Bolt.Earth is set to onboard top-tier professionals across a spectrum of disciplines, including tech, engineering and product.

The funding will bolster Bolt.Earth’s ambitious agenda to extend its presence beyond existing markets, catalyzing the uptake of electric vehicles in Asia, Europe, South America, and Latin America.

“Bolt.Earth offers an Operating System, a connected platform technology helping OEMs to develop, operate, and monitor their charging network and vehicles. We are also continuously expanding our charging network at a rate of approximately 2,000 new charging points per month. Additionally, we currently hold more than 50% market share in India’s EV charging network and play a dominant role in India’s EV Operating System nexus with our deployed chargers and software defined vehicles.”

further commented, “We are thrilled to have the backing of visionary investors who share our passion for transforming the EV ecosystem. The current \$20 million fund-raise is a part of the company’s plan to further its reach to every nook and corner of the country, and to begin the era of ‘Make in India’ EV charging infrastructure products in the global market.”

Bolt.Earth offers charging solutions for individuals, businesses, real estate companies, fleet operators, and the government.

For more information on Bolt.Earth, visit Bolt.Earth.

FPT Software forges OutSystems partnership with two recognitions

HANOI, Vietnam, Oct 5, (Business Wire): FPT Software was recently named OutSystems Partner of the Year with the Most Foundation Team and Top Partner of Southeast Asia (SEA). These recognitions underscore FPT Software’s partnership with the global leader and affirm its dominant role in the Asia Pacific low-code sector.

FPT Software representatives received the recognition of OutSystems’ Partner of the Year with the Most Foundation Team at the OutSystems APAC Instep 2023 in Phuket, Thailand. (Photo: Business Wire)

The awards were announced in the OutSystems APAC Partner Instep 2023, an annual event for OutSystems partners in the APAC region to disseminate the latest insights and honor those with remarkable results.

FPT Software’s Japan subsidiary was one of the two Partners of the Year with Most Foundation Team, considering its outstanding number of OutSystems-certified developers and customer satisfaction. Its Malaysian subsidiary was also awarded the Top Partner of SEA for its notable contribution to OutSystems’ annual recurring revenue in this market.

“FPT Software is a strategic partner, and we would like to recognize their dedication and commitment to successfully building a solid OutSystems Delivery practice with over 700 OutSystems-

certified resources comprising developers, tech leads, and experts. This is an outstanding achievement, and we are excited to continue the success with FPT Software to help us in further expanding our customer footprint and delivering high-quality services to customers across the Asia Pacific,” said S Saravanan Subramaniam, OutSystems Regional Vice President for Partner Alliances in Asia Pacific.

“I am delighted that our dedication and hard work have earned recognition from OutSystems, and I am confident that our ongoing collaboration will bring even greater value to the global business community,” said Phung Viet Ha, Managing Director of FPT Software’s Low-code Group. “I hope FPT Software and OutSystems can penetrate new markets and bring our solutions to helping more customers,” Ha added.

The FPT Software-OutSystems partnership dates back to 2019 when FPT Software became OutSystems’ Managed Services Partner. Since then, the IT firm has continuously expanded and developed low-code as one of its key competencies, providing a comprehensive range of services, from software applications development and operation to maintenance on the low-code platform. FPT Software is now one of OutSystems’ partners with large-scale resources in Japan and the APAC market, covering three areas: sales, delivery, and managed service provider (MSP).



# ‘SNL’ returns with Davidson and Bad Bunny slated to host

NEW YORK, Oct 5, (AP): Live from New York ... it’s the return of ‘Saturday Night Live’ after last season was cut short because of the writers strike.

The long-running sketch comedy show will premiere Season 49 on Oct. 14, NBC announced Wednesday. Former cast member Pete Davidson will host, making good on a plan to have him host last May. The comedian will be joined by first-time musical guest Ice Spice.

The following week, Bad Bunny will pull double duty as host and musical guest. While the Grammy winner has performed on the show before, it’ll be his hosting debut.

The entire cast from Season 48 will return, along with one new addition: Chloe Troast, as a featured player.

Davidson had been set to host May 6, alongside musical guest Lil Uzi Vert, but his episode was the first to be cut after the writers strike started just days before. The writers strike was declared over Sept. 26 after Writers Guild of America board members approved a contract agreement with studios. While Hollywood actors are still on strike for most television and theatrical work, the “SNL” cast can resume performing as variety shows operate under a different contract.

Other late-night shows like “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon”, “Jimmy Kimmel Live!”, “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver” and “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” have also returned.

“I’m excited to do some more ‘SNL,’” cast member James Austin Johnson, known for impressions of Donald Trump and Joe Biden, told The Associated Press earlier this week. “It moves quick.”

Meanwhile, Hollywood actors are in talks with studios over labor issues. Negotiations have been centered on pay, the use of artificial intelligence, and self-taped auditions. Key figures in these negotiations include Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, national executive director for the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and Carol Lombardini, head of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

### Negotiations

“I get asked to talk to law students about careers from time to time, and I always preface the story by saying I can’t, I don’t encourage you to try to replicate this because I’ve no idea how it happened,” Crabtree-Ireland told the AP in an interview. “I never thought I’d be here.”

Crabtree-Ireland, originally from Memphis, became involved in labor negotiations after working as a criminal prosecutor in Los Angeles. His first contract talks for film and TV actors led to their first strike in over 40 years.

Lombardini, the president and chief negotiator of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, has been negotiating with

Hollywood’s unions and guilds for 14 years. She has faced the challenges of strikes during her tenure.

The industry’s giants, including Disney CEO Bob Iger, Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav, and Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos, are directly involved in strike negotiations. Iger’s large contract and comments drew attention, while Sarandos signifies the industry’s shift to streaming. Zaslav represents a shift toward reality TV and other programming.

Fran Drescher, known for her role in “The Nanny,” is the face of the strikes as SAG-AFTRA’s president. She made a passionate speech at the strike announcement, resonating with the actors.

The negotiating committee supporting Crabtree-Ireland includes actors like Sean Astin, Anthony Rapp, Sheryl Lee Ralph, and others who represent the majority of union members who are not famous and make less than \$27,000 a year from acting.

Ellen Stutzman, an attorney, is celebrated for her role in negotiating major gains for writers. She took over as chief negotiator for the Writers Guild just two weeks before contract talks began and played a key role in the writers’ 2019 fight with agents.

Overall, these negotiations involve a diverse group of individuals from different backgrounds and positions in the entertainment industry.

### Variety



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Lidya Jewett, (left), and Olivia O'Neill in a scene from 'The Exorcist: Believer.' (AP)

### Film

Can ‘The Exorcist’ sequel still turn heads?

## ‘Believer’ tries to revive a horror classic

LOS ANGELES, Oct 5, (AP): There may be no holier ground in horror than “The Exorcist.” As endlessly as William Friedkin’s 1973 film has been ripped off and resurrected, its power remains unalloyed, its place in movie history consecrated.

Why is it that, after we’ve seen so many heads twist around, “The Exorcist” can still turn heads? Much, surely, is owed to its patient, restrained approach, icy atmospheres and evocative, uncluttered imagery - all conjured in the dawning dread of post-1960s America.

But the possession of young Regan MacNeil still haunts, I think, for its absolute belief in good and evil. It’s a supernatural movie that treats the supernatural as straightforwardly natural. The devil is as real and present as all those concrete steps.

There were flop sequels that followed and plenty of spinoffs that failed to grip. But now, just two months after the death of Friedkin and a few months shy of the original’s 50th anniversary, comes a sequel from director David Gordon Green.

Hollywood’s propensity for reaching back to old classics may be, by now, enough to inspire the kind of projectile vomiting Friedkin made famous. “The Exorcist: Believer” was produced by Blumhouse with the intent of launching a new series of films, but it feels guided largely by affection and respect for Friedkin’s original rather than more cynical motivations.

The film’s main additions are that, this time, there are two possessed girls (double the fun?) and the Catholic Church is no longer the sole or even the primary demon battler. This is a multid denominational “Exorcist,” yet also a less profoundly spiritual one.

Green, one of today’s most protean filmmakers, has been at this before. He rebooted the “Halloween” films in a trilogy that started off promisingly with an update to the slasher suburban nightmare before devolving in subsequent films.

