

## His Highness Sheikh Mishal leading march toward further development and prosperity

# Amir congratulates Crown Prince on post anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, congratulating him on the third anniversary of taking up the Heir Apparent's position.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir lauded His Highness the Crown Prince for his sincere efforts and devotion for the service of the dear homeland, wishing him lasting wellbeing and Kuwait security and prosperity.

In reply, His Highness the Crown Prince sent His Highness the Amir a cable expressing deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir for the heartfelt and sincere felicitations on the occasion.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince highly commended the country's

comprehensive development and pioneering achievements under His Highness the Amir's leadership, wishing him everlasting wellness and success in achieving further progress and prosperity for the dear homeland and its people.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, three years ago, designated His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to be the Heir Apparent, his right hand for managing State affairs and leading the march toward further development and prosperity.

His Highness Sheikh Mishal, on October eighth, 2020, took the Constitutional Oath in front of His Highness the Amir following an extraordinary National Assembly session during which the present 59 MPs unanimously declared allegiance to him as the Heir

Apparent. Sheikh Mishal, over the past decades, held a series of senior positions, serving as Interior Minister, and chief of the National Guards and accompanying Amir on external missions.

Sheikh Mishal, born in Kuwait in 1940, is the seventh son of the late 10th Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who ruled the country between 1921 and 1950. He studied at Al-Mubarakiya School and pursued higher studies at the British Hendon Police College as of 1960.

Fresh from studies in the United Kingdom, Sheikh Mishal joined the interior ministry ranks, where he climbed from a post to a higher one in the department hierarchy, serving as the head of general inspection from 1967 until 1980.

It was turned into the state security department during his service. On April 13, 2014, he was named the second chief of the National Guards, with a minister's degree and remained in this post until he was proclaimed as the Crown Prince.

Sheikh Mishal contributed to drafting the National Guards' strategy aimed at protecting the country, its legitimacy, constitution and people.

Moreover, he earned an honorary chairmanship of the Kuwaiti Pilots Society in 1973 and was co-founder of the Kuwaiti wireless communication society and its honorary chairperson.

In 1977, he was named by the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as the head of Al-Nibt Poetry Diwaneya.

On December 4, 2018, the French



Crown Prince Diwan photo His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Minister of the Armed Forces, Florence Barely, decorated him with the Legion of Honor Medal for his prime role in establishing solid friendly relations between Kuwait and France.

Meanwhile, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Saturday sent a cable to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulating him on the third anniversary of assuming the Heir Apparent's post.

The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that Minister Sheikh Talal Khaled addressed the cable to His Highness the Crown Prince on behalf of all personnel of the MoI. He expressed good wishes to Sheikh Mishal so he may remain supporter of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



In a triumphant moment at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, Fahad Al-Ajmi of Kuwait's national karate team plants a celebratory kiss on the coveted gold medal.

# Al-Ajmi gold boosts Kuwait medal tally

Karate champ outshines Jordanian rival

HANGZHOU, China, Oct 7, (Agencies): In a remarkable display of skill and determination, Kuwait's national karate team player, Fahad Al-Ajmi, has clinched a gold medal at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou,

China. Competing in the under-67 kg kumite category, Al-Ajmi emerged victorious in the finals, marking his debut in the masters division. His impressive journey to the finals included triumphs in the earlier

rounds, culminating in a decisive victory over Jordanian Abdul Rahman Al-Mustafa, who had previously won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Fahad Al-Ajmi's gold medal win has significantly contributed to Kuwait's overall medal tally, which now stands at ten medals in total, comprising three gold, four silver, and three bronze.

Expressing his joy and gratitude, champion Fahad Al-Ajmi dedicated his historic gold medal to all those who had supported him, including the administrative and technical staff, as well as the passionate sports enthusiasts of Kuwait. Al-Ajmi's victory was particularly meaningful as it marked the first time Kuwait secured a gold medal in karate at this prestigious tournament.

In his remarks, Al-Ajmi shared his elation at winning gold in his inaugural appearance at the Asian Games, highlighting the immense effort he put into the competition to bring happiness to Kuwaiti fans through his achievement. He emphasized his commitment to continuous improvement and representing Kuwait with distinction on the international stage, aspiring to attain further accolades.

In other competition results, jiu-jitsu national team player Muhammad Ali faced elimination in the under-85 kg category, while wrestling national team player Muhammad Abdul Karim exited the 74 kg category following a match against his Tajikistani counterpart, Ivlv Magomet.

Closing out the Asian Games, the Kuwaiti delegation features two final karate competitions. Champions Mohammed Al-Moussawi, Salman Al-Moussawi, and Mohammed Hussein will compete in the kata team events, while Dalal Al-Saeed is set to participate in the under-50 kg kumite category, facing off against Japan's Miho Miyahara in the round of 16.

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30,000 security risks

## Deportees' accounts and phones face fraud danger

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The telephone lines of individuals who have been deported are at risk of being exploited for the dissemination of fraudulent financial links, reports Al-Rai daily.

This has become a significant concern for banks due to the potential threats these bank accounts pose to the financial system. Banks are actively exploring measures to identify the names of deported expatriate workers in order to secure the banking systems and prevent unauthorized use of these accounts for financial fraud, money laundering, and terrorist financing.

Informal sources have revealed that approximately 30,000 bank accounts, matching the number of expatriates deported from Kuwait since the beginning of the year, are deemed security risks to the financial system.

Fraudsters may target these accounts to gain illegal control, often focusing on smaller amounts that do not immediately attract attention from banks or regulatory authorities. The vulnerability of these accounts increases when they fall into the hands of unauthorized individuals, making them susceptible to hacking and misuse for illegal operations, including sending fraudulent links to potential victims.

Even after deportation, the accounts of individuals losing legal residency in the country remain open for up to a year. This prolonged availability raises concerns as criminal entities can exploit dormant accounts, accessing personal data, passwords, and banking information. Current regulations stipulate that accounts cannot be frozen until six months pass without any banking transactions, providing a window for hackers to penetrate dormant accounts.

The ongoing exposure of a large number of bank accounts to financial fraud and money laundering operations heightens the risk of vulnerabilities in the financial system.

Establishing a direct information link between banks and the Ministry of Interior to promptly provide a list of deported individuals to banks is deemed crucial. With such a connection, banks can swiftly suspend the accounts of deportees upon their departure from the country.

In addition to banking risks, authorities and telecommunications companies express concerns about the potential exploitation of deportees' phone lines by financial fraud gangs. Controlling these phone lines could enable communication with citizens and residents, facilitating financial fraud schemes.

Recent announcements by the Ministry of Interior regarding the discovery of gangs recruiting expatriate workers to purchase bank accounts and phone lines further underline the risks associated with the accounts and phone lines of deportees.

The number of bank account holders in Kuwait is estimated to be around 3.8 million citizens and residents, comprising roughly 80 percent of the total population.

Rebound in '24

## Kuwait's GDP to dip in 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The World Bank has revised its projections for Kuwait's economic growth in 2023, anticipating a decrease in the citizen's share of GDP by 0.1 percent. The Bank now forecasts a growth rate of 0.8 percent for the Kuwaiti economy, down from its previous estimate of 1.3 percent. This is a significant drop compared to the 7.9 percent growth the Kuwaiti economy experienced last year. However, the World Bank anticipates a rebound in growth to about 2.6 percent for the following year, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a recent report titled "Achieving Balance, Jobs, and Wages in the Middle East and North Africa Region During Crises," the World Bank predicts a contraction of approximately 0.1 percent in real GDP per capita in Kuwait for the current year. This is in stark contrast to the robust growth of 7.4 percent recorded in 2022. However, there is an expected recovery with per capita growth projected to be around 1.7 percent in 2024.

On a positive note, the World Bank has revised its expectations for the current account surplus as a percentage of GDP for this year, forecasting a surplus of 23.1 percent, up from the 22 percent estimated in April. It is expected to decrease slightly to 19.1 percent in 2024, after reaching 26.3 percent in 2022.

In terms of public finance balance, the World Bank predicts a deficit of about 8 percent of GDP for this year, a significant shift from the surplus of 2.2 percent achieved last year. The deficit is expected to widen to 10.7 percent next year. Additionally, the Bank has raised its inflation projections for Kuwait in 2023 from 2.6 percent (as stated in its April report) to the current estimate of 3.3 percent. However, inflation is anticipated to decrease to 2.4 percent in 2024.

## NewsWatch

**ABU DHABI:** The UAE's Federal National Council (FNC) main election day kicked off on Saturday.

The voting process today includes remote voting from inside and outside the UAE, as well as electronic voting, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in UAE time, according to the country's official news agency, WAM. (KUNA)

**BRUSSELS:** EU High Representative Josep Borrell who is also the Coordinator of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or the Iran nuclear deal, Friday expressed his determination to find a diplomatic solution.

In a statement tonight, he noted that on 14 September, he received a letter from the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom informing him about an issue concerning the implementation of Iran commitments under the JCPOA. (KUNA)

**CAIRO:** The Arab League Friday condemned the "gruesome terrorist" attack that targeted Syria's military academy in Homs, and killed and wounded several people.

In a statement, the League expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. (KUNA)

**AMIZMIZ, Morocco:** Four weeks after an earthquake knocked down much of his neighborhood, Rachid Alachoun now eagerly awaits client calls from the garage where he works on damaged appliances.

The 40-year-old plumber has sporadically found jobs throughout Amizmiz, a town of 14,000 people near the earthquake's epicenter, but there isn't as much work as before. (AP)

## Toll from strong Afghan quakes above 300: UN

ISLAMABAD, Oct 7, (AP): Two 6.3 magnitude earthquakes killed dozens of people in western Afghanistan on Saturday, the country's national disaster authority said.

The United Nations gave a preliminary figure of 320 dead, but later said the figure was still being verified. Local authorities gave an estimate of 100 people killed and 500 injured, according to the same update from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Mohammad Abdullah Jan said four villages in the Zenda Jan district in Herat province bore the brunt of the quakes and aftershocks. Dozens of houses have been damaged.

The United States Geological Survey reported the 6.3 magnitude tremblors. It said the epicenter was 40 kilometers (24.8 miles) northwest of Herat city. There was an aftershock with a 5.5 magnitude.

A map on the USGS website indicates seven earthquakes in the area. At least five powerful earthquakes struck the city around noon, Herat city resident Abdul Shakor Samadi said.

"All people are out of their homes," Samadi said. "Houses, offices and shops are all empty and there are fears of more earthquakes. My family and I were inside our home, I felt the quake."

## Jailed Iranian activist awarded Peace Prize

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Photo shows a supporter waving the flag of Palestine during a gathering near the National Assembly. On Saturday, a number of MPs expressed their support for the ongoing Operation Al-Aqsa Flood launched by the Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza against Israel. — See Page 2

## Dozens dead

# Kuwait alarmed over violence in Gaza, calls for int'l intervention

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait on Saturday expressed deep concern at the escalation in Gaza Strip and the occupied Palestinian territories that happened as a result of the occupation's blatant violations and attacks on the brotherly Palestinian people.

The State of Kuwait Foreign Ministry affirmed, in a statement, Kuwait's call upon the international community, namely the United Nations Security Council, to shoulder the responsibilities, halt the ongoing violence, safeguard the brotherly Palestinian people, stop the provocative practices by the occupation, namely the recurring desecrations of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the policy of expanding the settlements.

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## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:25	Asr .....	14:58
Sunrise ..	05:44	Maghrib ..	17:27
Zohr .....	11:36	Isha .....	18:44

# 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 northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.  
**By Night:** Rather hot to mild

with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	41	29
Kuwait Airport	41	28

Abdaly	42	22
Jahra	42	26
Salmiyah	37	29
Ahmadi	37	30
Nuwaisib	41	26
Wafra	42	23

## MPs express support for Palestinian resistance groups

New chapter in book of fighting for freedom: Jinan Boushahri

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times Staff  
**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: A number of MPs expressed their support for the ongoing Operation Al-Aqsa Flood launched by the Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza against Israel.**

MP Osama Al-Shaheen called upon all Arab and Muslim countries to provide support to the Palestinians to resist the Israeli occupation.

He said, "If the resistant groups can succeed without Arab and Muslim support, imagine what they can do if they receive the needed support?"

MP Jinan Boushahri affirmed that the Palestinian resistance has written a new chapter in the book of fighting for freedom.

MP Dawoud Marafie prayed to Allah Almighty to support the Palestinians in their battle against Israel.

MPs Badr Sayyar Al-Shammari, Hamdan Al Azmi, Hamad Al-Matar, Adel Al-Damkhi, Meteb Al-Anzi, Abdul Kareem Al-Kandari, Hamad Al-Medlej, Fahad bin Jame'e, Muhammad Al-Sayer, Fayez Al-Jomhour, Marzouq Al-Ghanim and other MPs also announced their support for the Palestinian resistance's operation.

Footages are being widely circulated that show trucks belonging to the Palestinian resistance groups rushing towards Israeli settlements established on Gaza land. They show Palestinians seizing Israeli military equipment, vehicles and soldiers.

In another development, the Chairman of

the parliament's Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri disclosed that some MPs do not want bills on popular demands to be completed and referred to the parliament.

He indicated that they believe if those bills reach the stage of the discussion and voting, they will create a huge crisis leading to the dissolution of the parliament. However, from his perspective, the real crisis is the threat against the state or cutting parts of the citizens' rights.

Al-Muwaizri said talks about the alleged deficit in the public budget are nonsense, as Kuwait owns tremendous wealth and is richer than the rest of Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

He indicated that the revenues from the overseas investments of Kuwait are higher than the revenues of oil.

The lawmaker revealed that the real problem faced by Kuwait is wrong management by the government, indicating that 90 percent of the problems require decisions to be issued by the Council of Ministers rather than legislations.

He stressed that bills on public loans submitted by the government have not been discussed in the committee, adding that he, as the committee chairman, will not allow them to be discussed.

In addition, MP Muhammad Hayef Al-Mutairi submitted a proposal for the establishment of an educational complex for disabled children in every governorate covering all educational stages.

He suggested immediate allocation of a school in every governorate for this purpose until the educational complexes are completed.



Al-Shaheen



Al-Ghanim



MP Hamad Al-Matar talking to the press during the gathering at the Erada Square near the Kuwait parliament building.

Photo by Rizk Taufiq



Sketch of the university's medical campus.

## Municipality nods new plan for 'Al-Shadadiya' medical campus

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7:** The revised structural layout for the medical campus project in Sabah Al-Salem University City, a vital step in advancing the facilities of the university, has the approval of the Kuwait Municipality, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The approved plan includes modifications to various aspects of the campus site, encompassing college facilities, supporting amenities, housing arrangements, service infrastructures, open areas, parking provisions, project entrances and exits, and pedestrian bridges.

Key alterations involve an increased height for the teaching hospital, an expanded residential zone, an augmented visitor center area, and a parking capacity enhanced to accommodate 2,500 vehicles. Additionally, the plan entails modernizing the design of 24 college parcels and enlarging the open spaces to a total of 137,000 square meters.

The technical opinion book outlines the incorporation of essential facilities within the new campus, such as two student activity centers, two training centers, two recreational activity hubs, a university hospital, a research facility, a faculty club, a mosque, and provision for a future plot.

The Kuwait Municipality has duly sanctioned the request from Kuwait University to adapt the initial plan for the medical campus project within the Sabah Al-Salem University City, situated in the Al-Shaddadiya locality.

The approval includes pivotal adjustments to the primary elements of the medical campus site, encompassing college facilities and ancillary amenities, housing provisions, service facility arrangements, open spaces, parking facilities, as well as entrances and exits to the project location, and pedestrian bridges.

In the technical opinion letter for approval, Eng. Saud Al-Dabbous, the Director General of Kuwait Municipality, emphasized the consolidation of sites based on functional relationships and interconnected activities. This consolidation entails the creation of two additional plots for college buildings, with a stipulation that these buildings be interconnected via air-conditioned corridors at the ground level.

The heights of various campus structures have been revised accordingly, setting the teaching hospital at 110 meters, the research center at 65 meters, and the remaining buildings on the medical campus site at 50 meters. The plan also includes the provision of three extended underground basements and an augmentation of 2,000 parking spaces, resulting in a total of 12,500 parking spaces.

Al-Dabbous provided detailed insights through a comprehensive table, outlining that the project comprises a total of 24 plots

### Flexible hours set

## 'Report from 7-9 am'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7:** The Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqamaz has issued a decision to set the official working hours at the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation during the week from Sunday to Thursday as per flexible working system at a rate of seven working hours per day.

According to the decision, the working hours will begin between 7:00 am and 9:00 am. An employee has the right to report to work at any time during this period, and will clock out after completing seven working hours which is counted from the time he clocked in.

An employee will get a grace period of 30 minutes until 9:30 am, after which he will be considered late.

An employee who clocked in within the official start period can clock out 30 minutes before the exact clocking out time, although it is not allowed to divide the grace period between the entry and exit timings.

Female employees are allowed to leave work 15 minutes before the specified time for the end of the work day, according to the time they punched in, in addition to 30 minutes for the female employee who did not benefit from the grace period at the beginning of the work day.

for separate buildings, catering to both male and female students. These buildings encompass faculties such as Assistant Medicine, Public Health, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Sciences.

Additionally, the plan incorporates two student activity centers, two training centers, two recreational activity hubs, a university hospital, a research center, a faculty club, a mosque, and provisions for future development.

The project encompasses an educational hospital, residential areas, a visitor center, parking facilities, and 24 plots designated for colleges, alongside an expansive 137,000 square meters of open space.

Al-Dabbous highlighted adjustments to the housing allocations, involving a reduction in the hospital staff housing plot and an expansion of the hospital visitor center plot. Some service facility plots were also revised and amalgamated to meet specific requirements.

### MPs meet top official

## Kuwait seeks Albanian Khor Abdullah support

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA):** The delegation of Kuwait-Albania parliamentary friendship met Friday Besart Kadia, deputy minister of Europe and foreign affairs for economic diplomacy, in Tirana, the capital of Albania.

During the meeting, head of the delegation MP Mohammad Al-Mutairi expressed hope that Albania, which is a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, would back Kuwait's stance on the convention on the regulation of maritime navigation in the Khor Abdullah, signed between Kuwait and Iraq in 2012.

Iraq's court has recently ruled that the convention is unconstitutional although the country's parliament endorsed. The accord then was submitted to the UN.

Kuwait always reiterates the respect of international commitments and the principles of good neighborliness, he said. He expressed hope that Albania would support Kuwait's nomination for UN Human Rights Council membership from 2024-2026.

Meanwhile, Kadia called for backing Albania's nomination for the same post in October, referring to commercial and investment opportunities of his country in all domains, including tourism.

The delegation includes MPs Adel Al-Damkhi, Osama Shahin and Falah Al-Hajri. Charge de 'affaires at Kuwait's Embassy to Albania Ambassador Khaled Al-Shami and First Secretary Adnan Al-Ghonaim attended the meeting.

The Kuwait-Albanian Parliamentary Friendship headed by Mohammad Al-Mutairi met on Thursday with the chairman and members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Albanian Parliament in the Albanian capital, Tirana.

During the meeting both sides assured the forte of bilateral relations, which have lasted for 55 years, as each parliament will continue to direct efforts for further cooperation in all fields.

### Hopes

Al-Mutairi expressed his hopes for cooped support from Albania regarding the agreement on regulating the maritime navigation of Khor Abdullah, which was signed between Kuwait and Iraq in 2012 and has been recently overturned by the Iraqi Supreme Court, as Albania currently holds a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

While also mentioning that he is anticipating support from friendly countries for Kuwait's 2024 candidacy membership of the UN Human Rights Council.

The tourism cooperation was also discussed during the meeting, that was chaired by Albanian MP Blend Klosi, where he emphasized the opening of a direct flight line this summer between Kuwait and Albania to attract tourists was successful.

Adding he is looking forward for next year's tourism season, hoping Parliamentarians will seek to push for the cancellation of entry visas for Albanian visiting Kuwait, similar to his country's decision in 2015 to exempt Kuwaiti citizens from entry visas.

The Kuwaiti-Albanian friendship group delegation met on Thursday with the deputy speaker of the Albanian parliament Armonela Villa at the Albanian parliament building in the capital Tirana.

The two sides during the meeting affirmed necessity of boosting bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in various sectors namely the parliamentary field as well as coordinating stands at international quarters.

Villa expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti government for the humanitarian aid particularly in the aftermath of the 2019 earthquake, singling out aid given by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for renovating a key road, recently.

The Kuwaiti side recalled Albania's support for Kuwait during the flagrant Iraqi aggression in 1990 and indicated at the need to broaden economic cooperation and facilitating procedures for Kuwaitis to acquire properties in Albania.



The Kuwaiti delegation with Besart Kadia.

## 'Visa-free entry for 50 countries'

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7:** An official memorandum showed that the Kuwaiti citizen, holder of a regular passport, can enter 50 countries without a prior visa, while he can obtain an electronic visa to enter 11 countries, and from the airport upon arrival to 32 countries around the world, reports Al-Rai daily.

In response to a query by MP Osama Al-Zaid, the Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, said there are 104 countries on various continents for which the Kuwaiti citizen needs to apply for a visa from the embassies of these respective countries or through the offices approved by them, reports Al-Rai daily.

The memorandum indicated that the 50 countries that a citizen can enter without a visa are as follows -- 10

countries in Europe, 3 in the Australasia region and its neighboring countries, 7 in Asia, 4 in Africa, 13 in the Americas, and 13 Arab countries.

As for the countries for which the Kuwaiti obtains a visa from the embassy are 36 in Europe, 7 in the Australasia region and its neighboring countries, 10 in Asia, 28 in Africa, 20 in the Americas, and 3 Arab countries.

The 11 countries in which a citizen obtains an electronic entry visa are 4 in Europe, 3 in Asia, 2 in Africa, and 2 in the Americas.

As for the countries where the citizen obtains a visa from the airport are 5 in Australasia and its neighboring countries, 12 in Asia, 13 in Africa, 1 in the Americas, and one Arab country.

### Genes play vital role: Dr Al-Mazidi

## '40 out of 100K kids are diabetic'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7:** Consultant endocrinologist and Head of the "Essentials of Endocrinology and Diabetes" conference Dr. Al-Mazidi yesterday highlighted the high rate of diabetes among children in the country, stressed that 40 out of every 100,000 children are diagnosed with diabetes every year.

In an exclusive press statement to Al-Seyassah on the sidelines of the inauguration of the two-day "Essentials of Endocrinology and Diabetes" conference, Dr. Al-Mazidi said, "Short stature is the most common endocrine disease among children in the country, followed by hypothyroidism, calcium deficiency, early puberty, adrenal and hypothyroidism, and undescended testicles in newborns."

Genes play an important role in endocrine diseases, as they represent approximately 10 to 20 percent of the causes of the disease."

Dr. Al-Mazidi explained that the conference was organized by the Kuwait Society for Endocrinology, with the cooperation of the Kuwait Medical Association and the Dasman Diabetes

Institute. An elite group of consultants and specialists in Kuwait, the Gulf countries and the world participated in the conference to discuss the latest therapeutic developments and to exchange experiences in this field.

The conference highlights the most important scientific developments in the treatment of diabetes and other issues related to endocrine glands, the importance of early diagnosis of these diseases, and the close link between obesity and diabetes.

It grants participants 14 points of continuing medical education from the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations.

Dr. Al-Mazidi expressed hope that the conference will come up with important recommendations that are in the interest of the health sector in the country.

He stressed the importance of such conferences that keep pace with the scientific development the world is witnessing, offer knowledge about the latest developments and research in the field of health care for patients with issues related to endocrine glands and diabetes, highlight methods for providing health care services and discuss what benefits medical personnel.

## Kuwait alarmed

Continued from Page 1

It also affirmed the State of Kuwait's unwavering and principled stand of standing on side of the brotherly Palestinian people in their struggle for attaining their full rights, namely the right to establish the independent state along the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The foreign ministry warned that continuation of the violence without deterrence may jeopardize the efforts aimed at establishing peace and attaining the two states settlement.

Meanwhile, Hamas militants fired thousands of rockets and sent dozens of fighters into Israeli towns near the Gaza Strip in an unprecedented surprise early morning attack during a major Jewish holiday Saturday, killing dozens and stunning the country. Israel said it was now at war with Hamas and launched airstrikes in Gaza, vowing to inflict an "unprecedented price."

Several hours after the incursion began, Hamas militants were still fighting gunbattles inside several Israeli communities near Gaza. Israel's national rescue service said at least 40 people have been killed and hundreds wounded, making it the deadliest attack in Israel in years. Also, an unknown number of Israeli soldiers and civilians had been seized and taken into Gaza.

At least 198 people in the Gaza Strip have

been killed in Israel's retaliation and at least 1,610 wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza said.

The strength, sophistication and timing of the attack shocked Israelis, with images of Hamas gunmen bringing seized soldiers and civilians into Gaza on motorbikes and parading what appeared to be captured Israeli military vehicles through the streets. Videos on social media showed what appeared to be at least one dead Israeli soldier within Gaza being dragged and trampled by an angry crowd of Palestinians shouting "God is Greatest."

The assault threatened to spiral into a greater conflict, mirroring previous Hamas-Israel conflicts that brought widespread death and destruction in Gaza and days of rocket fire on Israeli communities.

"We are at war," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a televised address, declaring a mass army mobilization. "Not an 'operation,' not a 'round,' but at war."

"The enemy will pay an unprecedented price," he added, promising that Israel would "return fire of a magnitude that the enemy has not known."

The shadowy leader of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, in turn, said the assault was in response to the continued blockade of Gaza, Israeli raids inside West Bank cities over the past year, violence at Al Aqsa - the disputed Jerusalem holy site sacred to Jews as the Temple Mount - increasing attacks by settlers on Palestinians and continued growth of settlements.

# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Khor Abdullah problem and the Ministry of Information's failure'

"DESPITE the importance of the Iraqi court's ruling regarding the invalidity of the vote to ratify the "Khor Abdullah" agreement for Kuwait, the world outside our region does not consider this issue a "crisis," as much as it is a problem between the two parties. In the eyes of the international community, the crisis is described as the situation in Yemen and Sudan, for example," columnist **Abdulaziz Muhammad Al-Anjari** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Some MPs in the National Assembly recently expressed their views on the issue, and despite our reservations about certain aspects of their statement, we acknowledge their enthusiasm and sincere intentions. We understand that most of them lack sufficient diplomatic experience in engaging with the international community. This is understandable given the long-standing focus on local affairs in our political landscape.



Al-Anjari

"Our primary concern lies in the international community's perception and response to the issues between us and Iraq. Hence, it's crucial to concentrate on this aspect to avoid diverting our efforts towards fruitless endeavors that might even harm our cause.

"Much of the issue revolves around the realm of media, prompting us to ask: Where does the Ministry of Information stand amidst this situation? We are not merely referring to statements conveyed by Kuwait TV or the official news agency. Our question pertains to the broader role of the Ministry of Information, expected to be a strong advocate for Kuwait both domestically and internationally. What is its stance regarding this problem, and where is its proactive involvement in international forums?

"In the midst of what the government considers a "crisis" at the highest level, it's disappointing to note that the Ministry of Information's priorities in recent weeks did not involve mobilizing efforts to assert Kuwaiti rights on the international stage or rebutting Iraqi allegations. Instead, the focus was on supporting the minister's agenda to amend media laws, aiming to enforce more extremism and restrictions on freedoms, surveillance, and monitoring of individuals, not to mention impeding free journalistic work. Is this truly the priority for those sensing impending danger?

"Did it occur at an appropriate time? Is this the best utilization of our resources and energy? Why does the "media" fear free speech in a country where official and public relations are regulated by the constitution? For instance, several Iraqi writers have criticized their government's decision and advocated for Kuwaiti rights in published articles.

"Does the Ministry of Information possess knowledge of these perspectives? Why haven't these voices been given prominence? Shouldn't there be a news monitoring system in this age of accessible software to address such matters? Where is the wisdom necessary to handle this issue skillfully? Is the ministry's objective to establish our rights through available means, or is it to create a spectacle without substance to showcase a popular stance for local consumption?

"Examining the international arena, we often observe a lack of detailed representation from Kuwait concerning regional disputes. This highlights the significance of media in conveying truth and comprehending the nuances of a situation.

"However, the official Kuwaiti media is notably absent from the international stage. Is there a fear of engaging with international media, limited capabilities, or a lack thereof? Or is it a combination of these factors?

"Take, for example, the few foreign news agencies present in Kuwait, which have decreased in number over the years. These agencies express frustration about the lack of communication, transparency, and access to accurate information from Kuwaiti sources. Subsequently, we complain about being ignored by the foreign media and overlooked on the international stage.

"Regrettably, we find ourselves weaker than we perceive, and we hope for a change sooner rather than later. The Kuwaiti media views these concerns from a standpoint of fearing for the country's well-being rather than fearing for one's position. The negligence of the Kuwaiti media is evident and serves as a warning of potential danger. The current crisis has exposed the inadequacy of these institutions' capabilities, leaving us to wonder how we would fare if faced with a real crisis.

"Ultimately, it's essential not to be fearful of scaling mountains when it comes to defending our rights and representing our country's interests effectively."

**Also:**

"We had previously asked the Ministry of Health to establish a new mechanism for the work of health centers, emergency departments and clinics during official holidays, given the great pressure on health services that emergency departments suffer from during that period," columnist **Khalid Al-Arafa** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"We are now in a season during which seasonal diseases abound. There is an increase in the number of visitors to medical centers but the number of staff on duty is insufficient. The pressure on the emergency departments, which are already operating at a modest capacity with one or two clinics for the various departments, is not easing. Therefore, greater efforts are needed to solve the problem.

"The Ministry of Health is required to either operate all its centers or increase the number of open centers in the various governorates during official holidays. This is not difficult for the ministry, as there is an additional allowance that doctors and technicians receive. The ministry, represented by the health zones, can distribute the staff correctly among the centers. It operates as a service to the people of the area instead of closing a large number of centers during the weekend.

"It has become necessary to find a new working mechanism for these centers, and to operate them during the holidays. The ministry must also work on increasing the number of working centers and providing them with all types of medicines instead of continuing with the current situation.

"On the other hand, in most of the centers that

operate, a patient cannot find some important medications. This makes him resort to private pharmacies or to emergency departments where the waiting period exceeds two hours or more, especially internal medicine departments, due to the increase in the number of patients.

"We hope that the Ministry of Health will open more rotation centers and increase the number of emergency clinics, especially in the internal medicine and children's departments, because it is unreasonable for a governorate like Jahra that the internal medicine emergency department operates only two clinics to provide health care services to all the people of the governorate.

"The situation requires officials of the Ministry of Health to go to the emergency departments, see with their own eyes the waiting situation that patients are experiencing, address the matter, and hold accountable the negligent party, if any."

□ □ □

"The close friendship between Kuwait and China dates back to centuries, as Kuwait was a vital and important station on the ancient Silk Road," columnist **Dr. Noura Saleh Al-Mujim** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"In the modern era, the bonds of friendship between the two countries and people strengthened and expanded across several economic, cultural and political fields. Kuwait was one of the first countries to establish full diplomatic relations with China.

"In the beginning of the new millennium, Kuwait made an almost radical transformation in terms of local and foreign policy, driven by the insightful vision of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad (May God have mercy on him), in order to bring about a comprehensive economic and social renaissance in Kuwait, in the context of keeping pace with internal and external developments and challenges.

"The new transformation of Kuwait, as embodied by the New Kuwait 2035 vision, is based on two basic pillars - diversifying sources of income for the Kuwait economy to reduce dependence on oil, and diversifying foreign strategic partnerships. In the context of the latter, Kuwait's focus has been on consolidating relations with the rising Asian powers, especially China.

"In this context, the relations with China have transformed from close friendship based specifically on the economic and oil factors into a major strategic partnership whose scope expands to various fields.

"Kuwait was one of the first Arab countries to join the New Silk Road Initiative, or "the Belt and Road", which was a strategic initiative proposed by China in 2013 as a global initiative to expand trade exchange and benefit from the potential of all member countries to achieve economic justice in the world.

"Through this initiative, China has become Kuwait's most important economic partner and an effective contributor to achieving the comprehensive vision.

"Within the framework of the initiative, it was agreed to establish several giant projects, the most prominent of which is the "Silk City" at a cost of approximately 50 billion, which would create a comprehensive qualitative leap in the housing and infrastructure map in Kuwait.

"Kuwait is also benefiting from Chinese expertise to develop Mubarak Port and transform it into a "smart port", in preparation for transforming Kuwait into a global shipping corridor.

"China attaches great importance to developing Kuwait's ports and transforming Kuwait into a global shipping port, thanks to Kuwait's strategic location on the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Kuwait plays a major role in the context of the maritime Silk Road.

"Also in the context of the Silk City initiative, economic relations, the volume of trade exchange, and cultural relations rose remarkably. In 2018, China opened the Cultural Exchange Center to strengthen the bonds of friendship, and scientific and cultural exchange between the people of Kuwait and China. This is in addition to the educational scholarships that Kuwait grants annually to Kuwaiti students to study in China.

"The volume of trade exchange also increased to approximately \$ 200 billion in the past five years. Therefore, the trade relations moved beyond the narrow scope that was limited to oil, to a broader scope.

"During the era of His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad (May God protect and preserve him), the scope of economic cooperation was expanded by focusing on the financial banking sector, in recognition of Kuwait's pivotal role in the global economy and the solidity of its financial strength."

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"When raising any issue, it is wise to look for the positives and invest them in the interest of the public. Talks on the negatives go on for a long time and have no bounds, as they are governed by personal opinions and convictions..." columnist **Dr Waleed Al-Tanib** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"The segregation issue is not new. The country has gone through several stages in this regard. One of these stages resulted in the issuance of a law that prevents gender segregation at Kuwait University. The law was discussed within a sufficient period. Like any other law, it had supporters and detractors, while some opted not to express their opinion. In the end, the law was passed. It is not a new law, as it was issued more than a decade ago.

"What is the purpose of this law? Why was it passed? How much is the cost for the State? and... and... All of these questions are considered secondary topics now. The discussion will neither advance nor delay anything, because we are facing an effective law that must be applied. The responsible authorities must implement the law.

"Someone objects to its implementation and begins working under the umbrella of the Parliament to change the law. Whoever has the support of the majority imposes his opinion?..."

"If we look at the issue from a positive angle, majority of the citizens support the application of the law regardless of its content. The application of the law protects everyone's rights..."

"The majority hopes that members of the Parliament will continue with this laudable trend - to demand for implementation of the law in general, not selectively, as the country is full of laws that have not been implemented..."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Safe Home Campaign ... an awareness message to family members about ways to prevent fires and accidents.

### KFF educates public on fire safety

By Hammad Al-Mutairi

The campaign "a safe house" launched by Kuwait Fire Force in cooperation with EQUATE aims at educating families and housekeepers about safety procedures and preventing accidents and fires. The campaign that kicked

off on the the fair ground in Mishref on September 26 is proceeding at the Avenues Mall until Saturday, then will shift to Kuwait University from next Monday until Thursday. The activity features lectures, seminars and an exhibition showing how to make safety procedures at home. (KUNA)

## Various drugs, illegal guns, seized at police checkpoints

### Car racers, vehicles impounded

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: A security operation overseen by Brigadier General Saleh Oqla Al-Azmi, the Acting Director General of Jahra Security, resulted in the arrest of nine drug addicts, reports Al-Anba daily.**

The daily said the officers have seized from the men narcotics substances, alcohol, drug paraphernalia, and substantial amounts of money suspected to be proceeds from sales.

A reliable security source mentioned that these nine individuals were captured at various checkpoints located at entrances, exits, and external roads of the region.

During the arrests, they were found to be in possession of hashish, shabu, chemicals, Lyrica pills, marijuana, and imported alcohol. The detainees and the confiscated items were handed over to the General Administration for Narcotics Control.

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**Various drugs seized:** Personnel from the General Administration for Narcotics Control have arrested 24 people of various nationalities in connection with 17 cases, and confiscated from them about 14 kilograms of assorted narcotic substances, including shaboo, hashish, chemicals, heroin, marijuana, cocaine, and 1,432 pills of psychotropic substances, reports Al-Rai daily.

Furthermore, during the operation, authorities discovered 6 unlicensed firearms and ammunition in the possession of certain suspects, alongside a quantity of liquor and proceeds from illicit sales.

Upon being confronted with the seized items, the defendants confessed to ownership with intent for trafficking and misuse. They, along with the seized items, were handed over to the appropriate authorities to initiate requisite legal actions against them.

The General Department of Security Relations and Media affirmed the continuous efforts of criminal security personnel and all ministry sectors in confronting and detaining individuals involved in drug trafficking and their accomplices.

The Ministry has urged the public to collaborate with security personnel and promptly report any adverse incidents through the emergency phone (112) and the General Administration for Drug Control hotline (1884141).

□ □ □

**Infiltrator nabbed:** Officers from the Ahmadi Security Directorate have arrested an Afghan man for illegal entry into



Car goes up in flames

### Car goes up in flames

A salon car parked across from a private school in the Salmiya area was entirely consumed by a fire. The flames were extinguished by firefighters from the Salmiya Fire Center, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the fire is believed to have originated from an electrical short circuit or possibly due to insufficient water in the radiator. The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) urged both citizens and residents to ensure regular vehicle maintenance to minimize the risk of such incidents.

the country in the Raqqa area, reports Al-Anba daily.

During the arrest, the individual was found to be carrying three marijuana joints, three pieces of hashish, and fifteen narcotic pills.

The expatriate has confessed to entering the country as an infiltrator from a neighboring nation. Consequently, he was taken into custody, and the confiscated substances were handed over to the General Administration for Narcotics Control.

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**Car racers arrested:** The General Traffic Department announced that the traffic police have impounded several vehicles and issued citations against motorists for engaging in unauthorized races on public roads and the Jaber Bridge, reports Al-Rai daily.

The individuals involved have been arrested. Traffic authorities stated legal action has been taken against the offenders in the best interest and safety of road users.



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## Leadership wishes Al-Sisi good health and Egypt further progress and prosperity

# Amir congratulates Egyptian president on Oct War Anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations on Friday to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the October 6 War victory.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir commended the Egyptian Armed Forces during the battle to liberate the Egyptian territory, remembering that Kuwaitis had stood side by side with

Egyptians during this war, which embodied the historical ties between the two countries and peoples.

His Highness the Amir also wished the Egyptian president good health and Egypt further progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Al-Sisi, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the October 6 War victory.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince hailed the historical relations between Kuwait and Egypt, wishing President Al-Sisi good health and to Egypt more progress and prosperity.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Al-Sisi on the 50th anniversary of the October 6 War victory.

Also, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to his Egyptian counterpart General Mohamad Zaki on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1973 October War victory.

In the cable, Sheikh Ahmad Fahad expressed sincere congratulations to Egypt, its leadership and people on this valuable occasion during which

the Egyptian army, along with its Arab brothers, made the wonderful heroism and epics, and offered sacrifices in defense of dignity and the Arab land, Kuwait's Ministry of Defense said in a press statement.

Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun also sent a cable of congratulations to President of the Senate Abdel Wahab Abdel Razeq and Speaker of the House of Representatives Hanafi Al-Jebali on the 50th

anniversary of the 1973 October War victories.

In the cable, Al-Saadoun voiced pride for heroism achieved by the Egyptian Armed Forces against the Zionist enemy.

He also expressed pride for sacrifices of the Kuwaiti army and its martyrs along with their Egyptian brothers in these immortal victories, wishing Egypt, its government and people further progress and prosperity.

# Kuwait, UK medical bodies agree to share expertise, says official

'GMC commends AMR's efforts'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Head of the Authority for Medical Responsibility (AMR) Dr. Salman Khalifa Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said that his agency conducted a joint cooperation event with the UK General Medical Council (GMC) to exchange expertise and enhance joint cooperation to establish local plans and mechanisms based on the latest international standards.

Speaking to KUNA Saturday, Dr. Salman Al-Sabah said that GMC commended AMR's efforts, appreciating the quality mechanisms and

standards in the investigations and technical reports it issues.

This commendation came in a report issued by GMC's website in the context of the joint cooperation event that was recently held in Manchester, UK, he explained, noting that the report pointed to the great balance between the mechanisms, standards and methodologies of AMR and GMC.

The report concluded that this balance demonstrates the compatibility of values and dedication to achieving excellence in the field of health care and reflects a common goal of both parties to raise the standards of services provided, he stated.