It’s easier to recycle “Halloween” than it is “The Exorcist.” Yet the first thing you notice about “Believer” is its sure-handedness. Green, working from

a script he wrote with Peter Sattler from a story by Green, Danny McBride and Scott Teems, moves nimbly in setting the atmosphere, refraining from the kinds of flashy camera movement or schlocky scares often found in horror films. There’s craftsmanship in how “Believer” is stitched together - at least at first.

Thirteen years after the death of his pregnant wife in an earthquake in Haiti, Victor Fielding (Leslie Odom Jr.) lives with his 13-year-old daughter Angela (Lidya Jewett). They are close and Victor is a little overprotective. When Angela and a friend Katherine (Olivia O’Neill) walk through the woods after school and start performing a seance by candlelight, it’s not hard to guess where this might be going.

### Attention

But “The Exorcist: Believer” initially gets its hooks into you thanks to the agility of the filmmaking, the levelheaded presence of Odom Jr. and a fine performance by newcomer Jewett. The girls go missing for several days and, when they return, no longer seem themselves. As things begin to get ugly, the film’s attention shifts to the parents - this is more a movie about parenting than it is about faith - including the blurrily characterized parents of Katherine (Norbert Leo Butz and Jennifer Nettles), whose bond with their daughter may be less than Victor’s with Angela.

If “The Exorcist” seemed to summon demons, the best “The Exorcist: Believer” can do is to conjure tropes. Fingers claw. Heads turn. Bodies levitate. Once the film gets both possessed girls tied down in chairs, back to back, with a cobbled-together team of spiritual defenders around them, “Believer” bogs down in a prolonged torture chamber of horror clichés.

Green, who has long had a keen eye for casting, populates the film with some fine actors. Ellen Burstyn, Oscar-nominated for “The Exorcist,” returns as Chris MacNeil, though it may be the film’s biggest mistake to so quickly and gruesomely dispatch its most potent performer. Ann Dowd, as a nurse who lives next door, also adds to the film’s dramatic heft.

But “The Exorcist: Believer” never manages an

thing like the deep terror of the original, and the film’s climactic scenes pass by with a lifeless predictability. Been there, exhumed that. It may be that to get near the dark danger of “The Exorcist” you have to climb your own steps and fight your own demons.

“The Exorcist: Believer,” a Universal Pictures release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for or some violent content, disturbing images, language and sexual references. Running time: 111 minutes. Two stars out of four.

### Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** William Friedkin died in August but the legendary filmmaker of “The French Connection” and “The Exorcist” left one movie behind. “The Caine Mutiny Court Martial,” which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in early September, is Friedkin’s final film. The movie, which streams Friday on Showtime and Paramount+, adapts Herman Wouk’s oft-revived 1950s play, a courtroom drama about mismanagement and mutiny aboard a US Navy destroyer. Friedkin, whose long filmography is dotted with stage adaptations (including Tracy Letts’ “Bug” and “Killer Joe”), transplants the story from World War II to post-9/11 America. It stars **Keifer Sutherland**, **Jason Clarke** and the late **Lance Reddick**.

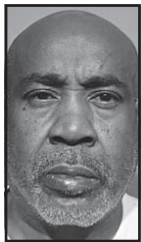
Meanwhile, with the calendar turning to October, a long line of horror films is dutifully making its way to screens. “The Haunted Mansion” slides in on the spookier (rather than the scary) end of the spectrum. The film, based on the Walt Disney theme park attraction, is directed by **Justin Simien** (“Dear White People”) and stars **LaKeith Stanfield** as an inspector called on to investigate a haunted house. **Rosario Dawson**, **Owen Wilson**, **Danny DeVito**, **Tiffany Haddish** and **Jamie Lee Curtis** make up the ensemble cast. In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr credited their performances but said the film strains for coherence: “By no means a terrible movie, or even an unpleasant watch, but it’s just missing the magic that makes the trip to the theaters (or Disney World) worth it.

shooting death of **Tupac Shakur** in Las Vegas made his first court appearance Wednesday on a murder charge.

**Duane “Keffe D” Davis**, 60, stood shackled, wearing a dark-blue jail uniform and plastic orange slippers. He was scheduled to be arraigned on the charge Wednesday, but the hearing was



Ormond



Davis

cut short after he asked **Clark County** District Judge **Tierra Jones** to postpone the hearing while he retains counsel in Las Vegas.

**Mopreme Shakur**, the rapper’s stepbrother, wasn’t in court Wednesday but told The Associated Press that he’s been following developments in the case from his

home in Los Angeles, even as he and his family are “trying to manage our expectations.”

“Young Black men often deal with delayed justice because we’re often viewed as the criminals,” he said. “So justice has been delayed for quite some time - in spite of all the eyes, all the attention, despite the celebrity of my brother.”

Davis was arrested last Friday 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. Davis denied a request from the AP for an interview from jail where he’s being held without bond. (AP)



People & Places

Books

Jones offers life advice

Brown gives romantic twist to WWII disaster

LOS ANGELES, Oct 5, (AP): The actor who plays Eleven on “Stranger Things” wrote a romance novel! That’ll be the headline for too much coverage of “Nineteen Steps,” so let’s set that aside and consider the debut book from **Millie Bobby Brown** on its own merits.

It’s a love story set in London, spanning the wartime years of 1942-1945. Nellie is the protagonist, an 18-year-old young woman who works as a secretary for the mayor of Bethnal Green, in the city’s East End. She lives with her mother, father, brother and little sister, and next door to her best friend Babs, whose brother, Billy, is besotted with Nellie after a childhood spent together.

In the wake of the Blitz, Germany continues to selectively bomb England, forcing Nellie and the rest of Bethnal Green’s citizens into an underground air raid shelter many nights. That’s where those foreboding titular steps come in: Every time they descend to the shelter, Nellie “counted them like usual. Nineteen, turn right and seven more.”

Spoiler fans can stop at this point and Google the “Bethnal Green steps,” but what’s the fun in that? Brown dedicates the book to her grandmother (“Nanny Ruth, who told me this story”), but the book is being marketed as fiction, with all the usual disclaimers about how any “references to real people, events, etc.... are intended only to provide a sense of authenticity, and are used fictitiously.”

The story starts to sing when Nellie meets Ray, a US Air Force pilot stationed nearby. The prose describing their first kiss fits the moon-eyed mood as the young couple falls hopelessly in love. “If ever she had to pick a moment she’d want to last for eternity, she thought, this would be the one she’d choose,” writes Brown.

Honestly, most readers could predict the rest of the plot at this point. The love triangle involving Nellie, Billy and Ray, plays a central role, and, of course, what happens on those steps, but the book is really about making your way when consumed by grief. And in that aspect it succeeds, painting a brave portrait of Nellie and her family and friends as they struggle to survive and find happiness in a world gone mad.

Time will tell if Brown has more stories in her, but her late, beloved grandmother would assuredly be proud of this first effort.



Brown

**Leslie Jones** wants to set one thing straight in her memoir: She is undeniable. The word pops up 11 times in the book. Indefatigable is another good word to describe a comic whose career didn’t really take off until she joined the cast of “Saturday Night Live” at the age of 47, though perhaps it’s too many syllables for a standup routine.

Jones’ memoir, “Leslie F(asterisk)cking Jones,” which takes the name on her Memphis, Tennessee, birth certificate, **Annette Leslie Jones**, and drops the first name she never liked while adding her favorite adjective in the middle, is like her comedy — no-holds-barred. The focus is not on how Jones survived child abuse or racism or sexism, just that she did, she’s here now, and the world better shut up and listen to her. Even if they don’t, she’s not going to stop speaking her truth, even when it sometimes paints her in an awful light.

“One day, when I was probably around five,” writes Jones, “I was walking through the trailer park... and I saw a puppy just lying on the side of the road... for some reason I just started kicking this little puppy... I tell you this because I know that this is a moment my life when the road split, and I could have gone one of two ways, and the second way is to be a serial killer or even worse.”