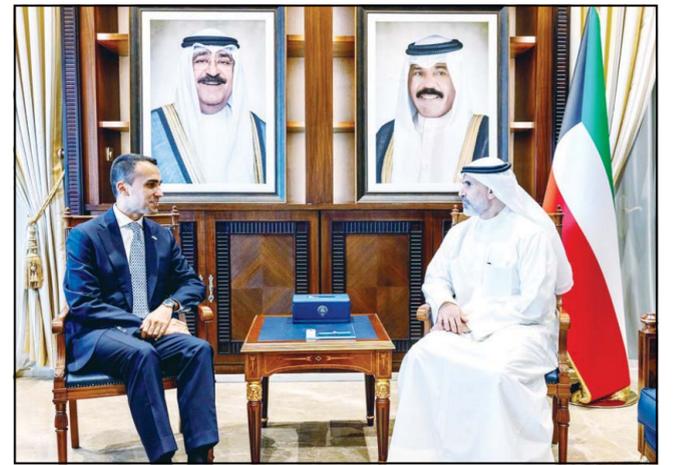
The workshops focused on exchanging experiences and dealing with

complaints against health professionals, especially in the fields of examining cases, making decisions and preparing technical reports, with the participation of GMC's experts, he pointed out.

It is worth mentioning that AMR is the organization responsible in Kuwait for expressing technical opinions on all issues presented to it through complaints, reports, cases and lawsuits connected to medical errors and professional violations committed by professionals or health facilities and imposing penalties through the committees formed.

In 2020, AMR was established pursuant to Law No. 70 of 2020 regarding the practice of the medical profession and its auxiliary professions and the rights of patients and health facilities.

As for GMC, it was founded in 1858 and plays a decisive role in granting licenses to doctors, organizing medical education, and investigating complaints against medical professionals.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Ambassador Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah met Thursday EU Special Representative for the Gulf region Luigi Di Maio to discuss means of boosting bilateral relations in all domains. The meeting touched upon the Gulf-European ties and means of enhancing them to serve the two sides' interests, in addition to the developments on regional and international levels as well as the issues of common concern, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. (KUNA)

## Al-Munaifi addresses UN 3rd panel session

### Kuwait eyes more legislation to protect children

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait has called upon the international community to bolster efforts for enacting more legislations to protect children from violence and poverty.

The Kuwaiti stance came in a statement addressed by the diplomatic attache Shahed Al-Munaifi, on Thursday, at a session of the UN third committee (tasked with social, humanitarian and cultural affairs).

Elaborating, the diplomatic attache Al-Munaifi warned against ramifications of mushrooming crises on the world stage, affecting livelihood of millions of people who are coerced to bear multiple social and humanitarian hardships -- particularly suffered by millions of children.

The State of Kuwait, she said,

appeals to the international community and agencies and the civil society to provide protection for civilians particularly the children. "And we call on parties of conflicts in any spot of the world to allow delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilians," said Al-Munaifi.

She affirmed the State of Kuwait's keenness on supporting people who suffer from strife and urged the concerned UN agencies to alleviate suffering among the children.

At home, the Kuwaiti authorities have enacted legislation for safeguarding the family in general and the child in particular, she said, noting establishment of the family court and enacting a special law for safeguarding children rights in 2015.

Al-Munaifi reaffirmed Kuwait's



KUNA photo

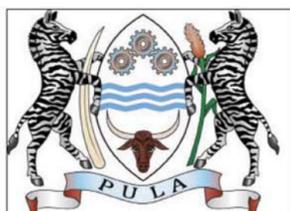
The diplomatic attache Shahed Al-Munaifi.

resolve to enhance the child rights, support efforts by states and organizations to protect children, namely their rights and dignity and establish "a world suitable for the children."

## MINDSET CHANGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT : 57 years of greatness



Excellency Augustine N. Makgonatso the Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana to the State of Kuwait.



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

further use this momentous occasion as a foundation and a spring board towards prosperity and greatness.

This year the country celebrates its anniversary under the theme: Mindset Change for Sustainable Development. As indicated by the Head of State, His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi in his address to the nation on the 30th September 2023, "we ought to rethink the priorities for the future we wish to create because there are unlimited possibilities that needs to be explored with a heightened mindset". Against this background, as governments, we need to harness the talents of our youths and cultivate mindset changes so that they too can realise their full potential through various fields such as track and field events, which our athletes perform well at international levels, these are areas that could create sustainable employments for our young people.

Mindset change is also needed following lessons and challenges brought about by the Covid pandemic, it is imperative to embrace change; to think differently, creatively, and innovatively. Mindset change and creative thoughts have the power to also create employment through various up take of technologies.

*On the occasion of Botswana's 57 years of Independence, I wish to extend warmest greeting to the Botswana Community in the Staten of Kuwait, our dear friends, and a special appreciation to the leadership and government of the State of Kuwait, who have for many years, even prior to setting up an Embassy in the State of Kuwait greatly assisted Botswana in her development path as far back as in the 1980's, and to this we say Shukran.*

Today we look back with pride and joy because the fruitful relations we have with our development partners have given us reasons to hope, to dream and to be ambitious and indeed to contribute to making the world a better place.

As we celebrate the 57 years of independence, we do so with a view to reflect on the strides made over the years, acknowledge the foresight and great work of our Country's fore bearers. The Independence day avails a fresh opportunity to start again and amend the past short comings in pursuit of a better tomorrow. As a country, we

## Condolences

The Partners, Management and Staff of



**Al Rashed International Travel Co. W.L.L**

expresses profound sorrow on the sad demise of

**Saud Abdulaziz Abdulmohsin Al Rashed**

who passed away on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

On this sad occasion, we extend our heartfelt condolences to our Director

**Mr. Bassim Saud Al Rashed & Mr. Khaled Saud Al Rashed Mr. Essam Saud Al Rashed Mr. Faisal Saud Al Rashed Mr. Adnan Saud Al Rashed**

And to the bereaving **Al Rashed family**

*May Allah Almighty bestow mercy on his soul*

# Municipal Council member eyes Kuwaiti design for govt buildings

'Current state of construction lacks uniqueness factor'



A group photo on the occasion of the College of Medicine obtaining full academic accreditation. KUNA photo

## 'College of Medicine's global ranking boosted'

### KU's college secures TEPDAD accreditation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwait University has proudly announced that its College of Medicine has secured full academic accreditation from The Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (TEPDAD), a body recognized by the World Federation for Medical Education as a leading accreditor for medical education.

Dr. Fayez Al-Dhafiri, the university's acting director, shared this remarkable achievement during a press conference held recently. He emphasized that this accomplishment has significantly boosted the global ranking of the College of Medicine within the Times Higher Education rating, placing it in the 301-400 bracket among the world's top institutions in clinical and health-related fields. Dr. Al-Dhafiri called for a continued pursuit of excellence across all domains to contribute to the enhancement of university programs and the quality of academic education.

In recognition of this achievement, Dr. Al-Dhafiri expressed his heartfelt gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince for their unwavering support for Kuwait University and its commitment to quality education in Kuwait. He also extended his appreciation to all those who played a role in making this achievement possible.

Dr. Osama Al-Saeed, the University's Vice Chancellor for Medical Sciences, also extended his congratulations to the College of Medicine and the Medical Sciences Center for obtaining this prestigious academic accreditation. He underscored that this

accomplishment is another significant milestone in the College of Medicine's long history of achievements, spanning over 50 years. The College of Medicine began as the cornerstone of the Medical Sciences Center, which now encompasses four colleges, including Medicine, Pharmacy, Health Sciences, Allied Medical Sciences, and Dentistry.

Dr. Mona Al-Ahmad, Acting Dean of the College of Medicine, highlighted the dedicated efforts that the College of Medicine has undertaken over the years to secure academic accreditation for its medical program. She emphasized the importance of this achievement on a global scale, as it reflects international confidence in the college and the quality of medical education it provides to future doctors. Furthermore, this accreditation ensures that the college's curricula align with global standards and stay up-to-date with the latest developments in modern medical sciences. Dr. Al-Ahmad noted that this accreditation enhances Kuwait University's global ranking by international classification organizations and opens doors for graduate doctors to pursue postgraduate studies in the United States of America and Canada. This aligns with the vision of the State of Kuwait to elevate healthcare services and raise the clinical expertise of doctors.

It's worth mentioning that Kuwait University's standing in clinical, pre-clinical, and health-related fields has significantly improved in the prestigious international ranking by Times Higher Education, now placing the university among the top 301-400 universities in these fields.

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Municipal Council member Munira Al-Amir presented a proposal to create a purely Kuwaiti architectural identity for government buildings that reflects the Kuwaiti urban style in its spirit and culture.

She said, "Kuwait previously had a distinctive architectural spirit such that anyone could recognize the country from its images through the shape of its buildings, their colors, and the way they are divided.

With the passage of time, this spirit disappeared due to the advanced construction techniques, whose importance and role we do not deny, but we, during the past periods, neglected to apply modern techniques in construction according to a distinctive Kuwaiti architectural style for the state.

#### Distinguished

The country is distinguished by its various government buildings, but they have not taken an official or unified form through studied and approved architectural styles."

Al-Amir explained that the current state of construction in Kuwait lacks the factor of uniqueness. Her proposal focuses on creating a unified architectural identity for government buildings using advanced Kuwaiti expertise, provided that this architectural vision is transformed into a model that can be applied. Also, it should have many supporting models that are easy to add without compromising the effectiveness of the buildings to carry out their role.

She affirmed that the Municipal Council has the right, according to the law, to set regulations governing construction work.

Al-Amir stressed the need to establish clear mechanisms to implement its proposal directly and without being limited to one step.

She added that implementing the proposal at the governmental level will encourage the private sector to be inspired by this spirit and develop a new style that automatically supports the architectural vision, which will help achieve the desired goal automatically with time.

## DGCA to retire over 30-yr-in service staff

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The official spokesman for the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Acting Deputy Director General of the Department of Financial and Legal Affairs Abdullah Al-Rajhi announced the referral to retirement of a number of administration employees who have been in service for 32 to 37 years.

This move was based on the decisions of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the directives of DGCA's director general, and

in support of making room for young cadres and injecting new blood into supervisory positions in DGCA.

In a press statement, Al-Rajhi said, "The Directorate General of Civil Aviation had previously addressed the Public Institution for Social Security prior to approving their retirement decisions in implementation of the organization's circulars and laws". He praised the efforts exerted by those who have been referred for retirement throughout their years of service in improving work, and their contribution to raising performance.

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On this sad occasion, we extend our  
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Chairman

**Mr. Bassim Saud Al Rashed**

&

**Mr. Khaled Saud Al Rashed**

**Mr. Essam Saud Al Rashed**

**Mr. Faisal Saud Al Rashed**

**Mr. Adnan Saud Al Rashed**

And to the bereaving Al Rashed family

*May Allah Almighty bestow mercy on his soul*

## World News Roundup

## Europe

## Peacekeeping mission

## 200 UK contingent bid to boost KFOR

BRUSSELS, Oct 7, (Agencies): The first contingent of two hundred British soldiers arrived in Kosovo on Friday to reinforce NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) peacekeeping mission.

The deployment comes after the violent attack on Kosovo Police on 24 September and increased tensions in the region, said a NATO statement tonight.

The soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment are joining a 400-strong UK contingent already in Kosovo.

The Romanian government last Tuesday announced it was also sending some 100 extra troops to bolster KFOR.

These deployments are a prudent step to ensure KFOR has the forces it needs to fulfil its UN mandate to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all people in Kosovo.

The deployment is based on a request by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe and was approved by NATO ambassadors, noted the statement.

NATO has been leading a peacekeeping operation in Kosovo since 1999 in accordance with its mandate under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. KFOR currently consists of well over 4,500 troops contributed by 27 NATO members and partners.

The NATO-led peacekeeping force on Friday called on both Kosovo and Serbia to return to the negotiating table to resolve their issues to prevent violence like the recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region.

## Help

Kosovo Force commander Maj. Gen. **Angelo Michele Ristuccia** called on both countries to "refrain from inflammatory and counterproductive rhetoric and help to create the necessary conditions for lasting security in Kosovo and across the region."

Ristuccia told a news conference that KFOR fully supported European Union-facilitated dialogue to normalize their ties.

Serbia and Kosovo have been at odds for decades. Their 1998-1999 war, which ended after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo, left more than 10,000 people dead, mostly Kosovo Albanians.

Kosovo, a former province of Serbia, declared independence in 2008 - a move that Belgrade refuses to recognize.

## Also:

**GRANADA, Spain:** European Union leaders acknowledged Friday that just as aspiring members must meet exacting criteria to join the bloc, the 27 member nations also must work hard to reform the EU to make sure it can work smoothly with 30-plus nations.

Although Ukraine was hoping for a swift timetable for joining, the 27 leaders declined to adopt a target date of 2030 for Kyiv's membership as had been proposed by EU Council President **Charles Michel**.

The group pledged unwavering support to Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** on Thursday, but the summit ended by saying that any aspiring member must complete the EU's long and tortuous merit-based process that can last years or decades. Shortcuts for geopolitical reasons were ruled out.

"Aspiring members need to step up their reform efforts, notably in the area of rule of law, in line with the merit-based nature of the accession process," said the joint declaration of the leaders. "In parallel, the Union needs to lay the necessary internal groundwork and reforms."

Avoiding any target date for new members sidestepped a rift at the summit between those who want to draw Kyiv and other aspiring nations in as quickly as possible, and others that want the bloc to bide its time, setting up difficult talks on an issue that requires unanimity among the 27 member states.

**HROZA, Ukraine:** The cafe had been closed throughout the war but reopened especially for a dead soldier's wake, and almost every household in the village sent someone to mourn the native son.

When the gathering to honor **Andrii Kozyr** was struck by a precision missile that Ukrainian officials said was fired by **Russia**, almost every household in **Hroza** in eastern **Ukraine** lost someone. The cafe was obliterated. Entire families perished in an instant. In all, 52 people died out of a population of 300. Many villagers now suspect that a local may have tipped off Russian forces.

On Friday, a day after the strike, an earth mover extended the graveyard to make room for them all. Among the dead were a couple who left behind four children, a community leader and three generations of the soldier's family, including his wife, mother and son, who also fought for Ukraine and had requested leave to attend the funeral held shortly before wake.

**LONDON:** Britain's main opposition Labour Party won an emphatic victory Friday in a special election for a Scottish district that was watched as an indicator of the party's rebounding popularity ahead of a national election next year.

Labour took the parliamentary seat of **Rutherglen and Hamilton West**, near **Glasgow**, from the Scottish National Party. The result doubles Labour's total of Scottish seats from one to two.

Labour candidate **Michael Shanks** won 17,845 votes, more than twice the number taken by SNP runner-up **Katy Loudon**. The Scottish Conservatives came a distant third.

Labour leader **Keir Starmer** called it a "seismic result."

"It was a big step in the right direction, an important one," he said.

**PARIS:** French investigative judges filed preliminary charges on Friday against former President **Nicolas Sarkozy** for his alleged involvement in an attempt to mislead magistrates in order to clear him in a case regarding the suspected illegal financing from Libya of his 2007 presidential campaign.

The preliminary charges accuse Sarkozy of "benefitting from corruptly influencing a witness" and "participating in a criminal association" in order "to mislead the magistrates in charge of the judicial investigation into suspicions of Libyan financing of his election campaign," according to a statement from the financial prosecutors' office.



At 12:00 a dove symbolising peace flies from the window of the Nobel Peace Center in connection with the announcement of the new peace prize winner, in Oslo, on Oct 6. The Nobel Peace Prize 2023 was awarded to Narges Mohammadi (inset) for fighting oppression of women in Iran. (AP)

## Jailed Iranian activist wins Peace Prize for fighting women's oppression

Imprisoned Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday in recognition of her tireless campaigning for women's rights and democracy, and against the death penalty.

Mohammadi, 51, has kept up her activism despite numerous arrests by Iranian authorities and spending years behind bars. She has remained a leading light for nationwide, women-led protests sparked by the death last year of a 22-year-old woman in police custody that have grown into one of the most

intense challenges to Iran's theocratic government.

Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, began Friday's announcement with the words "Woman, Life, Freedom" in Farsi - the slogan of the demonstrations in Iran.

"This prize is first and foremost a recognition of the very important work of a whole movement in Iran with its undisputed leader, Narges Mohammadi," Reiss-Andersen said. She also urged Iran to release Mohammadi in time for the prize ceremony

on Dec. 10.

For nearly all of Mohammadi's life, Iran has been governed by a Shiite theocracy headed by the country's supreme leader. While women hold jobs, academic positions and even government appointments, their lives are tightly controlled. Women are required by law to wear a headscarf, or hijab, to cover their hair. Iran and neighboring Afghanistan remain the only countries to mandate that. (AP)

## Politics

## Trump endorses Jordan for House speaker

## Biden criticized after border wall decision

MIAMI, Oct 7, (AP): The ad sounds like something out of the GOP 2024 playbook, trumpeting a senator's work with Republicans to crack down on the flow of fentanyl and other illegal drugs into the US getting tough on Chinese interests helping smugglers, and noting how he "wrote a bill signed by Donald Trump to increase funding for Border Patrol."

It's actually a commercial for Sen Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat facing a tough reelection fight that will help decide control of the Senate.

"Ohioans trust Sherrod Brown to keep us safe," says the narrator of the ad, sponsored by the Democrat-aligned Duty and Country PAC. His campaign declined to comment.

## Challenges

The message is one more indication of the political and security challenges the US-Mexico border has presented for President Joe Biden. Some Democrats across the country are distancing themselves from the White House, and polls indicate widespread frustration with Biden's handling of immigration and the border, creating a major liability for the president's re-election next year.

The Biden administration this week took two actions seen by many as moving to the right on immigration.

The Department of Homeland Security waived environmental and other reviews to construct new portions of a border wall in South Texas after Biden pledged during the 2020 campaign that he would build "not another foot" of wall. And US officials said they would resume deportations to Venezuela not long after the administration increased protected status for thousands of people from the country.

Both moves inflamed conservatives and liberals alike. Many Republicans accused Biden of being too late to adopt

former President Donald Trump's ideas on a border wall, while liberals who oppose additional border restrictions accused the White House of betraying campaign pledges.

"My frustration has been that we are not addressing immigration in a holistic way as a country. We are depending on the president alone," said Rep. Veronica Escobar of Texas, a Democrat who represents the border city of El Paso and is a national co-chair of the Biden re-election campaign. "We are treating people from different nationalities in a different way. And the pathways that have been created are being challenged in court consistently."

Biden has said his administration moved forward with the border wall because it was required by Congress during the Trump administration, even though he considers it ineffective. His reelection campaign pointed to Trump's record at the border, including his administration's practice of separating immigrant families as a deterrence measure and the temporary detention of children in warehouses in chain-link cells.

## Also:

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump is again testing the power of his endorsement.

With an early morning social media post on Friday, Trump inserted himself into the chaotic race to replace **Kevin McCarthy** as House Speaker by backing Ohio Rep. **Jim Jordan** for the post. The move was the latest example of Trump attempting to flex his influence within a Republican Party he has already fundamentally reshaped in the eight years since his first White House bid.

"I think he does well. I hope he does well," Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 GOP nomination, said of Jordan in a Friday interview with Real America's

Voice. "He's got competition, as you understand. And they're friendly with me, too. Very nice people and good people. We'll see what happens."

With Trump's firm grip on the GOP base, his endorsement can effectively clear the field in many congressional primaries.

**WASHINGTON:** The Biden administration is nervously watching a dispute between **Canada** and **India**, with some officials concerned it could upend the U.S. strategy toward the Indo-Pacific that is directed at blunting **China's** influence there and elsewhere.

Publicly, the administration has maintained that Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau's** allegations that the Indian government may have been involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist near **Vancouver** are a matter between the two countries.

But US officials have also repeatedly urged India to cooperate in the investigation. Those calls have been ignored thus far by **India**, which denies the allegations.

Behind the scenes, US officials say they believe **Trudeau's** claims are true. And they are worried that Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** may be adopting tactics to silence opposition figures on foreign soil akin to those used by **Russia**, **Iran**, **Saudi Arabia** and **North Korea**, all of which have faced similar accusations.

Perhaps of more concern, though, is that the **Canada-India** dispute could have major implications for one of the administration's main foreign policy priorities: the Indo-Pacific strategy, which seeks to counter **China's** increasing assertiveness in the region, according to numerous US officials who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the extreme sensitivity of the matter.



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets a customer as he visits Desi Food Mart in Cambridge, Canada on Oct 6. (AP)



Alissa



Murphy

## America

**2 hurt after bus, plane crash:** Two people were injured at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport Friday evening during an accident on the ground involving an airplane preparing for takeoff and an employee shuttle bus.

American Eagle flight 6209 operated by Air Wisconsin Airlines made contact with the bus while the plane was taxiing, American Airlines said in a statement.

Two passengers on the shuttle were transported to Ascension Resurrection hospital in Chicago with minor injuries from the accident around 7 p.m., WLS-TV reported. (AP)

**Boy stabbed to death on bus:** A 13-year-old boy was fatally stabbed during a confrontation on a New York City bus Friday, police said.

At least two teens were arguing at about 2:30 pm on the bus on Staten Island when the victim was stabbed in the chest, Chief of Patrol John Chell said at an evening briefing. The boy was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Another teen fled the bus and ran about three blocks before a retired NYPD sergeant arrested him with help from a state environmental officer and a good Samaritan, police said. (AP)

**'Man mentally competent':** A judge ruled Friday that the man accused of killing 10 people at a Colorado supermarket in a 2021 rampage is mentally competent to stand trial, allowing the stalled prosecution to move forward.

Judge Ingrid Bakke ruled that **Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa**, who has schizophrenia, is able to understand court proceedings and contribute to his own defense. Bakke presided over a hearing last week to con-

sider an August determination by experts at a state mental hospital that Alissa was competent after previous evaluations found otherwise. (AP)

**Inmate request denied:** A federal judge on Friday denied a request to stop the execution of a Texas inmate who had alleged in a lawsuit that the drugs he is to be injected with next week were exposed



NATO reinforcements arrive in Kosovo.

to extreme heat and smoke during a recent fire, making them unsafe.

The Texas Attorney General's Office says testing done after the fire on samples of the state's supplies of pentobarbital, the drug used in executions, showed they "remain potent and sterile."

**Jedidiah Murphy**, 48, is scheduled to be executed Tuesday. He was condemned for the fatal October 2000 shooting of 80-year-old **Bertie Lee Cunningham**, of Garland, a Dallas suburb, during a carjacking. (AP)

**115 bodies at funeral home:** The awful smell seeped from a neglected building in a small Colorado town for days, followed by a report that made police take a closer look at the "green" funeral operator's storage facility. Inside, they made a gruesome discovery: At least 115 decaying bodies.

Investigators were tight-lipped Friday about exactly what they found inside the Return to Nature Funeral Home in Penrose, Colorado, but their plans to bring in teams that usually deal with airline crashes, coroners from nearby jurisdictions and the FBI pointed to a grim mess. (AP)

## Subcontinent

## Flood death toll 47

## UN warns Pakistan on migrants 'crackdown'

ISLAMABAD, Oct 7, (AP) — Forcibly deporting Afghans from Pakistan could lead to severe human rights violations including the separation of families and deportation of minors, the United Nations warned Saturday.

Pakistan recently announced a crackdown on migrants living in the country illegally, including 1.7 million Afghans, telling them to return to their home countries by Oct 31 to avoid mass arrest and expulsion.

The government denies targeting Afghans and says the focus is on people who are in the country illegally, regardless of their nationality. It said it is setting up a hotline and offering rewards to people who tip off authorities about such migrants.

The UN agencies said Afghanistan is going through a severe humanitarian crisis with several rights challenges, particularly for women and girls, who are banned by the Taliban from education beyond sixth grade, most public spaces and many jobs.

"Such plans would have serious implications for all who have been forced to leave the country and may face serious protection risks upon return," it said, referring to Pakistan's crackdown.

They acknowledged Pakistan's "sovereign prerogative" over domestic policies and said they are ready to help register and manage Afghan nationals, including those who may be in need of international protection.

The International Organization for Migration and UN Refugee Agency called on countries to "suspend forcible returns of Afghan nationals and ensure any possible returns to the country take place in a safe, dignified and voluntary manner."

Landlords and real estate owners in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, have received notices telling them to evict "illegal Afghans" and their families by the end of the month or face action.

Police have asked clerics in some of the city's mosques to tell worshippers of their duty to inform on Afghans in their neighborhoods.

## Arrested

Over 2,000 people were arrested across the country since the crackdown began earlier this week.

Police in southern Sindh province have detained some 1,100 Afghan nationals, according to Inspector General **Riffat Mukhtar**. He said the courts released about 300 after they provided their documents. The rest remain in prison awaiting deportation to Afghanistan.

In Islamabad, police are using social media and TV tickers to create public awareness about the anti-migrant policy, said force spokesperson Taqi Jawad. He said police have so far not used mosques and clerics for this purpose.

Of the 1,126 Afghans detained in Islamabad during the past few days, 503 have been charged with staying in the country illegally. They will stay behind bars until their deportation said Jawad, who denied that officers are harassing Afghans.

The information minister in the southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan, Jan Achakzai, said hundreds of Afghan families have voluntarily left the country and crossed the border since the announcement. Authorities have detained more than 100 people, including Afghans and Iranians, he said.

Rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan have criticized the crackdown.

Pakistan has been a haven for Afghan refugees since millions fled Afghanistan during the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation, creating one of the world's largest refugee populations. More Afghans have fled since then, including an estimated 100,000 since the Taliban seized control of the country in August 2021.

Although Pakistani security forces and police have routinely arrested and deported Afghans who have entered the country without valid documents in recent years, this is the first time the government has announced plans for such a major crackdown.

It comes amid a spike in attacks by the Pakistani Taliban, or TTP, who have hideouts and bases in Afghanistan but regularly cross into Pakistan to stage attacks on its security forces.

Pakistan has long demanded that the Taliban authorities in Afghanistan cease their support for the TTP, which is a separate group but allied with the Afghan Taliban.

The Taliban denies providing sanctuary to the TTP.

## Also:

**GANGTOK, India:** Rescuers found more bodies overnight as they dug through slushy debris and ice-cold water in a hunt for survivors after a glacial lake burst through a dam in India's Himalayan northeast, washing away houses and bridges and forcing thousands to flee.

Officials said the hundreds of rescuers recovered six more bodies early Saturday, bringing the death toll to 47. At least 150 people are still missing.

The flood began shortly after midnight Wednesday, when the waters of a glacial lake overflowed, cracking open the biggest hydroelectric dam in Sikkim state. The icy waters then cascaded through towns in the valley below, where it killed scores of people and carried some bodies kilometers (miles) away downstream, where they were found in the neighboring state of West Bengal and Bangladesh, police said.

Police said nearly 4,000 tourists were stranded in two locations, **Lachung** and **Lachen** in the northern part of the state, where access was severely restricted as the floods had washed away roads. But the bad weather has made rescue efforts more challenging, with authorities unable to deploy helicopters to assist those stuck in vulnerable areas.

Some 3,900 people were currently in 26 relief camps set up by the state, Chief Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** said on Saturday. He added that seven out of the 22 Indian army soldiers who were reported missing had died.

It wasn't clear what triggered the deadly flood in the mountainous Sikkim state, the latest to hit northeast India in a year of unusually heavy monsoon rains. Nearly 50 people died in flash floods and landslides in August in nearby **Himachal Pradesh** state. In July, record rains killed more than 100 people over two weeks in northern India.

Experts pointed to intense rain and a 6.2 magnitude earthquake that struck nearby Nepal on Tuesday afternoon as possible contributors.



Afghan families wait to board into a bus to depart for their homeland, in Karachi, Pakistan, on Oct 6. Pakistan's government announced a major crackdown Tuesday on migrants in the country illegally, saying it would expel them starting next month and raising alarm among foreigners without documentation who include an estimated 1.7 million Afghans. (AP)

## Lat/Am



Forensics work over bodies at the scene of a bus accident on the side of the road near Villa de Tepelmeme, Oaxaca state, Mexico, on Oct 6. (AP)

## Quake hits southern Mexico:

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake shook southern Mexico Friday night, setting off alarms as far away as Mexico City, but without immediate reports of damage.

The US Geological Survey said the earthquake occurred shortly after 11 p.m. local time near the town of Matias Romero in the southern state of Oaxaca. It was at a depth of 67 miles (108 kilometers).

Oaxaca state's civil defense agency said it was monitoring for reports of damage. (AP)

**16 dead in Mexico bus crash:** At least 16 migrants from Venezuela and Haiti died early Friday in a bus crash in southern Mexico, authorities said.

Mexico's National Immigration In-

stitute originally reported 18 dead, but later lowered that figure. Prosecutors in the southern state of Oaxaca later said there had been an overcount due to some of the bodies being dismembered, and that the real death toll was 16.

Both sources said the dead include two women and three children, and that 29 people were injured. There was no immediate information on their condition. (AP)

**'No more room in NY':** New York City Mayor Eric Adams brought a mix of messages to central Mexico's Puebla state Thursday, trying carefully to walk the line for a city known for welcoming migrants from around the world, but currently struggling with an influx of asylum seekers.

Inside Puebla's ornate state con-

gress building, decked floor-to-ceiling in cream-yellow Portuguese tiles broken only by Greco-Roman columns, Adams focused on the ties binding his city and a Mexican state that has sent some 800,000 of its people to New York over the years. (AP)

**Six Colombians arrested:** Six Colombians arrested as the alleged assassins of a candidate in Ecuador's August presidential election were slain Friday inside a prison in Guayaquil, officials announced, without providing details on what happened.

The prison authority said only that six prisoners killed inside Litoral Penitentiary were the men "charged with the murder of former presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio." (AP)

## Asia

**'Fires not causing haze':** Indonesia denied Friday that forest and peat fires on Sumatra and Borneo islands were causing the haze in Malaysia, after the neighboring government sent a letter complaining about the air quality and asking for both countries to work together to deal with the blazes.

Forest and peat fires are an annual problem in Indonesia that strains relations with neighboring countries. In recent years, smoke from the fires has blanketed parts of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and southern Thailand.

Some parts of Malaysia said they experienced smoke from the Indonesian blazes since last week, but the Indonesian government denied its fires are the cause.

"Until now there is no transboundary haze. No cross-border smoke. I don't know what basis Malaysia uses to make these statements," Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister **Siti Nurbaya Bakar** told The Associated Press. (AP)

**Court rejects Suu Kyi appeal:** Myanmar's Supreme Court on Friday declined to hear special appeals from the country's ousted leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** against her convictions in six corruption cases where she was found guilty of abusing her authority and accepting bribes, a legal official said.



Suu Kyi

The 78-year-old Suu Kyi, who was arrested when the army toppled her elected government in February 2021, is serving prison sentences totaling 27 years after being convicted of a string of criminal charges mostly brought by the military.

Her supporters and independent analysts say the charges, all of which have been contested by Suu Kyi and her lawyers, are bogus and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power. (AP)

**Chinese ship behavior hit:** A Chinese coast guard ship came within a meter (3 feet) of colliding with a Philippine patrol ship it was trying to block in the South China Sea, in an alarming incident that intensified fears that territorial disputes in the waters could spark a larger crisis.

The Philippines on Friday strongly condemned the Chinese ship's maneuvers near Second Thomas Shoal, which the Asian neighbors both claim and has been the scene of frequent confrontations.

One other Philippine coast guard vessel was blocked and surrounded by Chinese coast guard and militia ships in the incident, which dragged on for about eight hours on Wednesday. (AP)

**'NKorea may launch spy sat':** North Korea may launch its military spy satellite between Tuesday and Oct. 26 following its previous two failed launches, Yonhap News Agency reported Friday, citing a South Korean state-run think tank.

"Pyongyang is likely to try to launch its spy satellite ahead of South Korea's attempt. The North appears to prioritize delivering a political message with the satellite launch, rather than perfecting technical aspects," the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul said. North Korea will celebrate Oct. 10 as the 78th founding anniversary of its ruling Workers' Workers' Party.

North Korea launched a military spy satellite, which mounted on the Chollima-1 rocket in May and August, but both ended in failure. North Korea has announced it will make a third attempt in October. (KUNA)

## Condolences

The Partners, Management  
and Staff of



**Kuwait Int'l Shipchangers  
& Marine Services Co.**

expresses profound sorrow  
on the sad demise of

**Saud Abdulaziz  
Abdulmohsin Al Rashed**

who passed away on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October.

On this sad occasion, we extend  
our heartfelt condolences to our  
Director

**Mr. Bassim Saud Al Rashed  
&  
Mr. Khaled Saud Al Rashed  
Mr. Essam Saud Al Rashed  
Mr. Faisal Saud Al Rashed  
Mr. Adnan Saud Al Rashed**

And to the bereaving

**Al Rashed family**

*May Allah Almighty bestow mercy on his soul*

## crude drops

The Kuwaiti crude oil price fell USD 1.48 during Friday's trading to reach USD 87.85 per barrel, compared with USD 89.33 the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Saturday.

Brent futures rose by 51 cents to USD 84.58 pb and West Texas Intermediate went up by 48 cents to USD 82.79 pb. (KUNA)

## Iraq inks deal with Turkmenistan

Iraqi Minister of Electricity Ziad Ali signed on Friday a memo to import natural gas from Turkmenistan.

According to the memorandum of understanding, inked with Turkmenistan's Minister of State for Gas Affairs Maksat Babayev, Iraq will import "huge amounts of gas" from Turkmenistan to fuel the power plans. The statement indicated that

the two sides had held rounds of talks ahead of signing the memo to tackle logistical issues and mechanisms. It did not mention exact amount of gas Baghdad plans to get from the Asian country.

Iraq, which imports some gas from Iran, suffers from shortage of gas particularly at peak of power consumption in summer. (KUNA)

## Egypt signs USD 34 mln agreements with Italy

Minister of International Cooperation Rania Al-Mashat inked on Friday seven accords funded by the Italian government at USD 34 million to support development in the country -- to be executed by UN agencies and the World Bank.

The ministry said in a statement said these agreements were in line with bi-

lateral cooperation between the two countries to boost development in the sectors of education, medical services for women and children, rural women economic empowerment, combating child labor, start-ups and fighting climatic change.

Al-Mashat said during the inking ceremony that the accord reflected cooperation

between Egypt and several parties to back up development in diverse sectors, lauding the cooperation with Rome for funding projects in food security, energy, water, higher education, civil society and others.

The agreements were co-signed by the Italian ambassador and representatives of UN agencies. (KUNA)

## Market Movements

06-10-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts				
UK	-	FTSE 100	+43.04	7,494.58	JAPAN	-	Nikkei	-80.69	30,994.67
EUROPE	-	Euro Stoxx 50	+44.62	4,144.43					
PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	+81.35	6,259.95					

# Business

## Annual celebration in commemoration of World Investor Week

## Boursa Kuwait organizes ESG workshop for capital market participants

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Boursa Kuwait, the State of Kuwait's official stock exchange, organized an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) workshop for capital market participants on Monday, October 2, 2023, in collaboration with Sustainable Square, a consulting firm based in the United Arab Emirates. The workshop shed light on the latest trends and practices in the fields of ESG and corporate sustainability and highlighted the growing importance of these two factors on how investors across the international community base their decision-making.

The workshop was also held in commemoration of World Investor Week, an annual celebration that commenced on Monday. During the seventh iteration of the week, which runs from the 2nd to the 8th of October, securities regulators, IOSCO members and other stakeholders will promote investor education and protection.

This year's campaign focuses on the main themes of Investor Resilience and Sustainable Finance, complemented by other themes such as Frauds and Scams Prevention, Basics of Investing, and Technology and Digital Finance. Participating IOSCO members have also identified themes relevant to their capital markets.

Speaking on behalf of Boursa Kuwait, the company's Head of Markets, Noura Al-Abdulkareem said, "Boursa Kuwait has strived to raise



Photos during the Environmental, Social and Governance workshop organized by Boursa Kuwait in collaboration with Sustainable Square.

the awareness of the Kuwaiti capital market's participants and ensure that our market is aware of the latest trends, standards and practices followed by the international investment community, including those in the field of ESG reporting and corporate sustainability."

She added, "This workshop is a continuation of the exchange's efforts

over the past few years to help professionals in the capital market industry understand ESG reporting and its importance, shedding light on various frameworks and standards. I would like to thank Sustainable Square for their valuable insights into this field and look forward to more collaborations in the future."

Speaking on behalf of Sustainable

Square, the company's Group CEO, Mr. Monaem Ben Lellahom said, "The partnership with Boursa Kuwait underscores Sustainable Square's unwavering commitment to elevating ESG standards regionally and globally. Together, we are not only creating value for issuers but also catalyzing a shift towards a more responsible and sustainable business ecosystem

in the Kuwaiti economy. I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for this opportunity, and I look forward to more collaborations in the future.

The initiative forms part of Boursa Kuwait's efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates as part of its Corporate Sustainability strategy and ongoing efforts to equip all market partici-

pants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors' needs. It is also in line with Goal 4 - Quality Education - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# Developing Kuwait's industrial scene part of the state's vision

### Diversifying non-oil income paves way for economic growth

By Sultan Al-Ajmi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait, through its development vision, had set a course towards cultivating the talents and developing the industrial sector in the country.

The various challenges that the world went through had Kuwaitis realize that expanding non-oil income was a necessity to seek progress and bolster the economy.

The Kuwaiti industrial sector, throughout the years, achieved strategic security for the country, covering the national need for a variety of products including food and medical commodities.

Speaking to KUNA on the issue, acting director general of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI) Mohammad Al-Adwani said that the authority took heed of the government's vision to diversify income in the non-oil sector, revealing that the authority had future plans to implement technical decisions to bring Kuwaiti products to up to standard in terms of energy consuming and efficacy.

### Legislation

He stressed that it was important to establish laws and legislation to create an independent entity for specification and standards to ensure the best quality for products and support national production.

Al-Adwani revealed that the PAI had taken a strong stride towards establishing such an entity in a similar fashion to other countries in the region.

On his part, the head of specification and standards at PAI Falah Al-Hajraf said that the authority was keen on encouraging local industries to create products of exceptional standards.

Such encouragement would boost the national economy and commerce, he affirmed, adding that this procedure would close the commercial gap between Kuwait and the global market.

He added that PAI conducted regular national inspections of factories to ensure that they were following national guidelines for products and safety measures.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of the Kuwait Industries Union (KIU) Huda Al-Baqshi said that the industrial sector was very vital for all countries, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic had reflected the necessity of such sector in diversifying the income and developing the economic scene.

She affirmed that the Kuwaiti industrial sector had promising poten-

## Other Voices

# How low will the oil price go?

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

THE oil price has dropped more than \$6 per barrel in one day from its high of \$92 to \$84 currently.

All of a sudden, the markets switched, shocking the oil producers, as they were anticipating the price to reach the \$100 level.

The questions now are - How will the oil ministers face their superiors who were assured that the oil price will not go below \$90 since OPEC+ is in full command? Marketing forces collided, claiming that OPEC+ will go into some sort of panic mode. What are the factors behind such a switch that brought the oil price to the \$80 level? Is it the consumers' reaction to the surge in oil prices, and the fear of inflation? Or did the increase in banking rates make everything more expensive, which led almost every consumer to stop spending and focus their attention on curtailing their buying habits?

We repeat, the drop in oil prices by almost ten percent in just a single day is an indication of panic and of oil scarcity in the coming days. The demand for oil did not drop much, due to which this one-day price reduction is hard to understand.

It is known at the same time that the USA administration desires to fill up its strategic reserve, which has reached the lowest level compared to the past many years, especially with the winter season knocking on the doors. Could this factor be the main cause for oil price reduction? Nevertheless, filling up the strategic reserve should have been the factor to keep oil prices firm and not the cause for their reduction.

Could it be the fear of rising prices? The world economy as a whole looks healthy. The US job growth is still on, and the demand is strong. However, the fear of

higher gasoline prices, coupled with inflation, puts oil prices under pressure. Perhaps, it is the speculators who are playing the markets with their own marketing tools, in defiance to the resolutions of the OPEC+.

Now what action is available for OPEC+? It will certainly be to go along with their production cuts until the end of this year. This would be better, as all members seem to agree to maintain the production cuts into next year without any hesitation. Perhaps with further reductions, it might bring back oil prices to the \$90 level. Nevertheless, it looks like the level of \$100 a barrel seems far away.

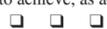
The shocking element is how the oil market became so fragile that in one day, the price dropped by ten percent, and the oil organization simply can't do anything about it.

The US oil producers are reluctant to increase production and are awaiting OPEC+ to correct the prices. They will stay on the sidelines as long as they are making money, distributing profits and dividends, and buying stocks. The best scenario available to them, leaving the rest to OPEC+.

The weakening of oil prices may bring some other ideas and plans to OPEC+, which will be thinking out of the box if the demand for oil is on track, and with no impact of switching to other non-fossil fuels. Further cuts are on the table to keep oil prices at a respectful level for covering the cost of investments in new oils, as well as protecting and working on recovering the cost of banks' interest rates to balance their books by the end of the fiscal year of OPEC+.