In hindsight, Jones writes, “The psychology of what I was doing is clear: When your power is taken away, you need to reassert it somehow, and what better way than dominating something less powerful than you?” Jones doesn’t go too deep into her childhood abuse at the hands of a babysitter, but you sense that hours of therapy — and a personal relationship with God she found later in life — helped her become a confident adult.

Also:

**NEW YORK:** MSNBC host **Ali Velshi** is drawing upon the personal past for an upcoming book about democracy.

St. Martin’s Press announced Wednesday that “Small Acts of Courage: A Legacy of Endurance and the Fight for Democracy” will be published May 7, 2024. Velshi will look back to the early 20th century and the time his grandfather was sent to live on the ashram of **Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa**, an experience that began an enduring legacy.

“From childhood, Velshi’s grandfather was imbued with an ethos of public service and social justice, and a belief in absolute equality among all people — ideals that his children carried forward as they escaped apartheid, emigrating to **Kenya** and ultimately **Canada** and the **United States**,” according to St. Martin’s. “In ‘Small Acts of Courage,’ Velshi taps into 125 years of family history to advocate for social justice as a living, breathing experience — a way of life more than an ideology.”



Norwegian author Jon Fosse’ poses for a photo as his book Septologien is launched at Det Norske Teatret in Oslo, Sept. 6, 2019. The Nobel Prize in literature has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Fosse. The permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy announced the prize Thursday, Oct. 5, in Stockholm. The academy says the prize is for Fosse’s ‘innovative plays and prose, which give voice to the unsayable.’ (AP)

Nobel

A Norwegian master of spare Nordic writing

Norway’s Fosse wins literature Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Oct 5, (AP): Jon Fosse, a master of spare Nordic writing in a sprawling body of work ranging from plays to novels and children’s books, won the Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday for works that “give voice to the unsayable.”

Fosse’s work, which is rooted in his Norwegian background, “focuses on human insecurity and anxiety,” Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel literature committee, told The Associated Press. “The basic choices you make in life, very elemental stuff.”

One of his country’s most-performed dramatists, Fosse said he had “cautiously prepared” himself for a decade to receive the news that he had won.

“I was surprised when they called, yet at the same time not,” Fosse, 64, told Norwegian public broadcaster NRK. “It was a great joy for me to get the phone call.”

The author of 40 plays as well as novels, short stories, children’s books, poetry and essays, Fosse was honored “for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable,” according to the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize.

Fosse has cited the bleak, enigmatic work of Irish writer Samuel Beckett - the 1969 Nobel literature laureate - as an influence on his minimalist style.

His first novel, “Red, Black,” was published in 1983, and his debut play, “Someone is Going to Come,” in 1992. His major prose works include “Melancholy,” “Morning and Evening,” whose two parts depict a birth and a death; “Wakefulness,” and “Olav’s Dreams.”

His plays, which have been staged across Europe and in the United States, include “The Name,” “Dream of Autumn” and “I am the Wind.” His work “A New Name: Septology VI-VII” - described by Olsson as Fosse’s “magnum opus” - was a finalist for the International Booker Prize in 2022.

Fosse has also taught writing - one of his students was best-selling Norwegian novelist Karl Ove Knausgaard - and consulted on a Norwegian translation of the Bible.

Mats Malm, permanent secretary of the academy, reached Fosse by telephone to inform him of the win. He said the writer was driving in the countryside and promised to drive home carefully.

Fosse is the fourth Norwegian writer to get the literature prize, but the first in nearly a century. Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson got it in 1903,

Knut Hamsun was awarded it in 1920 and Sigrid Undset in 1928.

Fosse writes in Nynorsk, one of the two official written standards of Norwegian that is chiefly spoken in and around Bergen, where the writer lives. It is used by just 10% of Norway’s 5.4 million people, according to the Language Council of Norway, but completely intelligible with the other written form, Bokmaal.

Guy Puszy, senior lecturer in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, said Bokmaal is “the language of power, it’s the language or urban centers, of the press,” while Nynorsk is used mainly by people in rural western Norway.

Culture

“So it’s a really big day for a minority language,” he said.

In recognition of his contribution to Norwegian culture, Fosse was granted use of an honorary residence in the grounds of the Royal Palace owned by the Norwegian state.

“A great recognition of outstanding authorship that makes an impression and touches people all over the world,” Norway’s Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. “All of Norway offers congratulations and is proud today!”

In a statement released by his publishing house, Samlaget, Fosse said he saw the prize “as an award to the literature that first and foremost aims to be literature, without other considerations.”

The Nobel Prizes carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) from a bequest left by their creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. Winners also receive an 18-carat gold medal and diploma at the award ceremonies in December.

Last year, French author Annie Ernaux won the prize for what the prize-giving Swedish Academy called “the courage and clinical acuity” of books rooted in her small-town background in the Normandy region of northwest France.

Ernaux was just the 17th woman among the 119 Nobel literature laureates. The literature prize has long faced criticism that it is too focused on European and North American writers, as well as too male-dominated.

In 2018, the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, which names the Nobel literature committee, and sparked an exodus of members.

The academy revamped itself but faced more criticism for giving the 2019 award to Austria’s Peter Handke, who has been called an apologist for Serbian war crimes.

Earlier the most prestigious and secretive prize in science ran headfirst into the digital era Wednesday when Swedish media got an emailed press release revealing the winners of the Nobel Prize in chemistry and the news prematurely went public.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said it was investigating.

About four hours before the official announcement was planned Wednesday, several Swedish media received a press release from the academy revealing that US-based scientists Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus and Alexei Ekimov had won the 2023 chemistry prize for their work on quantum dots.

The Associated Press did not receive the press release in advance and decided not to publish the names until confirmed by the academy, but many Swedish media organizations did. Many were suspicious of the email at first. They published the information, however, since the academy didn’t write it off as false, merely insisting that the final decision on a winner had not yet been taken.

“We don’t know what happened,” the academy’s secretary-general, Hans Ellengren, told The Associated Press. “This is very unfortunate, and we regret very much that this happened. Exactly what happened I can’t tell, because we don’t know ourselves.”

The five-member Nobel Prize committees spend months whittling down lists of nominations before the full academy makes its official decision on the day of the award, announcing Nobel winners at a scheduled news conference.

Wednesday’s premature press release reinforced suspicions that the final decision is just a formality, since material including background information on the winners must be prepared in advance.

More importantly, it showed the difficulty of keeping anything secret for long in the age when virtually everything is online.

“It is an important principle that the prize winners are the first to find out, and that everyone else finds out afterward at the same time,” the former head of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Göran Hansson, told news agency TT. “But in the electronic era the leaks can occur in different ways than in the newspaper era.”

Variety

**NEW YORK:** Theater fans, mark your calendars: This season’s Tony Awards will take place on June 16 at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

Producers of the show announced the date and new location Wednesday. Last year, the telecast was broadcast from the United Palace Theatre, in the Washington Heights neighborhood of **Manhattan**, many miles from Times Square and the theater district.

Next year’s location - the David H. Koch Theater - is the home of New York City Ballet and in the same sprawling building complex as Lincoln Square Theater, which houses the Broadway venue Beaumont Theater.

The Tony eligibility cut-off date for the 2023-2024 season is April 25, and nominations for the 2024 Tony Awards will be announced April 30.

The awards are presented by The Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing. (AP)

**WINCHESTER, Va.:** An animal trainer featured in the popular Netflix series “Tiger King” has received a suspended two-year sentence after being convicted of wildlife trafficking in Virginia, the state attorney general’s office announced.

**Bhagavan “Doc” Antle** also was banned from owning and dealing in exotic wild animals in the state for five years, Attorney General **Jason Miyares** said Tuesday in a statement.

Antle was accused of illegally buying endangered lion cubs in **Frederick County, Virginia**, for display and profit at his South Carolina zoo. A jury convicted him in June of two felony counts each of wildlife trafficking and conspiring to wildlife traffic. He had faced up to 20 years in prison.

Antle, who owns the Myrtle Beach Safari, appeared in “Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness,” a Netflix documentary miniseries that focused on tiger breeders. (AP)

**DETROIT:** Full construction on the final phase of the Motown Museum’s expansion will get underway in the spring of 2024, the museum’s CEO announced Wednesday night.



Wonder



Antle

Robin Terry also said that fundraising for the expansion has reached \$59 million, “nearing our goal of \$65 million.”