Perhaps, the oil producers lost track in anticipation of the arrival of the \$100 level, which now looks too far away.

OPEC+ is in need to sit around the table and think out of the box to ensure a level of \$90 per barrel, which their bosses are adamant to achieve, as advised before.



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Al-Harami

tial, adding that the sector had achieved its goals in organizing the flow of necessities and products in the local market.

She revealed that the KIU had launched an initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic via establishing warehouses and administrative facilities for the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers via utilizing locally produced material.

On the amount of bank funding for the industrial sector, chairman of the board for the Industrial Bank of Kuwait (IBK) Musab Al-Nisf revealed that the bank had provided, since its establishment in 1974, around USD 1.44 billion in loans for industrial projects and facilities until the second quarter of

2023. He said that the period between 1974 and 2022 saw the construction industry coming in first with 21.6 percent of loans, followed by the oil and gas industry by 11.6 percent, and food production by 9.9 percent in third place.

The IBK is keen on also supporting industrial ventures by Kuwaiti youth, Al-Nisf affirmed, noting that until June 30, 2023 the IBK had funded 2,197 small industrial projects with investments of KD 255 million.

Al-Nisf added that around KD 193.4 million were approved to fund small project portfolios with the total amount and investment costs reaching 75.85 percent.

## Honorees commended

## CBK and IBS honor graduates of 'Cybersecurity Leaders Program'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Under the patronage of Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Chairman of the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS), IBS honored the graduates of the 3rd cohort of the "Cybersecurity Leaders Program" held from 16 July to 05 October 2023.

It is part of the strategic cooperation with SANS Academy (Cybersecurity Training Institute) and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS). This program is part of "Kafaa" initiative launched by CBK in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks to develop and qualify national cadres through the management of the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies since 2018, the CBK said in a press release.

The CBK and the Institute has commended the honorees for passing this significant program and called on them to pursue further education and qualification to keep abreast with the international developments and to deliver the necessary skills for preserving and protecting networks, systems, applications and infrastructure.

### Collaboration

Furthermore, the institute has stressed that CBK, in collaboration with banks, shall continue to support education, training and qualitative qualification to provide competencies and distinguished cadres needed for growth of the national economy, whether through the institutes programs or Kafaa initiative, according to the release.

Additionally, the CBK is constantly seeking through IBS to collaborate with the best international professional institutions to offer training programs and activities, particularly the Kafaa initiative programs, in line with the highest international standards, it added.

Within this framework, CBK has contracted with SANS Cybersecurity Training Institute Academy, an internationally leading and accredited training academy that offers professional certificates in the field of cybersecurity, and cooperated with BISs Cyber Resilience Coordination Center, which the most well-established global financial institution actively engaged in developing the global financial market by taking advantage of CBKs mem-

bership to give specialized lectures and trainings on the topic of protecting and securing the financial and banking systems.

The "Cybersecurity Leaders" program comprised practical and professional training and specialized tests from SANS Institute Academy to obtain international certificates (GIAC) in cybersecurity, develop various skills in this field, including acquiring knowledge on the fundamentals of protecting and securing networks, systems, and applications, training on hacker tools and techniques, and acquiring cyber incident management skills, it said.

Moreover, SANS offers insights on developments in the field of cybersecurity worldwide by providing specialized workshops with several experts in cybersecurity who work in security companies or relevant international institutions, it noted.

The program mainly included, throughout all its stages, live exercises on protecting and securing networks, systems, financial and banking infrastructure, and others (Cyber Range Exercises) and (CTF...Capture the Flag) competitions. These training delivery models are the ideal ways to train and acquire the necessary cyber skills in work environments, according to the release.

It is worth noting that the participants in this program work within various bodies from inside and outside the banking sector. Such participants are graduates and fresh cadres, with the active participation of Kuwaiti women, representing approximately 25 percent of the total number of participants.

Thus, achieving CBKs strategy to qualify national cadres specialized in cybersecurity and empowering women, which is a strategy that is not merely limited to the consolidation of the banking sector, but also the consolidation of all other institutions and sectors in the State of Kuwait.

A number of participants spoke about their experience in the program and the knowledge they acquired, and expressed their gratitude and appreciation to CBK, IBS and their employers who believed and invested in them.

In conclusion, certificates were distributed to all participants.

## Kuwait renews commitment to ICT's role in achieving SDGs

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait on Friday renewed commitment to boosting the role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), hoping these technologies would help build a better future for all.

This came in a speech delivered by Diplomatic Attache at Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York Ali Al-Khrabit before the UN General Assembly's Second Committee session on information and telecommunications technologies.

The Kuwaiti diplomat noted that the ICTs play a major role in implement-

ing sustainable development goals by providing the necessary tools and technologies to enhance economic growth and improve education, health, and environment protection.

He pointed out that Kuwait seeks meet the needs and fill the gaps in information and communications technologies.

Al-Khrabit stated that Kuwait established the Government Communication Center in 2019 to upgrade the government communication tools and achieve integration and coordination between government agencies to keep pace with the process of development and renaissance that Kuwait is witnessing.

He highlighted the effective role of the center in responding quickly to developments and managing crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which demonstrated the urgent need to develop information and communications technology and to accelerate transition to a digital society.

"We are still far from achieving comprehensive development, especially in ICTs," he said, noting that half of the world's population has no access to ICTs especially in the least developed countries, which must be integrated into the digital world to meet the goals of sustainable development.

### 'Responsible Investors: Dump Gilead'

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) has launched a new advertisement in its ongoing campaign against Gilead Sciences' incessant greed.

The full-page, full-color newspaper ad debuts this Sunday, October 8th, in the San Francisco Chronicle and New Jersey's Daily Record and will run weekly through at least November. AHF also has sent letters to financial institutions that manage socially

responsible investment funds urging them to divest their portfolios of Gilead stock holdings.

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### EU voices satisfaction over results of joint gas purchases

The European Union has expressed satisfaction over the results of the three rounds of EU's joint gas purchase.

"The third tender for the common purchase of gas closed on Wednesday at six p.m. with excellent results" European Commission Executive Vice-President Maros Sefcovic, in charge of the European Green Deal, told a press conference today.

"Since we set up the EU Energy Platform in the spring of 2022, it has been a central part of our efforts to boost our energy security and accelerate the EU's diversification

away from Russian gas," he said.

The third round "brought us a record in aggregated demand - 16,49 billion cubic meters, based on requests submitted by 39 European companies. This proves that companies are interested in joint purchase of gas as an opportunity to improve security of supply and negotiate better prices," he said. The supplies offered amounted to 18.1 billion cubic meters of gas. This is similar to the first round where the amount reached 18.7 bcm, and represents an increase on the second round, which

reached 15.19 bcm.

The total supplier bids of the three tenders amount to more than 50 billion cubic meters. And the total demand matched is now more than 34 bcm.

Overall, the EU Energy Platform is delivering consistently excellent results in aggregating demand and coordinating the purchase of natural gas, noted the EU official. "I am glad to announce that for the third time in a row, the EU Energy Platform has delivered the goods," Sefcovic added. (KUNA)

### US Senate leader raises trade and fentanyl

# 1st congressional visit to China since 2019 kicks off

SHANGHAI, Oct 7, (AP): A senior American lawmaker, leading the first congressional trip to China in four years, said Saturday that the U.S. does not want to cut economic ties with the world's second-largest economy but seeks a level playing field so that American companies can compete freely.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and five other senators arrived in Shanghai earlier in the day on a three-country tour that will also take them to South Korea and Japan. The trip comes amid a sharp deterioration in relations between the U.S. and China and as officials try to lay the groundwork for a possible meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping in November.

"We are prepared to compete but we do not seek to conflict," Schumer told Shanghai's Communist Party chief shortly after the delegation's arrival.

The party head, Chen Jining, avoided specific issues in his public remarks, saying that a healthy and stable China-U.S. relationship would benefit the entire world. He noted the presence of 5,640 American companies in Shanghai, and said he is happy to have the opportunity to discuss how to promote trade at the local level.

The U.S. has placed tariff and other trade restrictions on China over national security, human rights and other concerns and blocked access to advanced semiconductors and other key technologies. China has accused the U.S. of seeking to contain its economic development as it emerges as a global power and potential threat to the U.S.-led international order.

#### Opportunity

Schumer said the U.S. wants the Chinese people to have increased economic opportunity but that many Americans feel China does not treat U.S. companies fairly.

"We believe we need reciprocity allowing American companies to compete as freely in China as Chinese companies are able to compete here," he said.

A series of high-ranking Biden administration officials have met their Chinese counterparts in Beijing in recent months, but Schumer and his colleagues are the first American lawmakers to make the trip since China lifted its COVID-19 restrictions in December of last year.

The delegation of three Democrats and three Republicans landed on a U.S. government jet on an overcast and windy afternoon. The Republicans were led by Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo, the senior member of his party on the Senate Finance Committee. Schumer is a New York Democrat.

China, in a statement earlier this week, said it hoped the visit would "contribute to a more objective understanding of China in the U.S. Congress."

### Holiday travel returns to pre-pandemic levels

## China's flagging economy gets a temporary boost

BEIJING, Oct 7, (AP): Chinese tourists jammed popular sites as travel bounced back to pre-pandemic levels during a recent eight-day national holiday, giving a temporary boost to China's flagging economy.

The government said that tourism revenues reached about 753 billion yuan (\$103 billion) during the combined Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday period that ended Friday, a rise of 1.5% over 2019 and 130% compared to last year when pandemic restrictions were still in place.

China maintained locked-downs and other restrictions much longer than most other countries, enforcing a "zero-COVID" policy until last December. But a hoped-for consumer spending boom after the lifting of restrictions hasn't materialized, as many Chinese remain cautious with an unfolding real estate crisis weighing on the economy and youth unemployment topping 20%.

That didn't stop tourists from flocking to the Great Wall and the teeming pedestrian-only shopping streets in Shanghai, Beijing and other cities. Few wore protective masks in shoulder-to-shoulder crowds in night markets and other popular destinations.

Planes and high-speed trains were heavily booked over the holiday. The tourism ministry said that 826 million domestic trips were made, up 4.1%

Schumer also raised the issue of Chinese companies that have stopped making fentanyl but which the U.S. government says continue to supply the ingredients for production of the opioid in Mexico.

"They are fueling the fentanyl crisis that is poisoning communities across the United States," he said. "Every one of us knows families who have lost young men and women to fentanyl."

China has said that it maintains strict control of the chemicals to ensure they are not exported for illegal purposes and that the U.S. should stop shifting the blame for its failure to curb drug abuse.

In a reminder of the tensions between the two countries, China's commerce ministry said on Saturday that new U.S. restrictions placed on 42 Chinese companies were "a typical act of economic coercion and unilateral bullying."

The U.S. Commerce Department added the Chinese companies and sev-

en others to its entity list on Friday. It said the companies supplied "U.S.-origin" semiconductors that Russia uses for missile guidance systems and drones in the war against Ukraine. American companies cannot export to organizations on the entity list without obtaining a special license.

A Chinese international relations expert said that Schumer's visit is a sign of improvement in China-U.S. relations. The senators hope to meet Xi in Beijing during their visit.

"If the talks proceed well, there is the possibility that President Xi will meet Schumer," said Wang Yiwei, director of the Institute of International Affairs at Renmin University of China. "If their meeting is realized, the chances for a Xi-Biden meeting will become greater."

The White House has been in touch with Schumer and supports the delegation's visit to the region, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said after the trip was announced.

Domestic tourism benefited somewhat from a slower recovery in international travel as people chose to travel at home. The number of flights to and from China remains below pre-pandemic levels, and reports of overseas crime and scams - including a recent mall shooting in Thailand - may be deterring some from venturing outside the country.

China's border authorities processed 11.8 million entries and exits during the recent holiday, a nearly three-fold increase over last year when people entering China still faced mandatory quarantine, but only 85% of the total in 2019, the National Immigration Administration said.

Booking agency Trip.com said that outbound travel volume during the holiday was more than eight times higher than in 2022. Popular destinations included Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea, and travel to more distant countries such as Switzerland, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and France grew compared to the last major national holiday in May.

China's economy has shown signs of a possible emergence from its post-pandemic malaise recently, recording its first expansion in factory activity in six months.

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Development points to job market's enduring resilience

### Failure a sizable setback for US admin

## Despite support for Kyiv aid in Congress, no one could muscle \$6 billion to passage

WASHINGTON, Oct 7, (AP): The collapse of Ukraine aid in Congress was months in the making, and exactly what Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell had feared.

McConnell had warned that political support for Ukraine was in danger as a small but vocal contingent of fellow Republican lawmakers intensified their efforts against sending U.S. money overseas for the fight against Russia.

First in a series of high-profile speeches this summer then in direct overtures to the White House, the Republican leader who had visited Kyiv and put a priority on U.S. support for Ukraine tried to steer the hard-right flank of his party.

But in the end, neither McConnell nor the White House nor Democrats in Congress could muscle a scaled-back \$6 billion military and civilian aid package for Ukraine to passage in last week's deal to avoid a U.S. government shutdown.

Despite overwhelming bipartisan support in Washington for stopping Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion, the failure to approve Ukraine aid was a sizable setback for an administration seeking to lead a Western alliance to protect the young democracy as the fighting grinds on.

It also shows the perils ahead in Washington as a hardened band of Republican lawmakers who are just a minority in Congress - many allied with Donald Trump, the party's 2024

swers about Friday's job report.

The Fed has raised its benchmark short-term rate 11 times since last year to about 5.4%, the highest in 22 years - the fastest pace of rate hikes in four decades. The increases are intended to slow borrowing and spending by businesses and consumers, thereby cooling growth. When employers added just 105,000 jobs in June, economists had expected further modest gains to come. Instead, hiring has rebounded with vigor.

There are several likely reasons why: Millions of people have started job hunting in the past year, pulled into

presidential front-runner - flex their power to overcome the will of the majority. The next steps are highly uncertain.

"It does worry me," President Joe Biden acknowledged last week. "But I know there are a majority of members in the House and Senate - both parties - who have said that they support funding Ukraine."

Biden said he is preparing to deliver a major speech on U.S. aid to Ukraine and has a plan in the works to ensure the flow of assistance after the upheaval on Capitol Hill, which was punctuated by the ouster of the Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

#### Regroups

As Washington regroups, the sudden shift has unleashed political blame over the inability of the White House and Congress to work around the small but intensifying minority of lawmakers who are putting aid in jeopardy.

"Not another penny for Ukraine!" wrote Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Greene, a top Trump ally, arguing money should be spent on securing the U.S. border with Mexico instead.

McConnell, R-Ky., had been trying to build support Ukraine for months, ever since he met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv in May.

The senator gave repeated floor speeches, talked with allies overseas and made the case his priority among colleagues on Capitol Hill, where Zelenskyy received a hero's welcome

the job market by strong demand for workers and higher pay. Others have likely been drawn in by financial stress they feel from higher prices. Immigration has also rebounded after COVID-era restrictions were lifted.

As a result, more workers are available to fill millions of open positions. This trend has lessened the labor shortages that many employers complained about since the recovery from the 2020 pandemic and enabled some companies to finally catch up to their previous employment levels. In September, for example, restaurants and bars added

last year and visited with a follow-up appeal weeks before the funding show-down.

But after the White House announced Biden's \$24 billion request for Ukraine aid in August, McConnell knew it would not have the support needed to pass, according to a person familiar with the situation and granted anonymity to discuss it.

McConnell had met with a group of Republican defense hawks in the Senate before the end of September deadline to fund the government or risk a shutdown, which would typically be the time to also pass the White House's spending request for Ukraine.

But the GOP senators left McConnell with the understanding the support for Ukraine funding overall would be lacking.

A week before the deadline, McConnell told the Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, on a Friday call that it "would be impossible" for Congress to pass the full \$24 billion request, said the person familiar with the situation.

Instead, McConnell encouraged the White House to look "strongly" at whether it could rely on sending Ukraine aid through existing ways for transferring or reprogramming money in the short term, the person said.

The White House, in a series of conversations with McConnell's team over the weekend, considered smaller amounts of funding and insisted that the Ukraine aid was vital.

ed 61,000 positions, finally restoring their pre-pandemic levels of payrolls.

Likewise, hospitals, child care centers and government agencies are still adding workers as they seek to rebuild their staffs after having lost workers during COVID.

"We've seen a very impressive rebound in the labor supply," said Sarah House, senior economist at Wells Fargo. "After a downturn, there's a lot of consternation about to what extent workers will come back. And what we've seen is that workers do respond to a strong jobs market."

### Exchange's co-founder tells jury

## Bankman-Fried stole customer funds from the beginning of FTX

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (AP): Sam Bankman-Fried authorized the illegal use of FTX customers' funds and assets to plug financial gaps at an affiliated hedge fund from the exchange's earliest days, FTX's co-founder Gary Wang told a New York jury on Friday, as prosecutors pressed their case that Bankman-Fried was the mastermind behind one of the biggest frauds in U.S. history.

Eventually, the losses at the hedge fund, Alameda Research, became so large that there was no way to hide them any longer, Wang said in his second day of testimony.

"FTX was not fine," Wang said, referring to the now-infamous tweet that Bankman-Fried wrote only a few days before the exchange filed for bankruptcy in November 2022.

Prosecutors allege that Bankman-Fried, 31, stole billions of dollars from investors and customers in order to fund a lavish lifestyle in The Bahamas and buy the influence of politicians, celebrities and the public.

Wang was FTX's chief technology officer and is part of what has been referred to as the "inner circle" of FTX executives who have agreed to testify against Bankman-Fried in exchange for leniency in their own criminal cases. He is expected to finish his testimony Tuesday. Wang has pleaded guilty to wire fraud, securities and commodities fraud as part of his agreement with prosecutors.

Prosecutors hope to have Caroline Ellison, the former CEO of Alameda and Bankman-Fried's ex-girlfriend, take the stand Tuesday.

Wang and Bankman-Fried started Alameda in 2017, then founded FTX in 2019.

#### Direction

Wang told the jury that, at the direction of Bankman-Fried, he inserted code into FTX's operations that would give Alameda Research the ability to make nearly unlimited withdrawals from FTX and have a line of credit up to \$65 billion. Alameda was given these privileges initially because the hedge fund was the primary market maker for FTX's customers in the exchange's early days.

Alameda took advantage of its unlimited withdrawal capabilities and lines of credit from the start, Wang said, in the forms of cryptocurrencies as well as dollars. Initially it was only a few million dollars but grew over the years.

"It withdrew more funds than it had on exchange," Wang said adding that the money that it withdrew "was money from (FTX) customers."

The relationship was effectively a two-way street, where the exchange could help out the hedge fund and vice versa as FTX quickly grew between 2019 and 2022. At one point, when a loophole in FTX's software was exploited to cause hundreds of millions of dollars in paper losses on a particular cryptocurrency, Wang said Bankman-Fried ordered that loss to be moved onto Alameda's balance sheet because FTX's financial condition was more visible to the public while Alameda's balance sheet was not.

Alameda's deep financial ties to FTX were in contrast to Bankman-Fried's public statements that the hedge fund was "no different" from any other FTX customer.

#### Leading

The losses at Alameda reached as much as \$14 billion in the months leading up to the exchange's bankruptcy. Bankman-Fried and Wang discussed solutions to the problems at Alameda in the summer of 2022, including shutting down the hedge fund, but by then it was too late.

"(Alameda) had no way of repaying this," Wang testified.

FTX filed for bankruptcy Nov. 11. Wang testified that, within hours of FTX filing for bankruptcy, Bankman-Fried ordered him to send the bulk of FTX's remaining assets to the securities regulators in The Bahamas instead of to the U.S. authorities handling the bankruptcy.

Bankman-Fried said the Bahamian regulators "seemed more friendly to him, and they seemed more likely to let him stay in control of the company compared to the U.S.," Wang testified.

Following this exchange, Wang contacted the FBI on Nov. 17, saying he knew what he had done was wrong and he wanted to avoid a long prison sentence for his crimes.

In opening statements this week, Bankman-Fried's lawyers claimed that Wang and other FTX lieutenants failed to do their jobs, including setting up appropriate financial hedges that would have protected FTX from last year's crash in crypto prices. They said Bankman-Fried believed he was managing a liquidity crisis caused by cryptocurrency values that collapsed by over 70% and criticism from one of his biggest competitors that caused a run on his companies by customers seeking to recover their deposits.

In their cross examination of Wang on Friday, Bankman-Fried's lawyers tried to downplay any special relationship between Alameda and FTX, saying it was not unusual for market-making entities such as Alameda to have losses or borrow funds from an exchange.