“Although we are not done, we will get it done,” Terry, who also serves as the museum’s chair, said during a private donor event that honored Motown legends the Four Tops and The Temptations.

Otis Williams, a 60-plus-year member of The Temptations, was honored at the event. Earlier in the day, he fielded questions from a group of aspiring performers at the museum.

One called “The Motown Atmosphere,” will be an immersive room featuring classic Motown images that showcase the record label’s family environment. The second, “The Backstage Lounge,” will allow visitors to search the Motown catalog and discover music and access interviews with Motown alumni, like Williams.

“There will never, ever be another recording company like Motown Records,” he said.

Gordy launched Motown in 1959. His late sister, **Esther Gordy Edwards**, founded the museum in the former Hitsville headquarters in 1985. In addition to the Four Tops and The Temptations, **Smokey Robinson**, **Stevie Wonder**, The Supremes, **Marvin Gaye** and many others recorded hits there before Motown moved to **California** in 1972. (AP)

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Health

UK to up smoking age

Biden urges women to get mammograms

WASHINGTON, Oct 5, (AP): **Jill Biden** is urging women to consult their doctors about getting mammograms or other cancer screenings, saying in a new public service announcement for Breast Cancer Awareness Month that early detection saves lives.

"October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I'm asking you to put your health first," the first lady says in the 30-second spot recorded amid flower blooms in the White House Rose Garden.

"Take a moment to talk to your doctor about whether it's time for your mammogram or other cancer screenings," she says in the announcement airing this week on the Lifetime cable network. "There is no one-size-fits-all approach, but we know that early detection of cancer saves lives."

Biden's ad is part of an annual breast cancer awareness campaign by Lifetime, according to the cable network. A separate public service announcement featuring similar messages from actor Keshia Knight Pulliam and TV correspondent Rachel Lindsay will also be broadcast by the network.

The first lady is a longtime advocate for breast cancer education and prevention dating to 1993, when four of her friends were diagnosed with the disease. Shortly afterward, she launched the Biden Breast Health Initiative to teach high school girls in Delaware about the importance of early detection.

In the White House, she and her husband, President Joe Biden, are driving efforts to prevent more than 4 million cancer deaths by 2047 and improve the experience for people who are touched by cancer, including patients, their families and their caregivers.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in U.S. women after skin cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Breast cancer deaths have declined over time but remain the second leading cause of cancer death among women overall, the CDC said.

One in eight women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

The first lady is among the millions of people in the U.S. who have been touched by cancer.

Earlier this year, she had cancerous lesions removed from above her right eye and her chest. In 2015, she and the president lost their 46-year-old son, Beau, to brain cancer.

**Smoking:** UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** on Wednesday proposed raising the legal age that people in England can buy cigarettes by one year, every year until it is eventually illegal for the whole population and smoking will hopefully be phased out among young people.

Setting out his plan at the annual Conservative Party conference, Sunak said he wanted to "stop teenagers taking up cigarettes in the first place."

It is currently illegal for anyone to sell cigarettes or tobacco products to people under 18 years old throughout the U.K.

Sunak's office said the incremental changes would stop children who turn 14 this year and those younger than that now from ever legally being sold cigarettes in England.

If Parliament approves the proposal, the legal change would only apply in England - not in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

"People take up cigarettes when they're young. Four in five smokers have started by the time they're 20," he said. "Later, the vast majority try to quit ... if we could break that cycle, if we could stop the start, then we would be on our way to ending the biggest cause of preventable death and disease in our country."

The government said that smoking won't be criminalized, and the phased changes mean that anyone who can legally buy cigarettes now won't be prevented from doing so in the future.

The number of people who smoke in the U.K. has declined by two-thirds since the 1970s, but some 6.4 million people in the country - or about 13% of the population - still smoke, according to official figures.

Britain's government raised the legal age of sale for tobacco from 16 to 18 in 2007. That succeeded in reducing the prevalence of smoking among 16 and 17-year-olds by 30%, Sunak's office said.

Health experts welcomed the prime minister's plan to steadily increase the legal smoking age. A similar measure was approved in New Zealand last year.

"This government's plan to introduce 'smoke-free generation' legislation could become its defining legacy, righting a century-old wrong, with tobacco products being the only legally available commodity that, if used as intended, will kill over half of its lifelong users," said **Lion Shahab**, an academic who co-directs the tobacco and alcohol research group at University College London.

Sunak also said his government would introduce measures to restrict the availability of vapes, or e-cigarettes, to children. It is currently illegal to sell vapes to children under 18 in the U.K., but officials say youth vaping has tripled in the past three years and more children now vape than smoke.



Health workers attend to patients suffering from cholera symptoms at a local hospital in Harare, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018. Zimbabwe has recorded 100 suspected deaths from cholera and more than 5,000 possible cases since late Sept. 2023. (AP)

Zimbabwe announces 100 suspected cholera deaths

Zimbabwe has recorded 100 suspected deaths from cholera and more than 5,000 possible cases since late last month, prompting the government to impose restrictions to stop the spread of the disease, including limiting numbers at funerals and stopping some social gatherings in affected areas.

The health ministry announced the death toll late Wednesday and said 30 of the deaths had been confirmed as from cholera through laboratory tests. It said 905 confirmed cases had been recorded, as well as another 4,609 suspected cases.

Cholera is a water-borne disease that can spread rapidly in areas with poor sanitation and is caused by the ingestion of contaminated water or food. Zimbabwe struggles with access to clean water.

Large gatherings at funerals, which are common in the southern African country as people flock to mourn the dead, have been stopped in some of the most affected areas in parts of the Manicaland and Masvingo provinces. No more than 50 people are allowed to attend funerals, while people should avoid shaking hands and are not allowed to serve food at the funerals, the government said.

The government has also said people should stop attending open markets, some social gatherings and outdoor church camps, where there is usually no sanitary infrastructure.

Zimbabwe has often imposed restrictions during its repeated outbreaks of cholera. (AP)

The Conversation

Expert explains when and how cells decide to die

‘Cell death is essential to your health’

By Zoie Magri  
Tufts University

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

Living cells work better than dying cells, right? However, this is not always the case: your cells often sacrifice themselves to keep you healthy. The unsung hero of life is death.

While death may seem passive, an unfortunate ending that just “happens,” the death of your cells is often extremely purposeful and strategic. The intricate details of how and why cells die can have significant effects on your overall health.

There are over 10 different ways cells can “decide” to die, each serving a particular purpose for the organism. My own research explores how immune cells switch between different types of programmed death in scenarios like cancer or injury.

Programmed cell death can be broadly divided into two types that are crucial to health: silent and inflammatory.

Cells can often become damaged because of age, stress or injury, and these abnormal cells can make you sick. Your body runs a tight ship, and when cells step out of line, they must be quietly eliminated before they overgrow into tumors or cause unnecessary inflammation where your immune system is activated and causes fever, swelling, redness and pain.

Your body swaps out cells every day to ensure that your tissues are made up of healthy, functioning ones. The parts of your body that are more likely to see damage, like your skin and gut, turn over cells weekly, while other cell types can take months to years to recycle. Regardless of the timeline, the death of old and damaged cells and their replacement with new cells is a normal and important bodily process.

Silent cell death, or apoptosis, is described as silent

because these cells die without causing an inflammatory reaction. Apoptosis is an active process involving many proteins and switches within the cell. It's designed to strategically eliminate cells without alarming the rest of the body.

Sometimes cells can detect that their own functions are failing and turn on executioner proteins that chop up their own DNA, and they quietly die by apoptosis. Alternatively, healthy cells can order overactive or damaged neighbor cells to activate their executioner proteins.

Apoptosis is important to maintaining a healthy body. In fact, you can thank apoptosis for your fingers and toes. Fetuses initially have webbed fingers until the cells that form the tissue between them undergo apoptosis and die off.

Without apoptosis, cells can grow out of control. A well-studied example of this is cancer. Cancer cells are abnormally good at growing and dividing, and those that can resist apoptosis form very aggressive tumors. Understanding how apoptosis works and why cancer cells can disrupt it can potentially improve cancer treatments.

**Benefit**

Other conditions can benefit from apoptosis research as well. Your body makes a lot of immune cells that all respond to different targets, and occasionally one of these cells can accidentally target your own tissues. Apoptosis is a crucial way your body can eliminate these immune cells before they cause unnecessary damage. When apoptosis fails to eliminate these cells, sometimes because of genetic abnormalities, this can lead to autoimmune diseases like lupus.

Another example of the role apoptosis plays in health is endometriosis, an understudied disease caused by the overgrowth of tissue in the uterus. It can be extremely painful and debilitating for patients. Researchers have recently linked this out-of-control

growth in the uterus to dysfunctional apoptosis.

Whether it's for development or maintenance, your cells are quietly exiting to keep your body happy and healthy.

Sometimes, it is in your body's best interest for cells to raise an alarm as they die. This can be beneficial when cells detect the presence of an infection and need to eliminate themselves as a target while also alerting the rest of the body. This inflammatory cell death is typically triggered by bacteria, viruses or stress.

Rather than quietly shutting down, cells undergoing inflammatory cell death will make themselves burst, or lyse, killing themselves and exploding inflammatory messengers as they go. These messengers tell your immune cells that there is a threat and prompts them to treat and fight the pathogen.

An inflammatory death would not be healthy for maintenance. If the normal recycling of your skin or gut cells caused an inflammatory reaction, you would feel sick a lot. This is why inflammatory death is tightly controlled and requires multiple signals to initiate.

Despite the riskiness of this grenadelike death, many infections would be impossible to fight without it. Many bacteria and viruses need to live around or inside your cells to survive. When specialized sensors on your cells detect these threats, they can simultaneously activate your immune system and remove themselves as a home for pathogens. Researchers call this eliminating the niche of the pathogen.

Inflammatory cell death plays a major role in pandemics. Yersinia pestis, the bacteria behind the Black Death, has evolved various ways of stopping human immune cells from mounting a response. However, immune cells developed the ability to sense this trickery and die an inflammatory death. This ensures that additional immune cells will infiltrate and eliminate the bacteria despite the bacteria's best attempts to prevent a fight. (AP)

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Recalled fast bowler Ali could be the solution

Pakistan still searching for right starting lineup ahead of WC game against Dutch

NEW DELHI, Oct 5, (AP): Pakistan captain Babar Azam feels like he's playing a Cricket World Cup at home, even if his lineup is unsettled.

The world's top-ranked ODI batter - for more than two years - is searching for the right balance for his starting XI going into Pakistan's opening day-nighter against Netherlands on Friday at Hyderabad.

Babar was in good touch despite Pakistan's losses in warm-up games to New Zealand and Australia, scoring 80 and an unbeaten 90. Mohammad Rizwan, Saud Shakeel and Ifikhar Ahmed were also among the runs as Pakistan went close to 350-run marks in both games before finishing on the wrong side of the results.

"We are here for a week in Hyderabad, so we do not feel like we are in India, it's like we are at home," Babar said of the central Indian city, which has a large population of Muslim people, during a



Netherlands' Scott Edwards dives to catch a ball during a practice session ahead of their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match against Pakistan in Hyderabad, India. (AP)

pre-tournament news conference.

The six-week tournament opened Thursday with a rematch of the 2019 final between England and New Zealand.

Babar and his teammates were given a warm reception when they arrived in India after they were issued visas less than 36 hours prior to their departure from Lahore.

"We received good hospitality, and we were not expecting this, but I think the way people responded to us, everyone enjoyed it," Babar said. "I think it's a golden opportunity for everyone to give 100% and enjoy the tournament."

While Babar has almost sorted out his middle-order batters, there are still plenty of holes left in the shaping up the XI. Opening batter Fakhar Zaman is struggling for form, vice-captain Shadab Khan is still looking for the right lengths on batting-friendly wickets and the biggest question is over who will share the new ball with Shaheen Afridi in the absence of injured Naseem Shah.

CRICKET

Recalled fast bowler Hasan Ali could be the solution for Babar with the new ball, but the paceman didn't excel in the two warmup games. Pakistan did try out Haris Rauf with the new ball, but his figures blew out to 1-97 against Australia.

The tall legspinner Usama Mir was the most impressive of the three spinners -- better than Shadab and left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz at times -- in the warmups. The form of Usama could give Babar some selection headaches.

Netherlands had a remarkable entry into the World Cup after sensationally beating the two-time champions West Indies in a Super Over in the qualifying tournament at Zimbabwe in July and then advancing over Scotland.

The likes of Logan van Beek, Bas de Leede, Max O'Dowd, Roelof van der Merwe and captain Scott Edwards all contributed in lifting their team to the main event.

Newcastle rout PSG after Saudi project gets '34 World Cup boost



Manchester City's Erling Haaland makes an attempt to score during the Champions League group G soccer match between RB Leipzig and Manchester City in Leipzig, Germany. (AP)

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Fluminense reach Copa final

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, Oct 5, (AP): Brazil's Fluminense beat local rivals Internacional 2-1 on Wednesday with two goals in six minutes to reach the final of the Copa Libertadores and seek their first title in the tournament.

The first leg between the two teams ended 2-2 last week at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, where the final will be played on Nov. 4.

Internacional opened the scoring in the 9th minute with a header by Gabriel Mercado. Fluminense kept the pressure through the second half, but offered the hosts several counter-attacks that could have ended its hopes of playing the decider if striker Enner Valencia had been more accurate in two finishes.

GENEVA, Oct 5, (AP): Newcastle capped a stellar day for Saudi Arabia's soccer project with a 4-1 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League that left Kylian Mbappé a picture of despair.

Hours before kickoff at Newcastle, which were struggling when bought by the Saudi sovereign wealth fund just two years ago, the kingdom became the strong favorite to host the 2034 World Cup in a fast-track bidding contest opened by FIFA.

On the field, a Newcastle team fueled by the fervor of their passionate fans, swept aside Mbappé and a PSG team bought by Saudi neighbor Qatar 12 years ago after it was picked as 2022 World Cup host.

Newcastle have raced to the top of the tough Group F where seven-time European champions AC Milan drew 0-0 at Borussia Dortmund, the 1997 title winners.

Manchester City further restored Premier League pride one day after Arsenal and Manchester United both lost their games in the second round of the group stage.

City won 3-1 at Leipzig and the Abu Dhabi-backed defending champions already look comfortable atop the Group G standings with lower-ranked Red Star Belgrade and Young Boys drawing 2-2.

SOCCER

Barcelona also earned a second straight win, 1-0 at Porto where the Spanish team's starlet Lamine Yamal became the youngest player to start a European Cup game in the 68-year history of the competition at 16 years, 83 days.

Lazio scored a stoppage-time winning goal at Celtic in a 2-1 victory to join Atletico Madrid on four points in Group E. Atletico trailed twice before outlasting Feyenoord in a 3-2 win.

Shakhtar Donetsk also won 3-2 after trailing at Royal Antwerp, which wasted a 2-0 lead at halftime and missed a penalty in stoppage time.

Newcastle's first home game in the Champions League for more than 20 years was pulsating in the famously atmospheric St. James' Park.

Investment from the Saudi Public Investment Fund has not made Newcastle universally popular but there was a feel-good, home-town story about boyhood fans Dan Burn and Sean Longstaff being among the scorers against the more expensively assembled PSG team.

"You can't knock it. It's a very special moment for Newcastle," coach Eddie Howe said.

The win extended an impressive streak for Newcastle, including a 0-0 draw in the group opener at Milan, an 8-0 rout of Sheffield United in the Premier League, and eliminating Man City last week in the English League Cup.

Man City keep cruising in the Champions League though. A tight game at Leipzig was settled by late goals from substitutes Julián Álvarez and Jérémy Doku, who each assisted the other.

Erling Haaland was again kept quiet while Phil Foden had given City the lead in the first half.

Barcelona and Porto can expect their home stadiums to be used as host venues for the 2030 World Cup, which Spain and Portugal will anchor in Europe as part of a six-nation, three-continent plan anointed by FIFA

Man City, Barcelona also win

Bayern host Freiburg

Alonso marks successful yr in charge at Leverkusen 'ahead' of Rhine derby

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Oct 5, (AP): From the relegation zone to the top of the standings. Not a bad first year in charge for Xabi Alonso at Bayer Leverkusen.