#### Hiring

But the healthy pace of hiring also highlights the confounding nature of the U.S. economy as it navigates the uncharted post-pandemic era. A strong job market suggests that growth might be too healthy for inflation to keep declining and that the Fed might have to further raise rates.

Speaking after the September hiring data was released, President Joe Biden asserted that the robust job growth was a result of his policies, a message he has repeated in speeches ahead of next year's elections. Yet polls show that most adults still hold a negative view of the economy, with Biden's agenda having yet to make much impact on public sentiment.

The president attributed public doubts about the economy to the nature of news media coverage, which he said prioritizes the negative.

"I think that the American people are smart as hell and know what their interests are," Biden said. "I think they know they're better off financially than they were before."

Here are some questions and an-

**Saudi Fund for Development inaugurates new public school in Tajikistan**

The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Chief Executive Officer, H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad, officially inaugurated today in Tajikistan, Shahrinav School, with the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Abdullzoda Ziyodullo. The school was inaugurated as part of the fourth phase of the "Constructing and Equipping of Secondary Schools" project in Tajikistan, for which SFD had previously made a contribution of \$35 million USD, and which will benefit 25,000 students in the country.

Attending the inauguration ceremony were the Representative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Akramzoda Mahmadyusuf, the Saudi Ambassador to Tajikistan, H.E. Waleed Alreshiadan, the Chairman of Shahrinav district, Valizoda Abduqodir, and the Director of PIU, Vohidzoda Umeda, alongside other officials from both sides. The new school will contribute towards meeting the country's educational needs, and will accommodate 36 classrooms and 620 students. It is one of 34 new schools

built as part of the fourth phase of the project. Additionally, it will contribute towards the achievement of the UN SDGs, specifically SDG 4, Quality Education, and SDG 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth. The Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Abdullzoda Ziyodullo, said: "I would like to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the development support they have provided in the education sector, through SFD. Education is vital towards support-

ing Tajikistan's development plans, and is closely tied to socio-economic growth in our country, and the prosperity of our people." On his part, the CEO of the SFD, H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad, said: "SFD believes in the importance of education, which is key to empowering all students. It raises their competencies, develops their skills, enhances their capabilities, and qualifies them for vital opportunities in their lives. This school's inauguration is part of a broader educational project, aimed at

enhancing the educational landscape of Tajikistan across the entire country." The school's inauguration comes as a continuation of SFD's support towards Tajikistan's education sector. SFD has financed 4 development projects in the education sector to construct and equip 57 secondary schools across 4 phases, in different regions, with a total funding amount of \$75 million USD. SFD has financed 12 development projects in Tajikistan, worth over \$193 million USD, in different key sectors. (Business Wire)

# Sultan marks 42 yrs of serving households and communities in Kuwait and the region

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Sultan Center Food Products Company, the owner and operator of the supermarket chain "Sultan", marks a significant milestone this month with the celebration of its 42nd anniversary. Established by the visionary late businessman, Jamil Sultan Bin Essa, Sultan transcends the identity of a mere supermarket chain; it stands as a cornerstone of Kuwait's modern retail landscape. Four decades have passed since the Sultan greeted its first shopper at its Shuwaikh branch. Today, Sultan is a shopping destination for a broad spectrum of the society, thanks to its commitment to continuous improvement, its extensive range of quality products, and its seamless shopping experience. To commemorate the anniversary, Sultan announced today special rewards and exclusive offers as a tribute to the enduring loyalty and trust of its customers. Throughout October, all Kanzee members stand a chance to

clinch rewarding prizes. The grand prize is \$42,000, accompanied by 42 coveted iPhone 15s, and 42 Sultan gift cards, each loaded with KD 100 in purchasing credit. Every Kanzee member making a purchase of KD 15 or more between the 1st and 31st of October will be automatically entered into the enticing draw. Sultan Center Food Products CEO Ms. Khadija Oubala said, "As we celebrate our 42 years anniversary in the Kuwaiti market, we take immense pride in our pioneering role in Kuwait's retail sector and the broader region. Our journey wouldn't have been possible without the support and trust of our loyal customers. Today's celebration is a heartfelt gesture of gratitude to our dedicated customers who have made Sultan their preferred choice for generations. We deeply appreciate our customers' trust, and we remain committed to delivering the finest local and international

goods that meet and exceed our customers' expectations. Our ongoing commitment includes growth, development, diversity, and ensuring access to fresh food and high-quality household products, always." Sultan embarked on its journey in 1981 with the opening of its first branch in the Shuwaikh area. Today, Sultan is the largest independent retailer on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. It owns and operates a network of over 70 stores in the Middle East. This includes 12 branches in Jordan, three branches in Bahrain, and eight branches in Oman. In Kuwait alone, the company operates 47 branches, spanning from Jahra to Nwaiseeb, through three distinct store formats. These include 7 flagship stores, which cater to daily needs in every neighborhood; 11 Sultan Market stores; and 29 Sultan Express stores, which offer quick and convenient shopping options.

# stc concludes sponsorship of the 'Future Leaders Program'



A group photo of participants and awardees of the 'Future Leaders Program'

## Program conducted under co's 'upgrade' educational initiative

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, concluded its sponsorship of the "Future Leaders Program" organized by the Youth Public Authority in line with its "upgrade" educational initiative. As a sponsor of the program, and considering its extensive contribution to the community, stc was recognized for its efforts and various programs that aim to empower the younger generation.**

During the closing ceremony, stc was recognized for its extensive and active engagement with the youth in Kuwait, as well as the various programs launched by the Company to support the younger generation, such as the educational 'upgrade' initiative.

The 'Future Leaders Program' was designed to instill a set of professional skills that would assist young participants in excelling within their chosen career paths. The program was initially launched to educate Kuwaiti students in the 12th grade of both public and private schools who meet the Ministry

of Higher Education's scholarship criteria. Throughout the program, the participants were exposed to methods on developing positive behavioral habits, effective planning, building leadership skills, and fostering charismatic qualities. Sessions held under the program were organized at various youth centers throughout Kuwait, where stc also distributed gifts to all participants.

Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "We are proud to witness the successful conclusion of the 'Future Leaders Program' and are thrilled with the

students' level of engagement throughout this unique experience. Our collaboration with the Youth Public Authority has been fruitful, and together, we have made strides in empowering the youth of Kuwait. Having said that, supporting the community and empowering the younger generation has been a cornerstone of our extensive CSR framework, and we are honored to be recognized for the various activities launched by stc to support the community on several fronts. This recognition is a testament to stc's commitment to the community and our drive to create positive lasting change."

AllJasem added, "As a digital pioneer and world class digital leader, stc actively participates in programs and initiatives that can positively impact the communities it serves. We introduced the educational 'upgrade' initiative to support the educational activities and provide the younger generation with a range of opportunities, across various fields, to gain knowledge and valuable insights that can set them on the right career path. Programs, such as the 'Future Leaders Program', as well as others, have the potential to truly enhance the lifestyle choices of those enrolled in the program. Having said that, stc will continue to collaborate with local entities from both private and public sectors to form strategic partnerships that aim to support the younger generation as part of our sustainable CSR program through community driven initiatives."



Anfal Al-Kandari, Public Relations and Media Specialist at stc with coaches of the program.

# Tata Communications ties up 'acquisition' of Kaleyra

NEW YORK/MUMBAI, India, Oct. 7, (PR Newswire): Tata Communications, a global digital ecosystem enabler, today announces completion of the acquisition of Kaleyra, Inc. (NYSE: KLR).

On 28th June 2023, Tata Communications had entered into a definitive agreement with Kaleyra, Inc. to acquire it through Tata Communications Limited. The transaction has now been completed upon receipt of the approval by Kaleyra's stockholders, necessary regulatory approvals, and fulfillment of other customary closing conditions. Under the terms of the agreement, Tata Communications Limited has paid an aggregate consideration of approximately \$100 million in cash and assumed all of Kaleyra's outstanding debt. With this, Kaleyra, Inc. and its subsidiaries have now become wholly owned subsidiaries of Tata Communications Limited.

The combination of Tata Communications customer engagement solutions and Kaleyra's stronghold in technology, engineering and research & development will drive growth of global enterprises, powered by hyper-personalised and intelligent customer interactions.

"In today's hyperconnected world, customer success and loyalty are pivotal to enterprise growth across industries and geographies," said A.S. Lakshminarayanan, MD and CEO, Tata Communications. "We at Tata Communications are committed to revolutionise how businesses engage with customers, leveraging a digital fabric to harness data insights for delivering seamless, secure, smart and impactful customer interactions. We're thrilled to welcome Kaleyra in this journey, as together we pave the way for the future of customer experience!"

Mysore Madhusudhan, Executive Vice President, Collaboration and Connected Solutions, Tata Communications added, "In this digital age, businesses require multi-channel customer engagement solutions built for intuitive, intelligent and automated interactions. Together, Tata Communications and Kaleyra form a powerful combination, poised to shape the customer engagement platforms of tomorrow."

Mauro Carobene, Head of Customer Interaction Suite, Tata Communications, commented, "Together Kaleyra and Tata Communications stand on the brink of a new era, powered by the world-class communications capabilities of Kaleyra, io platform and a determination to drive the future of communications via our intelligent suite of customer interaction solutions. Our joint aspirations are massive, not only in terms of growth, but also in expanding our portfolio that drives value for our customers."

Dr. Avi Katz, Founding Managing Partner of GigCapital Global said: "As the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kaleyra since inception in November 2019 by way of combination with GigCapital I, Inc., I am delighted to

see this outcome for the Kaleyra team and its stakeholders. This acquisition reflects a global recognition of the leadership of Kaleyra in the CPaaS industry, fruits of hard work of the entire Kaleyra team for the last four years and excellent relationship with Tata Communications."

**About Kaleyra**  
Kaleyra, Inc. (NYSE: KLR) (NYSE American: KLR WS) is a global group providing mobile communication services to financial institutions, e-commerce players, OTTs, so

ftware companies, logistic enablers, healthcare providers, retailers, and other large organizations worldwide. Through its proprietary platform and robust APIs, Kaleyra manages multi-channel integrated communication services, consisting of messaging, rich messaging and instant messaging, video, push notifications, e-mail, voice services, and chatbots.

Kaleyra's technology makes it possible to safely and securely manage billions of messages monthly with over 1600 operator connections in 190+ countries, including all tier-1 US carrier.

**About Tata Communications**  
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**Kaleyra's Statutory Information**  
Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of U.S. federal securities laws. Such forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, its omnichannel and other product and global customer developments, its expectations, beliefs, intentions, plans, prospects or strategies regarding the business plans of Kaleyra, Inc.'s ("Kaleyra") management team. Any statements contained herein that are not statements of historical fact may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. In addition, any statements that refer to projections, forecasts or other characterizations of future events or circumstances, including any underlying assumptions, are forward-looking statements. The words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intends," "may," "might," "plan," "possible," "potential," "predict," "project," "should," "would" and similar expressions may identify forward-looking statements, but the absence of these words does not mean that a statement is not forward-looking.

# itel 1st to launch Android 14, Go smartphones for emerging mkts

SHENZHEN, China, Oct 7, (Business Wire): itel, the global leading smart life brand committed to providing affordable and good quality consumer electronic products, is excited to announce a first launch of its P55T smartphone based on the Android 14 (Go edition) operating system.

itel the First to Launch Android 14 Go edition Smartphones P55T

In collaboration with Google and UNISOC, the new itel P55T aims to deliver a 64-bit optimized user experience with the latest Android (Go edition) software features to users in emerging markets across Africa and South-east Asia.

Using Android 14 (Go edition), itel P55T smartphone users will have access to a wide range of Google services and apps optimized for affordable devices. With applications designed to consume fewer resources, making them ideal for devices with limited storage and processing power. In addition to better performance, P55T users

also gain new Android 14 features like Health Connect and Android QR scanner with UPI support.

This launch represents a significant milestone for itel in delivering cutting-edge mobile experiences to emerging market users. By combining itel's affordability and the latest version of Android (Go edition) software, users can expect a superior smartphone experience without compromising on performance or functionality.

**About itel**  
itel is a reliable smart life brand for everyone. Adopting "Enjoy Better Life" as its brand philosophy, itel's mission is to provide budget-friendly consumer electronic products in the emerging markets. It democratizes technology by giving entry to technology and connectedness to consumers without prior access to it. itel has expanded its presence in more than 70 countries and regions worldwide. itel has a product portfolio of smartphones, accessories, and home appliances. <https://www.itel-life.com/>

# Shares in troubled British lender Metro Bank bounce back by a third

LONDON, Oct 7, (AP): Shares in the troubled British lender Metro Bank bounced back by a third on Friday on reports that it has been sounding out bigger rivals to buy a chunk of its assets.

Sky News reported that advisers to the bank have contacted Lloyds Banking Group and NatWest Group among others. That helped the company's share price rally by 30% to 48.5 pence

on the London Stock Exchange, in the process recouping the previous day's losses when the bank acknowledged the need to raise new capital.

Metro Bank, which some analysts say may need to raise around 600 million pounds (\$730 million) in capital to help it refinance debts, said it was looking at a range of options, including asset sales and the issuance of new shares. But it stressed that "no decision

has been made on whether to proceed with any of these options."

Analysts are cautious about its ability to raise the money.

Gary Greenwood, an equity research analyst for Shore Capital Markets, suggested that the business could struggle to find backers for a potential fundraising exercise.

"Metro Bank has been struggling for a number of years to establish itself as

a profitable and self-sustaining bank," he said. "Supporting a further capital raise for this struggling bank would be akin to throwing good money after bad, in our view, as it has already had enough time and opportunity to sort itself out and has been unable to do so."

Metro Bank has 76 branches in Britain, which it terms as "stores." It is one of the country's top 10 banks with around 2.7 million customers.

# Yamada sticks to exploring human nature after 90 films

TOKYO, Oct. 7, (AP) — Yoji Yamada has directed 90 films, including "Tora-san," which tops the Guinness World Records for the longest-running movie series starring the same actor. In each of the 48 installments, beginning in 1969, the hero peddler with a heart of gold falls in love but doesn't get the girl.

He has just finished directing a Kabuki play, a Japanese musical theater form dating back four centuries, except re-scripted and directed Yamada-style. It's stamped with his characteristic voice of compassion for the underdog that has never wavered throughout his seven-decade career.

"You must explore what it means to be human. You must be interested in people, their existence, how they live," said Yamada, 92, looking frail but sprightly with a shock of white hair.

"Every human being has something shining inside, like a pearl, that bit of goodness," he told The Associated Press at an office near Tokyo's Kabukiza theater, where his "Bunshichi Mottoi Monogatari" plays through the end of this month.

Yamada acknowledged his directing approach is similar to Western-style "method acting." His actors must start out by simply existing when they stand before a camera, Yamada said softly, pausing to reflect before answering each question.

Actors who think they are good are the ones he finds the most difficult. They start to act when they simply need to just be.

Kabuki has until recently starred only men. Yamada said the actors tended to be theatrical, and not very method, but he has written new scenes and lines, added a woman to the cast, and focused on the women characters to more fully depict the story of Chobe, a skilled plasterer craftsman who has succumbed to gambling.

Chobe has sold or pawned off just about everything in his tattered home and is reduced to his underwear.

His daughter offers herself to a brothel to pay off his debts. The owner hands Chobe the money for her, but scolds him to do better, promising his daughter will be a maid, and not a prostitute, as long as he pays back the money in a year.

Walking home at night, hugging the coins, Chobe runs into a man who is about to jump off a bridge. He has just lost his employer's money and is determined to kill himself to atone for his mistake.

Chobe gives his money to the young man, saying human life is more precious than money. Storyteller (cross head)

It's a heart-warming story about how even a loser can have heroic moments and do the right thing. The classic, originally scripted by Encho Sanyutei, an Edo-style "rakugo" storyteller, and performed countless times by Kabuki legends, has the audience laughing, clapping and crying.

Yamada's version resonates with the same human story he's told so many times with his films.

His cinematic portfolio spans a surprisingly wide variety of genres, including "The Twilight Samurai," nominated for an Oscar; his recent "It's a Flickering Life," a tribute to filmmaking set in a humble movie house; and "The Yellow Handkerchief," a sentimental love story about an escaped convict that's a perennial favorite among Japanese.



Yamada

With his focus on comedy and mass entertainment, Yamada has diverged from the path of the highly acclaimed "Nouvelle Vague," or Japanese New Wave, which includes directors such as Nagisa Oshima of "In the Realm of the Senses" and Masahiro Shinoda, who directed "Ballad of Orin" - works that focused on the darker themes of sexuality and social brutality.

He brushes off the suggestion that the world may be finally ready to reassess Yamada, who has shunned blood-splattering gore and X-rated scenes as vehemently as he has stayed away from spectacular action and car chases.

His favorite Western filmmakers are Charlie Chaplin, Billy Wilder, Sian Heder and Alexander Payne. He would love to work with Payne and other Hollywood artists, he says with a smile.

In his later years, Yamada has embraced the filmmaking of Yasujiro Ozu, whose distinctly subdued style Yamada in his youth used to feel was lacking.

Now, he thinks of Ryu Chishu, cast often in Ozu as well as Yamada films, as the perfect actor.

The creative process in filmmaking takes patience, like a hen warming its eggs, according to Yamada, alluding to the teachings of Mansaku Itami, an auteur who preceded him.

When the chicken is born, it just happens, absent of any gimmick or clever planning. All one does is wait.

Yamada is working on a theatrical adaptation of Ozu's "Tokyo Story," which explores family ties and urban alienation through a rural couple's visit to their adult children.

He doesn't know yet what his next film will be. But Yamada knows for sure what it won't be.

Stage

Variety

# Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023



This image released by Amazon Prime Video shows Jamie Foxx in a scene from 'The Burial.' (AP)

Film

'The Burial' loosely based on a true story

## Foxx leads a thrilling courtroom drama

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 7, (AP) — Jamie Foxx deploys his movie star charm judiciously and skillfully as a litigator with swagger to spare in "The Burial," a very entertaining courtroom drama.

Foxx is one of those actors, blessed with an allure and glamour that runs so deep that it's almost tempting to dismiss a performance like this as one that's natural. It's one of those compliments that's rotten at its core - of course he, or Clooney, or whomever, is good at being slick and appealing, right? If it looks effortless, we assume it is, denying them the work that goes into every role.

The same could be said for "The Burial," which is glossy, appealing and goes down suspiciously easy. Is there a catch or did director and co-writer Maggie Betts just prove her commercial chops in her sophomore feature? (It's the latter.) Just take a look at the poster used for its marketing campaign — a little retro, a little cheesy, and a lot self-aware. This movie and everyone involved knows what it is.

In a probably skewed memory of the mid-90s, these sort of mid-budget "rousing courtroom dramas" seemed ubiquitous, but have gone the way of the rom-com at least in big theatrical releases. "The Burial" will be in some theaters for a week, before coming to your living room on Oct. 13 on Prime Video.

This story is a classic David vs. Goliath one, in which a Biloxi funeral home owner, Tommy Lee Jones as Jeremiah O'Keefe, goes up against a billionaire, Raymond Loewen (Bill Camp). Both were children of funeral parlor owners, but O'Keefe stayed local while Loewen took the so-called "death care" business corporate. He made a fortune acquiring funeral homes in Canada and then the United States in anticipation of a "golden age of death," in which the baby boomers start meeting their ends in mass numbers. "The Burial" is loosely

based on a true story, which was chronicled by Jonathan Harr in The New Yorker in 1999.

Betts focuses her lens on Foxx's character, Willie E. Gary, a self-made success in personal injury law, who has never lost a case and doesn't plan to. Jeremiah's case is a contract one but a young associate played by the always appealing Mamoudou Athie convinces him that he's going to need a lead counsel who is Black if they're going to have a chance. The trial has been set for a poor, largely Black area, and Jeremiah's longtime lawyer, Mike Allred (Alan Ruck, playing a character who would probably be a Con-Head), is an obvious racist. He's working on it, he says chillingly to a team of Black lawyers.

### Inequality

When Willie does finally agree to go out of his comfort zone and take on a different kind of case (his ego stoked by the promise that this could make him as famous as Johnnie Cochran), there is a steep and humbling learning curve and a formidable opponent in Jurnee Smollett's Ivy League-educated lawyer representing the Loewen Group.