Alonso marked his first anniversary at the German club on Thursday and has a game against local rivals Cologne on Sunday, another test of Leverkusen's credentials to challenge Bayern Munich for the Bundesliga title.

A World Cup and Champions League winner as a player, Alonso had never coached a club's first team until he was appointed at Leverkusen on Oct. 5, 2022. At the time, Leverkusen had slumped to 17th in the 18-team league under predecessor Gerardo Seoane.

One year later, Leverkusen are in first place after climbing to the top of the standings last week with a 3-0 win over Mainz as Bayern dropped points in a 2-2 draw with Leipzig. Alonso also won praise for reaching the Europa League semifinals last season before a narrow loss to Jose Mourinho-coached Roma.

A squad of young, ambitious players have been key to Leverkusen's rise, with Alonso getting the most out of the likes of German playmaker Florian Wirtz and speedy Dutch right back Jeremie Frimpong, who signed a new contract through 2028 on Tuesday. Victor Boniface has scored eight goals in eight games since the Ni-

gerian striker signed from Union Saint-Gilloise in July.

Alonso marked his anniversary in Leverkusen in the unfamiliar surroundings of Molde, a town of 20,000 people in Norway where the team played a Europa League game.

Sunday's game at home to Cologne - called the Rhine derby because of the river running between Leverkusen and Cologne - looks deceptively easy in the standings but could prove anything but. Cologne have only one point from its opening six games but have saved their best performances for their biggest opponents, including a 1-0 loss to Borussia Dortmund on an 88th-minute goal in their first game of the season.

A win over Cologne played a key role in getting Alonso established in Leverkusen a year ago, too. He had only one win from his first seven games in all competitions but turned it around by hammering then-league leader Union Berlin 5-0 and following up with a 2-1 win over Cologne.

Alonso's record over the last year has fueled speculation he could be a contender to take over at his old club Real Madrid when Carlo Ancelotti's contract runs out at the end of the season. Alonso signed a contract extension at Leverkusen to 2026 in August in a sign he's sticking around, for now at least.

Wednesday.

Porto's 50,000-seat Estádio do Dragão saw Ferran Torres score the only goal between the two teams after coming on to replace Barcelona star forward Robert Lewandowski who was injured in the first half.

Barcelona are not using their iconic Camp Nou stadium this year while it is renovated, and will be back at the city's Olympic stadium to host Shakhtar Donetsk on Oct. 25.

Atletico Madrid's Metropolitano Stadium - like Porto's home, a recent Champions League final venue - will be behind Real Madrid's remodeled Santiago Bernabeu in the 2030 World Cup hierarchy.

The Metropolitano witnessed a vibrant victory for Atletico, 3-2 against Feyenoord after twice trailing. Alvaro Morata scored two goals either side of one for Antoine Griezmann.

Losing 3-2 at home was the result of the week in the Champions League, happening once on Wednesday after three times on Tuesday.

Royal Antwerp were the latest victim, in its first ever home game in the Champions League groups at their 100-year-old Bosuilstadion.

Antwerp let slip a 2-0 first-half lead against Shakhtar Donetsk, just as Union Berlin did on Tuesday against Braga. Danylo Sikan scored twice for Shakhtar including the go-ahead goal in the 76th.



Newcastle's Jamaal Lascelles (right), and PSG's Ousmane Dembele vie for the ball during the Champions League group F soccer match between Newcastle and Paris Saint Germain at St. James' Park in Newcastle, England. (AP)

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‘Derbies are unpredictable’

Revitalized derby awaits Al-Arabi, Al-Qadsia in Zain Premier League

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Zain Premier League’s fourth round brings us two exciting matchups. First, Al-Jahra face Al-Fahaheel at 5:55 p.m. at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. Then, Khaitan takeon Al-Nasr at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadi-

um at 8:45 p.m. The round concludes with two more thrilling matches. In the first, Al-Qadsia clash with Al-Arabi at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium at 6:15 pm. The second showdown features Al-Shabab hosting Al-Kuwait at 9:00 pm.

All eyes are on the upcoming “derby” match between Al-Qadsia and Al-Arabi tomorrow. Both teams currently share 7 points, and they’re in the midst of a resurgence.

Al-Arabi recently secured a resounding victory over Khaitan (4-0) in the last round, bouncing back from a somewhat disappointing draw against Al-Shabab (1-1) in the second round. They also sit atop their group in the AFC Cup alongside Al-Riffa of Bahrain. Meanwhile, Al-Qadsia are riding high after a convincing 3-0 win over Al-Fahaheel in the last round, marking their second consecutive victory following a 2-1 triumph over Al-Jahra in the second round. This impressive turnaround came after an initial draw against Khaitan at the start of the competition.

SOCCER

Recent history has seen Al-Arabi dominating this rivalry. Last season, they managed to secure victories against Al-Qadsia three times out of five encounters, twice in the league (2-0 and 3-1) and once in the Crown Prince Cup semifinal, where they prevailed 3-0. Al-Qadsia managed a solitary league victory (2-1), with one goalless draw in the mix.

Yet, both coaches, be it Al-Arabi’s German tactician Thomas Brdarić or Al-Qadsia manager “General” Mohamed Ibrahim, understand that “derby” matches are unpredictable and can go either way. Tomorrow’s clash leaves the door wide open for any outcome, regardless of past results or current circumstances.



In this file photo players vie for the ball during Zain Premier League game.

Biles leads US women to record 7th straight team title

ANTWERP, Belgium, Oct 5, (AP): Simone Biles and her teammates were far from perfect, and yet nothing could stand in the way of a victory that set a record for both the U.S. women’s team and the greatest gymnast in history.

The U.S. women earned a record seventh consecutive team title at the gymnastics world championships on Wednesday night. For Biles, it was also her 33rd major championship medal - across the worlds and Olympics - to make her the most decorated female gymnast ever.

And it’s fitting that it came in Antwerp, the Belgian port city where Biles came to international prominence 10 years ago by winning her first world title in 2013.

“It wasn’t Team USA’s best day,” Biles said. “It’s crazy, we still pulled it out. So I’m really, really proud of the team.”

GYMNASTICS

The American team of Biles, Shilese Jones, Skye Blakely, Joscelyn Roberson and Leanne Wong combined for a total of 167.729 points to edge second-place Brazil and France.

The U.S. team won by a margin of 2.199 points as the final proved to be a closer contest than anticipated after the Americans put up a dominant performance in qualifying to finish more than five points ahead of the field.

“We had some mistakes here and there, but just keep going, keep relying on our training,” Biles said. “But I think this team that we have brought this year has the most great courage and fight. ... We had so many emotions going throughout the day.”

The U.S. women have won gold in the team event at every world championship that included a team competition since 2011. Their victory in Antwerp broke a tie with the Chinese

men for the longest streak of consecutive team titles.

Biles now has 26 world championship medals, 20 of them gold, to go with her seven Olympic medals, including the 2016 Olympic title. Her 33 combined medals at the sport’s two biggest events are one more than what Larisa Latynina of the Soviet Union achieved.

Russia was banned from the event because of sanctions imposed by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) as a result of the war against Ukraine. In the absence of the Russian rivals - the defending Olympic champions - the Americans were the overwhelming favorites.

But the U.S. team overcame an early scare as Roberson was forced out of the event even before it started after she seemed to hurt an ankle while warming up at the vault. She was helped off the mat and subbed by Wong.

“My ankle just ... popped,” Roberson said.

Jones then kicked off the competition smoothly for the Americans with a Double Twist Yurchenko, with only a small hop. Wong responded to the last-minute call with a clean effort before Biles opted for the slightly safer “Cheng” vault rather than the Yurchenko Double Pike she performed during qualifying on Sunday.

The Americans amassed 42.966 points and were second behind China after the first rotation following the Chinese gymnasts’ excellent display on uneven bars.

Biles and her teammates then bested their Chinese opponents’ performance on bars as they took the overall lead with a margin of 1.467 points. They increased it a bit further after the beam - despite a sixth-place finish on that apparatus - as Biles made up for the modest 11.700 Wong received by scoring 14.300 with a solid routine.

Biles capped off a successful night for the U.S. team with a spectacular floor routine rewarded by a 15.166.

‘Hosting event provides invaluable experience for Kuwaiti athletes’

Grand opening ceremony for Bowling WC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: In a splendid inauguration graced by the presence and patronage of Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, the World Bowling Championship unfolded just two days ago in Kuwait. This prestigious event, spanning from October 4th to October 15th, has found its stage at the Boulevard Hall. The captivating opening ceremony was a celebration of global diversity, featuring an artistic operetta and folklore performances representing various cultures. It created an international ambience infused with the distinctive flavors of Kuwait, captivating the hearts of all in attendance.

BOWLING

The event’s sponsor expressed unwavering support for hosting the world championship in Kuwait, recognizing its high level of technical excellence. Additionally, hopes were expressed for hosting other international championships in different sports in the near future.

Sheikh Firas Al-Sabah shared his thoughts with reporters after the ceremony, emphasizing how hosting such formidable tournaments in Kuwait provides invaluable experience for both male and female Kuwaiti players, ultimately elevating their technical prowess. He commended the tourna-

Epic saber duels await at World Satellite Fencing Champ’ship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Kuwaiti Fencing Federation is set to host the International Satellite World Cup for saber weapons at the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee headquarters in Jaber Al-Ahmad City. This event will see the participation of an array of international athletes hailing from various corners of the globe.

Abdulkarim Al-Shamlan, the President of the Kuwaiti Fencing Federation, affirmed that the “Satellite” World Cup is a prominent fixture in the International Fencing Federation’s calendar, attracting top-tier talent from diverse countries worldwide.

Al-Shamlan elaborated that the Federation strategically scheduled this tournament following the conclusion of the 19th Asian Games, ensuring that participants would be well-prepared to compete on their home turf, supported by their fans. The primary goal is to advance to



Abdulkarim Al-Shamlan President of the Kuwaiti Fencing Federation.

the final rounds, secure medals, and accrue points crucial for the direct qualification of players for the 2024

Paris Olympics.

He also noted that Yousef Al-Shamlan, the Asian Games bronze medalist, is in close contention for qualification in the 2024 Paris Olympics. Al-Shamlan will partake in several upcoming tournaments over the next few months to accumulate the necessary points for qualification.

FENCING

Al-Shamlan further disclosed that the tournament will see participation from no fewer than 15 countries, each contributing highly skilled fencers. This ensures that the competition will be fierce, with numerous accomplished athletes boasting impressive technical abilities vying for medals and points to secure their spots in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Chairman of the Championship Organizing Committee and President of the International and Asian Bowling Federations, Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad, underscored the Kuwait Bowling Club’s commitment to fostering

the sport’s development domestically and enhancing its international standing. He highlighted the participation of elite male and female players from across the world, anticipating an exhibition of exceptional technical skill.

ment’s organizing committee for their exceptional execution of the ceremony and thorough preparation for the competition, expressing unwavering confidence in the tournament’s success on all fronts.

Bahrain win 10th Asiad gold



Kazakhstan’s Kamshybek Kunkabayev receives a punch from Uzbekistan’s Bakhodir Jalolov during the men’s +92Kg boxing final at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

Chumba places 1st in women’s marathon

began competing for Bahrain in 2014, said her training in her native Kenya, a country with a strong tradition of long-distance running, helped her win the gold in Hangzhou.

“The competition is very fierce in Kenya,” she said after her win. “People start when they are young - when you go to school you have to walk long distances.”

Bahrain, a wealthy nation in the Arabian Gulf, is the third smallest country in Asia after the Maldives and Singapore, but they are among the top 10 in gold medals on Day 12 of the 15-day Asian Games.

“We have a lot of talent,” Chumba said of Bahrain’s contingent. “The country must be happy for me.”

The Asian Games feature 12,500 participants from 45 nations and territories - more than the 10,500 from about 200 delegations expected at next year’s Paris Olympics.

Hosts China have dominated, with more than 320 medals overall, more than half gold, followed by South Korea and Japan.

In the men’s marathon on Thursday, He Jie of China took gold, finishing 25 seconds ahead of North

Korean runner Han Ilryong with a time of 2:13:02. Yang Shaohui of China took bronze.

He said his training this year had been centered on the Asian Games competition, knowing that they would be “held in China and 1.4 billion Chinese people are watching.”

China won gold in both the men’s and women’s 500-meter dragon boat races.

ASIAN GAMES

The regionally-popular sport features a team of 12 paddlers in long, narrow boats decorated with Chinese dragon heads, who row to the beat of a drummer in the bow, with a steerer in the stern to guide the boat.

China’s men’s team edged out Indonesia by a fraction of a second for the gold, with Thailand finishing just behind in third place for the bronze.

China’s women’s team beat silver-medalist Indonesia by nearly two seconds for the gold, with Myanmar taking bronze more than 4 seconds behind the leader.

North Korea played South Korea in a preliminary women’s volleyball match that had the feeling of a final. South Korea prevailed in the end.

North Korea leapt out to an early lead, taking the first of four sets by a score of 25-19. South Korea then came right back, winning the second set 25-21.

North Korea faltered in the 3rd set, however, dropping the game 25-9. The fourth and final set was close until South Korea pulled ahead near the end to win the game 25-20.

The two countries were not as evenly matched in their fight for the bronze medal in women’s basketball.

North Korea started strong in the first quarter, but then fell behind and couldn’t make up the ground with South Korea winning 93-63.

In baseball, regional rivals Japan and South Korea were scoreless through five innings. South Korea finally put a run on the board in the bottom of the 6th, when Kim Hye-seong led off the inning with a double to center, then moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Choi Jihoon. Kim came in to score on a sacrifice fly to left field by Roh Siwhan.

South Korea added a run the 8th to win 2-0.

The baseball medal games are Saturday and final match-ups have not yet been determined.

India took gold in mixed doubles squash, beating Malaysia in two games.

Indian player Dipika Pallikal Karthik said shortly after the win that it hadn’t quite sunk in yet that she and partner Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu had won.

“I’m just very, very happy to be on the winning side with Hari and I can’t imagine it to be anyone else,” she said.

Sivasangari Subramaniam of Malaysia took gold in women’s squash singles, beating Chan Sin Yuk of Hong Kong.



Bahrain’s Eunice Chebichii Paul Chumba celebrates after winning the women’s marathon at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)





Gold medalists China team pose for photographers after the award ceremony at the women's basketball at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

# Sports

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## Kuwait's resilient handball team clinch bronze



Kuwait handball team celebrate on the podium after winning bronze at the Asian Games in China.

Al-Mousawi raises Kuwait tally to 8 medals with bronze in kata

**Khaled El Anzi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**HANGZHOU, China, Oct 5: Kuwait handball team have showcased their unwavering determination and resilience at the 19th edition of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, which continues until October 8. Despite facing formidable challenges, the team have emerged as a formidable contenders, proving that they are a force to be reckoned with.**

The inspirational words of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, had a positive impact on Kuwaiti athletes participating in the "Asiad," resulting in a flurry of medals that have shone brightly on Kuwaiti sports.

In a remarkable feat, Kuwait secured the bronze medal by narrowly defeating Japan with a score of 31-30 in the

### ASIAN GAMES

third and fourth place match. This victory etched a new chapter in the annals of international handball, especially considering the Asian Games' stature as one of the most challenging competitions on the continent, renowned for the technical prowess and strength of its participating teams.

In the preliminary round, they triumphed over Thailand and the tournament hosts, China, earning them a spot in the main round. Placed in a formidable and challenging group, Kuwait, despite the odds, showcased remarkable courage and determination by defeating Iran and South Korea, securing a spot in the semi-finals. Although they faced a setback against Bahrain, they displayed incredible skills against the Qatar in the semi-finals, earning accolades from both admirers and adversaries, reaffirming the resurgence of Kuwait on the Asian stage.