Betts shares a screenwriting credit with Doug Wright, the Pulitzer and Tony-winning playwright, who has been with the project for years, with Alexander Payne once attached to direct. Betts was coming off a promising, but small, debut - the religious drama "Novitiate," with Margaret Qualley and Melissa Leo. "The Burial" too is assured and straightforward, and faces questions about race and privilege and inequality head on. This story is about two older white men fighting about a contract, sure, but Betts and Wright expand its scope with sensitivity and nuance. Like many good courtroom dramas before it, this case is bigger than just these two guys.

Smollett's Mame is the big invention of the

movie, which doesn't grate the way it usually does when screenwriters add a fictional, exceptional woman to diversify a too-male story. Mame is not a one note character - she is brilliant and accomplished but also keenly aware that she can't stumble, falter or lose her cool the way her male counterparts can. Sometimes you even forget that you really shouldn't be rooting for her to win, which is a shrewd touch for a movie with a pretty obvious conclusion and an easily hateable villain.

But this show belongs to Foxx, and it's a fun feast to see him grandstand and doubt himself and charm all kinds of jurors and make us feel empathetic for a guy who is himself ostentatiously wealthy, no matter if it was easy for the actor or not.

"The Burial," an MGM/Amazon Studios release in theaters Friday and streaming Oct. 13, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "language." Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

### Also:

LOS ANGELES: Filmmaker Scott Derrickson teams with his "Sinister" star Ethan Hawke in the horror "The Black Phone," which returned to Peacock on Thursday just in time for spooky-themed movie nights leading up to Halloween. Hawke plays a serial killer who has recently abducted a 13-year-old boy and locked him in a room with a seemingly defunct telephone - but the kid discovers that that phone lets him speak to the previous victims. The film was a modest box office hit, bringing in nearly \$90 million in North America last summer. In his AP review, critic Mark Kennedy wrote that "The Black Phone," "is a very satisfying balancing act of a movie that has elements of supernatural, psychological suspense and horror but never falls heavily into a single camp."

WARSAW, Poland: A gala concert featuring Argentinean pianist Martha Argerich was the opening event Thursday for the 2nd Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw.

Launched in 2018, the competition is intended to promote historically informed performances of 19th century piano music, chiefly by Polish composer Frederic Chopin.

Just like the century-old International Chopin Piano Competition, it is meant to promote music talents and help launch international careers, and 35 young pianists are taking part.

The competition begins Friday with a performance by Derek Wang of the United States. Contestants come also from Japan, China, Italy, Poland, South Korea, Russia, Australia and some other European countries.

They will be playing on original 19th century instruments or on replicas made by US builder of historic pianos, Paul McNulty. The winner will be announced Oct. 14.

The opening concert Thursday of music chiefly by Ludwig van Beethoven also featured Poland's Tomasz Ritter, winner of the contest's first edition, the runner up in that competition, and Japanese Naruhiko Kawaguchi, who played a piece written for the gala opening by Japanese composer Dai Fujikura. Canada's Bruce Liu, who won the 18th International Chopin Piano Competition in 2021 also played in the concert that ended with a standing ovation.

Chopin was born in 1810 in Zelazowa Wola near Warsaw to a Polish mother and a French father, but he spent half of his life in Paris, composing, giving concerts and teaching the piano.

He died there on Oct. 17, 1849 and is buried at the Pere Lachaise cemetery. His heart is at the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Two days into Habitat for Humanity's annual Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Week Project, hosted by Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, and the country legends were feeling the burn.

"Well, we're sore," Yearwood said, laughing. "We're all here for the same reason, which is to help everybody have a roof over their head. So, it's a great cause. It's a

great experience."

This year, the project is held at a large-scale affordable housing neighborhood in Charlotte, North Carolina. Construction began on Sunday, coincidentally marking Jimmy Carter's 99th birthday. It was celebrated with a "Happy Birthday" sing-along for the former president currently in hospice



Argerich



Yearwood

care at home.

"You learn several things" when working alongside the Carters," Yearwood said. "You learn that you better be working all the time - if you look like you're standing there idle, President Carter will ask you if you need a job, if you need something to do." "This work site without them,

we're calling that 'being Carter-ed.' If you get caught without a job, you've been Carter'ed."

Brooks and Yearwood first became involved with Habitat for Humanity following Hurricane Katrina and were named Habitat Humanitarians in 2016. Yearwood says they've built alongside the former president and first lady on

every annual work project they've participated in, with the exception of this one.

Yearwood also told The Associated Press she's working on new music, writing when the songs come to her, but there's no rush. "We got married almost 18 years ago to be together, to not be apart," she says. (AP)

## People &amp; Places

## Music

## Tonyies' new project

## Tony! Toni! Toné! say 'reunion' feels good

NEW YORK, Oct. 7, (AP): D'Wayne Wiggins and Timothy Christian Riley didn't realize that Raphael Saadiq was planting the seeds for a Tony! Toni! Toné! reunion when he arranged a photoshoot earlier this year.

"He said a few times before, so we never paid that much attention to it until this fool put up a big billboard in Oakland, and I had to see it through social media," said vocalist and bass guitarist Wiggins, who wondered if the image was Photoshopped. "I thought someone was playing tricks, morphing our picture."

Saadiq, the lead singer and guitarist of the beloved R&B group, gathered the trio together, free of any outside influence.



Wiggins

"I didn't tell any of the managers or team or anybody because I just wanted it to be us... I wanted to be in a room where the only power structure was one, two and three," said Saadiq of his bandmates who are also family: Wiggins is his brother and Riley is his cousin. "We have to be us first before we could talk to anybody because that's what happened the last time."

Cut to last month, when Tony! Toni! Toné! kicked off their Raphael Saadiq Revisits Tony! Toni! Toné! Just Me And You Tour 2023, the first road trip featuring the three original members in nearly 30 years.

"It's been really cool, like rehearsals and the actual shows, just playing together again on a stage," said Riley, who plays drums and keyboard. "A lot of times, we do production and studio work. But just actually being together, you feel the energy, you feel the love."

But that's not all: the Tonyies, as they call themselves, are currently planning a new project.

"There's going to be another album... but I thought we need to really hone in on what we're doing for touring and then go home and then take like two days off, and then start on the album," said Saadiq, who once served as a member of Prince's touring band.

## Material

"We got a lot of material and now we just want to make sure that we put out the right energy through our music," added Wiggins.

Blending R&B, jazz and traces of gospel, the Oakland, California, natives burst onto the music scene with their 1988 debut album, "Who?" with songs like "Baby Doll" and "Little Walter." But it was their 1990 New Jack Swing-infused "Feels Good" record that gave the group mainstream success, peaking at No. 9 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

They released two more studio projects together, with party hits like "Let's Get Down," featuring DJ Quik, and timeless slow jams including "Whatever You Want," "It Never Rains (In Southern California)," "Lay Your Head on My Pillow" and "Anniversary," a standard in the Black music romance canon.

"I've always wanted a song like 'Chestnuts' like Nat King Cole, something that everybody played at some point, and 'Anniversary' was that type of song. I knew the subject matter wasn't one that I thought was dated, but you couldn't tell me that it was going to be this type of song," said Saadiq. "When it comes on and couples grab each other, we know that it took on a whole different life that we couldn't see."

The blood relatives also couldn't predict how their success would affect their relationship. The Tonyies went their separate ways after their fourth album, 1996's platinum-selling "House of Music." Fame, finances, miscommunication and creative differences were unsustainable for the group. However, Saadiq is hesitant to use the word "breakup."

"I didn't call them and go, 'I quit! I'm mad at you guys!' It wasn't even like that. We'd been around each other our whole life," said Saadiq. "What everybody saw as a breakup wasn't really a breakup; we just noticed that we weren't making music at that time."

Wiggins and Riley toured under the group's name between 1998 and 2018, with Amar Khalil taking over lead singing duties. Riley played on tracks for artists like Will Smith and Alicia Keys, and still collaborated with Saadiq on various songs. Wiggins also produced and helped grow young artists who would become some of today's brightest young stars, including Zendaya, H.E.R., Kehlani, and even Destiny's Child.

Saadiq achieved remarkable solo success with five solo studio albums, fashioning hits like "Ask of You," "Be Here" featuring D'Angelo, "Get Involved" with Q-Tip and "Love That Girl." He produced big records like Erykah Badu's "Love of My Life" and two of D'Angelo's biggest songs, "Lady" and "Untitled (How Does It Feel)," and also worked with Whitney Houston, Mary J. Blige, and TLC. In 2000, he joined En Vogue's Dawn Robinson and Ali Shaheed Muhammad from A Tribe Called Quest to form the supergroup Lucy Pearl, resulting in the popular song "Dance Tonight."

## Influences

Saadiq and Riley, both 57, and Wiggins, 62, have put the past behind them and are relishing in their reunion. The family members vow not to let outside influences like managers, record executives and the entertainment business as a whole drive them apart again, realizing that time - at least in the professional sense - is no longer a luxury.

"I think it's been really cool to hear younger kids sample our music and make new songs with our music," Riley said. "It's like it lives on and you have a whole new generation that actually knows about you."

Saadiq agrees and is trying to live in the moment. "We did always feel the love from our peers and fans and people just in general - it felt really good," he said. "But it feels different now - we feel the love. We can actually step outside of who we are, and then actually smell the roses."

Raphael Saadiq's brother and Tony! Toni! Toné! bandmate D'Wayne Wiggins has helped develop numerous major artists, including Beyoncé and her Destiny's Child groupmates.

But Saadiq is one of the few producers who's worked with both Knowles sisters. He executive produced Solange's critically acclaimed "A Seat at the Table" album, and was involved in Beyoncé's "Renaissance" project, helping write and produce "Pure/Honey" and the Grammy-winning "Cuff It" (its funky guitar rhythm was originally created for a potential Tony! Toni! Toné! song, he has said).

"If you watch her work, you could get tired. I mean, she's probably the hardest working person in showbiz... She knows what she wants visually, she knows what kind of sound she wants," said Saadiq, who has also earned Oscar and Emmy nods for his film and TV work. "She's like a power performer. And you just know when you hand something to somebody like Beyoncé, she's going to take care of it."



In this photo provided by Shochiku, actors perform in Bunshichi Motto Monogatari, presented in English as 'The Tale of Bunshichi,' at Kabukiza theater in Tokyo, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023. From left are Kamezo Kataoka, as landlord Jinpachi, Shido Nakamura, as Chobe, Shinobu Terajima, as his wife Okane, and Tamataro Nakamura, as their daughter Ohisa. (AP) — Details Page 11

## Music

## Sleater-Kinney announces new album 'Little Rope'

## Duo channels loss, grief into album

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 7, (AP): In a video introducing Sleater-Kinney's last album, 2021's "Path of Wellness," the duo of Carrie Brownstein and Corin Tucker ask a psychic if they'll ever record another album. She initially says yes, then changes her answer to "That's really up in the air."

At different moments in time, both answers could be viewed as correct. Sleater-Kinney is always writing, and their 10th studio album (their second since the departure of drummer Janet Weiss) is the result of many conflicting ideas.

"Little Rope," which will be released Jan. 19, was written in a place of mourning and meditation - of personal loss and political unease.

In the fall of 2022, Brownstein's mom and stepfather were killed in a car accident while vacationing in Italy. The American embassy, desperate to get a hold of Brownstein, called her listed emergency contact: her bandmate, Tucker.

In the months that followed, Brownstein found comfort playing guitar for hours on end. "I just needed to feel my fingers on something that was solid," she says. "When people leave this Earth, you are aware of what is still here, and what is tactile versus what you'll never touch again."

First came "Untidy Creature," the album's closer. Brownstein wrote the opening riff about a year before the accident. "I had so many doubts about that song, which is a common theme in terms of the writing of this record, is sort of having a lot of questions about songs that became such certainties," she says.

The album didn't take shape until the middle of 2022. "Almost none of those songs made the record," Tucker reiterates the reservations. Tracks felt overly vulnerable or emotional, in her

view. "It took me a long time to realize, that's what this record is: it's really raw." Fans may be surprised by the distinction - this is a band long celebrated for their directness, in musicality and otherwise.

Grammy-award winning producer John Congleton (known for his work with St. Vincent, Death Cab for Cutie, Regina Spektor) helped them get there.

The first single from "Little Rope" is "Hell," the opening track. It's restrained and then explosive, something resembling controlled chaos - two different melodies that battle one another and work in concert. The title is not pulled from some fearful religiosity, rather, hell as a state of being.

"Hell" wrestles with many injustices while "dropping us in a place and a time and a feeling and an emotion of helplessness and frustration," Tucker says. "And revelation: of how much control we had conceded at that present moment in time."

## Symbol

"It became a symbol of how deeply in crisis we are, right? As human beings, as the planet, in terms of the violence in our culture. I think it is pretty specific to America and who we are," she continued.

That exists beyond the experience of personal grief, but on the record, it serves as a reminder of the various experiences of it. "Hell," in that way, is reflection of what Brownstein calls "an exploration of the liminal, of sort of being between two states of, like, you know, joy and grief, or alive and dead, high-low... a precipice, the idea of precarity."

"A lot of these songs were written before I lost my mom, but her death informed the process as much as it informed the actual content of the

songs," she says.

This is the first Sleater-Kinney record in many years - likely since 2005's "The Woods" - that Tucker does the majority of the singing. "I really needed to hear Corin's voice, and so much of the grief was returning to what I needed." Brownstein could play guitar and write songs, but she needed her bandmate and closest friend to sing it, and to sing it in a fashion that did justice to the subject matter.

The album's title makes sense in that context. That "Little Rope," that push and pull, the comfort and the ways in which the pair challenge each other, makes this record one of their best in years.

"Music, to me, is a ritual that is very sacred and thus very close to prayer. You know, there is something prayerful about the choreography of returning to guitar or singing. And so, I think it is actually a very natural, like, probably age-old way of processing sorrow," Brownstein says.

Song allows you to share your interiority, and so "playing music is really important for the process of living with grief," she adds.

There is beauty in another stage of the process: sharing it with others, on a record or in a live arena. Tucker calls it "the transcendent moment where you're both giving and gaining" with an audience. "Like Bruce Springsteen said, 'You've got your religion, I've got mine.'"

Brownstein jumps in, "And Sleater-Kinney has always been a container for our vulnerabilities."

"We have so many songs that come from a place of strife or anger and then they just start to sound triumphant after a while," she adds. "And that, I think, is the beauty of sharing music with people."



Carrie Brownstein, (left), and Corin Tucker of the band Sleater-Kinney pose for a portrait in Los Angeles on Monday, Sept. 25, 2023, to promote their album 'Little Rope.' (AP)



Savage



Willoughby

## Variety

LOS ANGELES: Rapper 21 Savage can now legally travel outside the United States and plans to make his international performance in his native London.

Savage's lawyer, Charles Kuck, told The Associated Press in a statement Friday that his client has officially become a permanent US resident and may now go overseas. He cleared a major traveling hurdle after being taken into custody by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Georgia in 2019.

Kuck said the Grammy-nominated artist followed "all applicable immigration laws since his initial detention by ICE."

"His immigration court proceedings have now been terminated and he is a lawful permanent resident of the United States with the freedom to travel internationally," Kuck said.

Savage, 30, whose given name is She'ya Bin Abraham-Joseph, spent 10 days in a detention center in southern Georgia before his release. He was arrested in a targeted operation over his visa, which expired in 2006.

The Atlanta-based rapper said he had no idea what a visa was when his mother brought him to the US at 7 years old. (AP)

LONDON: A 36-year-old man has been arrested in connection with an alleged plot to kidnap Holly Willoughby, one of Britain's most high-profile television personalities.

In a statement Friday, Essex Police said the suspect was arrested on Wednesday and is due to appear in court in Chelmsford, around 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of London later.

It said the man was "arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to kidnap as part of an ongoing investigation."

Willoughby, who presents the ITV network's flagship daytime program "This Morning" and "Dancing on Ice" during the early months of the year, has been off air since Thursday.

Though police didn't mention Willoughby, she has been widely identified across British media and even by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

"I'm so sorry to hear everything going on with Holly," he said while appearing on "This Morning" on Friday. "I just want to send my best to her and her family."

Her colleague Lorraine Kelly also addressed the story on Friday's episode of her own program, saying it was "very, very

upsetting".

ITV are providing around-the-clock security at the 42-year-old's east London home alongside the police.

According to The Sun newspaper, the suspect is not known to Willoughby. (AP)

NEW YORK: Judy Blume, James Paterson and Michael Connelly are among 24 prominent writers who have raised more than \$3 million to help PEN America open an office in Miami and expand its efforts to

counter Florida's surge in book bannings in recent years.

"What PEN America is doing in Florida is very important to us and our neighbors," Connelly, who spent part of his childhood in Florida, said in a statement issued by PEN on Wednesday. "We have been astonished to see books ripped off the shelves and students forced into the middle of a fight they didn't ask for or deserve. All of us, especially those of us who make our living in the literary world, are called upon

to defend against book bans and legislation that suppresses new voices."

Other authors contributing money include Amanda Gorman, Nora Roberts, David Baldacci, Nikki Grimes, Suzanne Collins and Todd Parr. The announcement comes in the midst of Banned Books Week, when schools and libraries highlight works that have been subjected to challenges or removals, and follows reports last month from PEN and the American Library Association on school and library censorship.

"Seeing some of America's most beloved and avidly read authors step to the front of the fight against book bans is inspiring. These are writers, not politicians or activists," PEN CEO Suzanne Nossel said in a statement. "While the book banners' campaign is national in scope, Florida has become the laboratory for censorship laws and the intimidation of teachers and librarians. It is extraordinary to witness a group of our nation's favorite authors pick up their pens to draw a line in the sand."

The idea for the Miami office emerged out of conversations among PEN officials, including board member Michael Pietsch, the CEO of Hachette Book Group, Connelly's publisher.

During a telephone interview, Connelly told The Associated Press that supporting the PEN initiative was an easy decision, a "pitch over the plate," and has pledged \$1 million. He cited not just the cause of free expression but personal feelings about libraries, where he would cool off during muggy summer days in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. One librarian introduced him to a novel that changed his life, "To Kill a Mockingbird," a frequent target for censors. (AP)



D'Wayne Wiggins, (from left), Raphael Saadiq and Timothy Christian Riley of Tony! Toni! Toné! pose for a portrait on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, in New York. The group kicked off a tour last month, their first featuring the three original members in 25 years. (AP)

Climate

Rich nations pledge \$9.3b

43m kids displaced by extreme weather: UN

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (AP): Storms, floods, fires and other extreme weather events led to more than 43 million displacements involving children between 2016 and 2021, according to a United Nations report.

More than 113 million displacements of children will occur in the next three decades, estimated the UNICEF report released Friday, which took into account risks from flooding rivers, cyclonic winds and floods that follow a storm.

Some children, like 10-year-old Shukri Mohamed Ibrahim, are already on the move. Her family left their home in Somalia after dawn prayers on a Saturday morning five months ago.

The worst drought in more than 50 years scorched the once-fertile pastures the family relied on, leaving them barren. So, bundling only a few clothes and some utensils into sacks, they moved to a camp in the capital Mogadishu, where Ibrahim, who dreams of being a doctor, is now going to school for the first time. That's a plus, but the camp lacks proper shelter and sanitation, and food is scarce.

"We need something that can protect us from the heat during the day and the cold at night," Ibrahim said.

The miseries of long, drawn-out disasters like droughts are often under-reported. Children had to leave their homes at least 1.3 million times because of drought in the years covered by the report - more than half of them in Somalia - but this is likely an undercount, the report said. Unlike during floods or storms, there are no pre-emptive evacuations during a drought.

Worldwide, climate change has already left millions homeless. Rising seas are eating away at coastlines; storms are battering megacities and drought is exacerbating conflict. But while catastrophes intensify, the world has yet to recognize climate migrants and find formal ways of protecting them.

"The reality is that far more children are going to be impacted in (the) future, as the impacts of climate change continue to intensify," said Laura Healy, a migration specialist at UNICEF and one of the report's authors.

Nearly a third, or 43 million of the 134 million times that people were uprooted from their homes due to extreme weather from 2016-21 included children. Nearly half were forced from their homes by storms. Of those, nearly 4 of the 10 displacements were in the Philippines.

Impacted

Floods displaced children more than 19 million times in places like India and China. Wildfires impacted children 810,000 times in the US and Canada.

Data tracking migrations because of weather extremes typically don't differentiate between children and adults. UNICEF worked with a Geneva-based nonprofit, the International Displacement Monitoring Center, to map where kids were most impacted.

The Philippines, India and China had the most child displacement by climate hazards, accounting for nearly half. Those countries also have vast populations and strong systems to evacuate people, which makes it easier for them to record data.