This achievement is all the more remarkable due to the absence of several key players due to injury, including Saif Al-Adwani, Fawaz Al-Mishari, Ali Naseer, Mohamed Amer,

Kuwait welcomes, supports Saudi bid to host 2034 World Cup

### Kuwait congratulates Morocco on '30 WC bid win

KUWAIT, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait on Thursday congratulated Morocco on the FIFA's approval of the files of Morocco, Spain and Portugal as the sole candidacy to jointly host the 2030 World Cup.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said in a press release that the State of Kuwait utterly trusts the kingdom's ability to host a successful edition of the key world championship, regarding this as an international recognition of its special status.

The ministry wished the three countries best of luck in hosting this significant sports event.

The State of Kuwait on Thursday voiced its welcome and support for Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 World Cup.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry said in a press release that Kuwait utterly backs Saudi efforts to host this championship, which reflect the comprehensive development of the kingdom and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

### SOCCER



Kuwaitis celebrate their victory over Japan.

and goalkeeper Ali Safar. Additionally, the team was led by a coach borrowed from Burgan Club, the Algerian Saeed Hegazy. Despite being one of the youngest teams in the competition, the Kuwait triumphed over four teams ranked higher in international and Asian classifications: China, Iran, South Korea, and Japan.

In addition to this handball triumph, Kuwait's achievements at the Asian Games included Sayed Salman Al-Mousawi, a member of the national karate team, winning the bronze medal in indi-

vidual kata. With this victory, Kuwait's medal count at the Asian Games now stands at eight (2 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze). Fatima Hayat, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and Director of the Kuwaiti delegation at the Asian Games, attributed these achievements to the wise leadership and the people of Kuwait. She praised the collaborative efforts among sports authorities and highlighted the crucial role played by the technical and administrative staff of the handball team in guiding the young

countries, enabling them to organize various international sports activities.

Chairman of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA), Abdullah Al-Shaheen and members of the Board of Directors announced their support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's intention to submit a nomination dossier to host the 2034 World Cup.

In a statement, Al-Shaheen said that KFA will be one of the strongest supporters of the Saudi bid, which represents Asian, Arab and Gulf football in particular.

The KFA chief added that the Kingdom has achieved great successes in hosting various sporting events, and it also has the ability to organize an exceptional version of the World Cup.

He pointed out that the Kingdom has a vision, ambition, and possesses great potential, and will be able to win the honor of organizing the World Cup 2034.

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi, voiced on Thursday his welcome for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup.

In a press statement, Al-Budaiwi said that the Saudi bid comes within the vision of the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman, in hosting international sporting events.

The Kingdom has great and high capabilities that enable it to host such events, he added, expressing wishes of success for the Kingdom and its people.

players to success.

Hayat emphasized the importance of cooperation between the Kuwaiti Handball Federation, the Sports Authority, and the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee to develop a strategic plan for the team's growth and its pursuit of international titles in upcoming competitions.

Moreover, she lauded karate champion Sayed Salman Al-Mousawi's bronze medal win in individual kata, expressing optimism about the potential for more medals as the tournament progresses.

Blacks Caps gain measure of revenge

## New Zealand 'rout' England in cricket World Cup opener

AHMEDABAD, India, Oct 5, (AP): The cricket World Cup opened Thursday with New Zealand gaining a measure of revenge for how the last one ended four years ago.

The rematch of the extraordinary 2019 final got a very different result as the Blacks Caps powered to a nine-wicket thrashing of England, whose title defense is off to an alarming start.

England, without star batter Ben Stokes because of a hip injury, were put into bat and posted 282-9 - a score that always seemed well below par at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

That's how it proved as New Zealand raced to their target in just 36.2 overs, with Devon Conway (152 not out) and Rachin Ravindra (123 not out) putting on a virtually chanceless second-wicket stand of 273 to help the team to 283-1. The chase was achieved without captain Kane Williamson, who still has yet to recover from a knee injury.

Conway's 83-ball hundred was the Black Caps' fastest at a World Cup - but only until the 23-year-old all-rounder Ravindra went quicker, off 82 balls, to also become New Zealand's youngest century-maker.

The duo had come together when Sam Curran dismissed Will Young for a golden duck.

Joe Root top-scored with 77 for England, which at least made some history after all batters scored double figures. It's the first time that has happened in the history of ODIs, totaling 4,658 matches.

There was a sparse crowd for the start of the 13th edition of the 50-over World Cup, though the cavernous 134,000-seater stadium was slightly fuller by the time the one-sided match ended.

Conway hit 19 fours and three sixes,

while Ravindra hit 11 fours and five sixes, a total boundary count of 38 that exceeded England's 27.

None of the English bowlers were able to trouble the duo, with Mark Wood taken for 0-55 in his five-over spell.

It was the first time two batters making their debut in the World Cup scored centuries in the same match.

Put into bat, England didn't get off to a quick start as anticipated. Jonny Bairstow scored 33 off 35 balls, while David Malan managed only 14 runs despite being dropped early.

### CRICKET

They added 40 for the first wicket in 7.4 overs and New Zealand didn't allow the run-rate to take off. When the spinners came on, the runs dried up further as Mitchell Santner dismissed Bairstow in the 13th over.

Harry Brook tried to cut loose with 16 runs off Ravindra in the 17th over, but he ended up getting out caught off the last ball.

England countered the two left-arm spinners by sending Moeen Ali up the order. It didn't work as part-time off-spinner Glenn Phillips clean bowled him for 11 runs.

Root held the fort at one end after England was down to 118-4 in 21.2 overs. He then added 70 runs for the fifth wicket with skipper Jos Buttler.

The duo batted in damage control mode, although Buttler did hit two fours and two sixes in his 43 off 42 balls.

Root scored his first half-century in 10 ODI innings off 57 balls. But New Zealand got the breakthrough when Buttler was caught behind off Matt Henry (3-48).



New Zealand's Devon Conway bats during the ICC Cricket World Cup opening match between England and New Zealand in Ahmedabad, India. (AP)

Kuwait cricket team qualify for Asian finals

DOHA, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait cricket team on Thursday qualified for the second Asian finals in Nepal beating Saudi Arabia 174-173 in the first Asian finals hosted by Doha to qualify for the world tournament due in the US in 2024.

The Kuwaiti team score rose to 10 after beating Qatar and the Maldives,

It had lost vis a vis the Saudis, beat the Qataris and the Saudis the second time.

Captain Mahmoud Abdullah told KUNA that the team qualified for the next finals in the Nepal, due in November.

The finals kicked off on the 18th of the past month.

## Arsenal aim for statement victory against Man City

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 5, (AP): Arsenal spent 248 days at the top of the Premier League last season and still ended up empty-handed.

By Sunday night they could return to the summit of England's top division and deliver a big statement in the process.

Arsenal host champion Manchester City at Emirates Stadium in a meeting between last season's top two that will be seen as an early gauge of the Londoners' title credentials.

Arsenal last won the trophy in 2004 and looked set to end their wait to lift it again by repeatedly confounding preseason expectations to lead the way from the start until the closing stages of the campaign. Eventually, though,

they folded under the pressure from City to earn the distinction of having spent the longest period at the top without being crowned champions.

Arsenal have responded impressively after last season's disappointment. They beat City in the Community Shield in August and go into Sunday's game a point behind the champions, whose 100% winning start in the league came to an end with a 2-1 loss at Wolverhampton last week.

But their hopes of winning the title this season could be dependent on their results in head-to-head games against

City.

Arsenal lost all three of their games against Guardiola's team last season, twice in the league and once in the FA Cup. The aggregate score line was 8-2 in City's favour.

Those six points picked up in the two league games were the difference in the race for the title as City ended five clear.

That is why Arsenal's penalty shootout win in the Community Shield seemed so symbolic and was so joyously celebrated by Arteta as they ended an eight-game losing streak against City.

City have been even more dominant in the league, having won 12 in a row, dating back to 2017. Arsenal haven't

beaten City in any game at the Emirates since 2015.

Having started the season in such ominous form by winning their first six games in the league, City suffered back-to-back defeats against Newcastle in the English League Cup and then Wolverhampton. They returned to winning ways against Leipzig in the Champions League on Wednesday.

"After a couple of poor performances and results we've now got the ball rolling again and hopefully we carry on from here," said City defender Rico Lewis. "(Sunday's game) is a way we can put a stamp on the season and really make sure the rest of the league knows we're aiming to do the same as last season."