But, on average, children living in the Horn of Africa or on a small island in the Caribbean are more vulnerable. Many are enduring "overlapping crises" - where risks from climate extremes are compounded by conflict, fragile institutions and poverty, Healy said.

Leaving home subjects children to extra risks. During unprecedented flooding of the Yamuna River in July in the Indian capital New Delhi, churning waters washed away the hut that was home to 10-year-old Garima Kumar's family.

The waters also took her school uniform and her school books. Kumar lived with her family on sidewalks of the megacity and missed a month of school.

"Other students in the school teased me because my house had been flooded. Because we don't have a permanent home," Kumar said.

Also:

**VIENNA:** Developed countries pledged \$9.3 billion to help poor nations tackle climate change at a conference held in the German city of Bonn on Thursday, authorities said. However, nongovernmental groups criticized the outcome, saying the funds fall short of what is needed to tackle climate change.

The pledges will help replenish the South Korea-based Green Climate Fund, established in 2010 as a financing vehicle for developing countries. It's the largest such fund aimed at providing money to help poorer nations in reducing their emissions, coping with impacts of climate change and boosting their transitions to clean energy.

The pledged money at the conference in Bonn will be used to finance projects in developing and emerging nations between 2024 and 2027. The German government alone pledged 2 billion euros (\$2.1 billion).

Twenty-five countries came forward with fresh pledges while five said that they would announce theirs in the near future.



Maryam Abaalkhail, Senior Public Relations and Event Management Coordinator at KFH.



Kuwait Finance House Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

Cancer survivors share their experiences

KFH launches annual breast cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT, Oct 7: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched its breast cancer awareness campaign titled "You Are Stronger" to educate women on ways to prevent breast cancer. The campaign will run throughout the month of October to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Seminars and lectures

KFH initiated this campaign as part of its social responsibility and commitment to addressing various community issues. This includes promoting health awareness and providing support for health initiatives.

Senior Public Relations and Event Management Coordinator at KFH- Maryam Abaalkhail said: "The campaign includes activities, events, and contribu-



tions with the emphasis on the significance of breast cancer screening. It also involves elucidating different approaches to prevent breast cancer and detect its symptoms at an early stage.

KFH will collaborate with the medical authorities to organize seminars, lectures, and workshops, which will consist of examinations free of charge, reduced

prices for gym memberships, meals subscriptions as well as different centers and stores."

Experiences of recovered women

She added that the campaign demonstrated real-life stories of recovered women shared on KFH's social media platforms to learn from their experiences and instill an optimistic perspective.

KFH is spreading a series of awareness messages among females, while a number of KFH employees will partake in activities and events across various locations, providing them with opportunities to consult doctors and specialists. This promotes health consciousness within the Kuwaiti society and encourages women to embrace healthy habits.

Health

Cancer signal origin prediction 97% accurate: study

Blood test detects cancers at early stages

MENLO PARK, Calif, Oct 7, (Business Wire): Grail, LLC, a healthcare company whose mission is to detect cancer early when it can be cured, has announced that detailed findings from the Pathfinder study of its multi-cancer early detection (MCED) blood test have been published in The Lancet. The study, conducted in 6,662 adults over the age of 50 without symptoms suggestive of cancer, demonstrated that an earlier version of Grail's MCED test identified many cancer types that do not currently have recommended screening tests, enabled targeted cancer diagnostic evaluations, and supported diagnostic resolution for the majority of participants in less than three months.

"The possibility of screening for multiple types of cancer simultaneously using a blood specimen is promising both because there are no effective screening strategies for many types of cancer and because strategies with established effectiveness require considerable time and effort," noted Deb Schrag, MD, MPH, Chair, Department of Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York and a Pathfinder investigator. "The Pathfinder study was a pilot non-randomized study to evaluate how patients and clinicians would respond to a blood test to screen for multiple cancer types. The screening

test identified a cancer signal in 1.4% of participants, 0.5% of whom were confirmed to have cancer. In the vast majority of cases, the test accurately predicted the type of cancer. This study demonstrates the feasibility of screening for multiple cancers using a blood test and lays the foundation for large, controlled trials necessary to establish clinical utility and cost-effectiveness."

Result

The prospective cohort assessed use of Grail's targeted methylation-based MCED test with 6,662 enrolled participants in US outpatient settings to determine the time required and diagnostic testing necessary to reach a diagnostic resolution following a cancer signal detected test result (primary endpoint). Study results showed that the Grail test cancer signal origin (CSO) prediction was 97% accurate and directed the clinical workup, leading to resolution of the cancer diagnosis in less than three months (median 79 days) among participants who received a cancer signal detected result.

In the study, when added to US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) standard of care screening, Grail's MCED test more than doubled the number of cancers detected compared to standard screening alone. Of those

who received a cancer signal detected result, 36 cancers were diagnosed in 35 participants (one participant was diagnosed with two cancers). Standard screenings identified 29 cancers.

"The Pathfinder study provides crucial insights into how MCED testing can be used in clinical settings and demonstrates its additive benefit for cancer screening in clinical practice for eligible patients," said Jeffrey Venstrom, MD, chief medical officer at Grail. "MCED tests have the potential to expand the number of cancers detected with a low false-positive rate when added to recommended single-cancer screenings. In addition, our MCED test can predict the cancer signal of origin, resulting in a more efficient and targeted diagnostic evaluation to help decrease unnecessary tests, radiation and costs. We believe this study helps pave the way for its clinical adoption, with the aim of reducing the burden of late-stage cancer."

Among participants who received an MCED cancer signal detected result and had a confirmed new cancer diagnosis (true positives), nearly half (48%) were detected at an early stage (I-II) when the potential for curative treatment is increased. Importantly, 74% of the MCED-detected cancers were cancer types that do not currently have recommended screening tests.



Climate activist Greta Thunberg attends a climate protest with Fridays for Future in Stockholm, Sweden, Friday, Oct. 6. (AP)

Discovery

**4 sentenced for fake COVID cure:** A Florida man and his three adult sons were sentenced Friday for selling a toxic industrial bleach as a fake COVID-19 cure through their online church.

A federal judge in Miami sentenced Jonathan Grenon, 37, and Jordan Grenon, 29, to 12 years and seven months in prison, while Mark Grenon, 66, and Joseph Grenon, 36, each received five years, according to court records. A jury found all four guilty in July of conspiring to defraud the United States and deliver misbranded drugs. The Grenons represented themselves but declined to speak during the two-day trial.

Prosecutors called the Grenons "con men" and "snake-oil salesmen" and said the Bradenton family's Genesis II Church of Health and Healing sold \$1 million worth of their so-called Miracle Mineral Solution. In videos, it was pitched as a cure for 95% of known diseases, including COVID-19, Alzheimer's, autism, brain cancer, HIV/AIDS and multiple sclerosis, prosecutors said.

What the Grenons were selling was actually chlorine dioxide, officials said. When ingested, the solution becomes a bleach that is typically used for such things as treating textiles, industrial water, pulp and paper, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Authorities said it is the same as drinking bleach and can be fatal. A Miami federal

judge ordered the church to stop selling the substance in 2020, but that was ignored. (AP)

**100 cholera deaths in Zimbabwe:** 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.



Jordan



Jonathan

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. (AP)

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'Thank you all for working hard in Greece'

## TOYOTA GAZOO Racing seals victory with one-two finish

ATHENS, Oct 7: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing World Rally Team (TGR-WRT) has recently achieved a one-two finish in Acropolis Rally, another demanding edition of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Reigning world champion Kalle Rovanperä secured first place alongside co-driver Jonne Halttunen in the No.69 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle, increasing his championship lead. Elfyn Evans' performance alongside co-driver Scott Martin in the No. 33 GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle secured him the second place in the rally.

The GR YARIS Rally1 Hybrid Electric vehicle emerged victorious against wide-ranging conditions, from thick mud to rough and rocky terrain, as the weather dried out after torrential rain. Day three,



The No.69 #Toyota #GR #YARIS #HYBRID Electric Vehicle, expertly driven by Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen, achieved a first-place victory in the 2023 #FIA World Rally Championship's Acropolis Rally.

The longest day of the rally, proved particularly challenging for drivers, cars, and tires, with several competitors hitting trouble. Reigning world champion Rovanperä managed to avoid issues

while setting a string of fastest times to gain a lead of more than two minutes at the end of the third day. That allowed him to take a safety-first approach to day four's first two stages ahead of the rally-ending Power Stage, where he set the best time by 2.5 seconds to claim five additional bonus points. The season's third win and maximum score for Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen increases Rovanperä's drivers' championship lead to 33 points ahead of Elfyn Evans.

TGR-WRT's one-two finish and maximum score in both the rally and the Power Stage also increases Toyota's lead in the manufacturers' championship to 91 points with three WRC 2023 rounds remaining. Akio Toyoda, TGR-WRT Chairman, commented: "Kalle, Jonne,

congratulations on your victory! Elfyn, Scott, thank you for achieving the one-two finish! TGR-WRT is a field-oriented team. When I was in Finland last month as an alternative Team Principal, I was able to see the work of team members up close. If something happens, a person who is an expert in the field makes a judgment and the management members support that. TGR-WRT is built to work like that. All team members will keep making efforts in each field to be able to smile again in November in Japan. Thank you all for working hard in Greece!"

Over the years, Toyota has been participating in many different forms of motorsports, "including Formula One, the World Endurance Championship (WEC), and the Nürburgring 24" Hours endurance

race. Toyota's participation in these events was overseen by separate "entities within the company until April 2015, when Toyota established GR" to consolidate all of its motorsports activities under one in-house brand. Representing "Toyota's belief that 'the roads build the people, and the people build the cars,' TGR highlights the role of motorsports as a fundamental pillar of Toyota's commitment to 'making 'ever-better' cars. Harnessing years of experience gained under the extreme "conditions of various motorsports events, TGR aims to forge new" technologies and solutions that bring the freedom, adventure, and joy of driving to everyone.

The next round of the 2023 FIA WRC is Rally Chile in South America from 28 September to 1 October.

## France reach World Cup quarters in style

LYON, France, Oct 7, (AP): Damian Penaud extended his try-scoring streak to seven matches as Rugby World Cup hosts France blew apart Italy 60-7 to reach the quarterfinals in style.

France won Pool A ahead of New Zealand and

will likely meet defending champion South Africa in the last quarterfinal next weekend. New Zealand will probably have to play top-ranked Ireland.

Italy were smashed by New Zealand 96-17 last week and were pumped

up to rebound against their neighbors. But France, even without injured linchpin Antoine Dupont, were ready after a two-week break and took less than two minutes to score the first of its eight tries in a hugely impressive performance.

## Dortmund 'win', Guirassy hits hat trick for Stuttgart



Dortmund's Niclas Füllkrug (left), and Union's Danilo Doekhi challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Union Berlin in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

### RUGBY

Les Tricolores equalled their highest score against Italy from 1967 and achieved the greatest margin ever. Only eight months ago in the Six Nations, France won 29-24.

Of course, Penaud got the first try, off his wing. Following pick-and-go from hooker Peato Mauvaka, flyhalf Matthieu Jalibert and fullback Thomas Ramos combined to send the right winger into the left corner.

After Ramos converted and added a penalty, Penaud turned provider with an unexpected cross-field kick for Louis Bielle-Biarrey to score in the left corner.

Jalibert and Penaud combined to send Ramos over for the third try, and brilliant improvisation from Jalibert saw him kick off-balance to Penaud in the right corner for France's fourth try.

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## Promoted Darmstadt hold off Augsburg

**BERLIN, Oct 7, (AP): Two former Union Berlin players scored to help Borussia Dortmund come from behind and beat their old team 4-2 in the Bundesliga on Saturday, stretching the visitors' losing streak to seven games across all competitions.**

Niko Schlöterbeck and Julian Ryerson netted in the second half for Dortmund, which recovered from 2-1 down at the break with Leonardo Bonucci scoring his first Bundesliga goal for Union.

### SOCCER

Serhou Guirassy's hat trick helped Stuttgart come from behind to beat Wolfsburg 3-1. The Guinea player took his league tally to 13 goals in seven matches.

Stuttgart's win lifted the club to the top of the league before Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich play on Sunday, when Leverkusen host Cologne for the Rhine derby and Bayern host Freiburg.

Also, promoted Darmstadt won 2-1 at Augsburg, and Leipzig drew with Bochum 0-0.

American defender Joe Scally scored a late goal with a long-range

strike to salvage a 2-2 draw for Borussia Mönchengladbach against visiting Mainz.

Gladbach were heading for yet another home loss after Aymen Barkok scored for the visitors, but Scally went past one defender and let fly with a fierce shot from distance that sent the ball inside the far post in the 88th minute.

Gladbach had previously lost all three home games in the Bundesliga - to Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern Munich and Leipzig.

The team's first half summarized its

frustrating start to the season. Gladbach dominated the early stages and deservedly took the lead in the 22nd when Franck Honorat crossed for Florian Neuhaus to head in the opener.

But Brajan Gruda equalized with a finish inside the top corner almost immediately afterward. It was the 19-year-old's first Bundesliga goal and it came against the run of play for Mainz.

Mainz needed goalkeeper Robin Zentner to stop Nathan Ngoumou, then Ko Itakura from the resultant corner.



VfB Stuttgart's goalkeeper Alexander N'bel (center), makes a save next to Wolfsburg's Jonas Wind, second from left, during a Bundesliga soccer match between VfB Stuttgart and Wolfsburg, in Stuttgart's MHPArena, Germany. (AP)

## Seo-jeong takes bronze

## Andrade wins vault's world title, denies Biles another gold

ANTWERP, Belgium, Oct 7, (AP): The acrobatics that Simone Biles tries are so extreme and difficult that even when she does not execute to perfection, she still ends up on a world podium.

Biles had to be content with a silver medal on Saturday at the world championships - her 28th overall since she started her harvest a decade ago - after she over-rotated her signature Yurchenko double pike and fell backwards on the mat on landing.

Rebeca Andrade of Brazil denied Biles a 22nd world title by winning the vault competition ahead of the American superstar.

A day after she became the most decorated gymnast in history, Biles tried to claim back the title she last won in 2019 by performing her extremely difficult signature vault that nobody else does in the women's competition, and only a few men attempt.

Biles' second vault was an excellent Cheng to finish with a combined score of 14.549. Andrade was nearly flawless to snatch the gold medal by a margin of 0.201 points. Yeo Seo-jeong of South Korea took the bronze with 14.416.

Andrade said she was disappointed



Brazil's Rebeca Andrade poses with her gold medal after the vault exercise of the apparatus finals at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium. (AP)

to witness Biles failing in her quest for perfection.

"I'm happy for my result, but sad about the fall because we know how much athletes train to do this vault," she said through a translator.

Asked whether she would try the

Yurchenko double pike in competition, Andrade said it would be a "crazy" thing to do.

"I don't have the body for that," she added.

Biles became the first woman to do the Yurchenko double pike at the world championships during qualifying, and the vault is now named the Biles II because it was achieved in international competition. The 26-year-old American now has five skills named after her.

### GYMNASTICS

As usual, the biggest cheers and applause from the crowd during the presentation were for Biles.

First on the starting list, she kicked off her meeting with a massive vault but fell on her back upon landing. In addition, Biles took a half-point deduction when she did her Yurchenko because her coach Laurent Landi stood on the mat as a precaution, ready to assist her in case something went wrong.

But the start value of the Biles II is so high that even the fall did not hurt her chances of medaling.

## Continued support of Kuwait's Olympic athletes

## Burgan Bank celebrates Al-Youha's gold win at Asian Games

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Continuing its role in supporting Kuwait's star athletes Burgan Bank celebrated Kuwaiti track and field Olympian, Yaqoub Al-Youha's impressive win at the 19th Asian Games taking place in Hangzhou. The young runner walked away with the gold medal in the 110m hurdles race after clocking in a time of 13.41 seconds, earning Kuwait's second gold in the games and his first. The Bank's sponsorship of Al-Youha, along with several other Olympians and world-acclaimed athletes, comes as part of its comprehensive social responsibility program. This program aims to contribute to the growth of the sports culture in Kuwait and the overall development of the community.

In light of this triumph, Mrs. Kholoud Rida AlFeel, Deputy General Manager of Marketing and Communication at the Bank said: "On behalf of Burgan Bank, I would like to congratulate Yaqoub on his latest admirable victory. We are delighted and immensely proud to be able to play a part in his journey to Olympic glory, as we remain passionate supporters of our national athletes."

She went on to remark that Kuwait's rising athletic stars continue to set a great example for the youth, inspiring them to embrace sports – whether professionally or as an integral component of everyday life. "Fostering the sports culture in Kuwait has become a goal that is very near and dear to our hearts at Burgan, as we consider sports to be an absolutely vital element of the growth, prosperity and well being."

Along Al-Youha, Burgan Bank currently sponsors the Olympic journeys of four other

young remarkable athletes, including Amal Al Roumi, Mudhawi Al-Shammari, Ebrahim Al-Dhafaeri, and Joud Tawfiq. Striving to compete in the upcoming Olympics, the five Olympian hopefuls have close to 30 gold, silver, and bronze medals between them in different championships, achieving momentous feats at numerous regional and international competitions.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank continuously supports aspiring Kuwaiti talents who bear endless promise and potential, and who hold the key to national development. On the sports front, the Bank continues to collaborate with the most influential sporting agencies and bodies – such as the Kuwait Olympic Committee, the Kuwait Women's Football League, and the Kuwait Padel Club – to ensure the comprehensive advancement of sports across the country.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is currently the second-largest conventional bank by assets in Kuwait. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly focused on the corporate and financial institution sectors, in addition to diversifying its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

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



Track and field gold medalist, Yaqoub Al Youha.

## 'Al-Nasr victory over Khaitan timely'

Hassan Musa  
Al-Seyassah/Arab  
Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Zaher Al-Adwani, the technical director of Al-Nasr football team, emphasized the significance of their recent victory against Khaitan, considering it timely, just before the international break. This win, he stated, will provide Al-Annabi with the necessary confidence and tranquility as they prepare for their upcoming Premier League matches. Al-Nasr secured a 2-0 victory against Khaitan in injury time, pushing their point tally to 7, while Khaitan remained at 4 points.

Al-Adwani acknowledged Khaitan's reputation as a



Players challenge for the ball during the Zain Premier League game.

strong defensive team, making their clashes with Al-Nasr consistently challenging. He praised the mental resilience of Al-Nasr's players, highlighting their ability to secure victory in the closing moments of the match. During the break, Al-Adwani aims to maintain the players' readiness through friendly matches, including one against Kazma scheduled for next Thursday, and another against Al-Sahel on the 16th of this month. Additionally, Al-Nasr's Syrian professional, Omar Al-Maidani, is set to join the Syrian national team during this break.

On the opposing side, Khaitan's coach, Ibrahim Obaid, considered the match against Al-Nasr as evenly contested. He attributed the victory to Al-Annabi to a

## «Mujezat Al-Shifa»: Propolis enhances the fight against viruses and microbes

The nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company said: Propolis contains multiple compounds responsible for its various health properties, the most important of which are cinamic acids, and the most important of them effective against the virus is caffeic acid phenethyl ester (CAPE), in addition to carotenoids such as lutein, according to studies by Professor Salvador at the University of Verona in Italy. She added: It was proven in laboratory and clinical studies in 2020 that these various components in propolis fight the SARS and Corona viruses, including a study conducted by a professor at the Institute of Biomedical Technology in India.



He conducted experiments that showed that caffeic acid inhibits an enzyme secreted by the SARS virus, which enables it to penetrate the body's cells, and laboratory tests showed. That quercetin has the same effect on the Corona virus was carried out by Professor Dimitri Bachovsky at the Misidonia Faculty of Medicine. They also confirmed that these compounds in propolis work to increase the production of lymphocytes and antibodies to viruses. It has also been proven that they have anti-inflammatory activity and inhibit enzymes secreted by viruses that cause lung fibrosis and then it prevents pulmonary fibrosis.

## Mehidy 'stars', B'desh rout Afghanistan at WC

Pakistan make winning start

**DHARAMSALA, India, Oct 7, (AP): Mehidy Hasan Miraz starred with bat and ball in hilly Dharamsala as Bangladesh crushed Afghanistan by six wickets at the Cricket World Cup on Saturday.**

After Bangladesh won the toss and elected to field, Afghanistan were skittled out for 156 with all-rounder Mehidy picking up 3-25 and skipper Shakib Al Hasan claiming 3-30.

Mehidy then scored 57 runs in 73 balls as Bang-

## CRICKET

ladesh made 158-4 in 34.4 overs, easing home with 15.2 overs to spare.

Afghanistan made a good start to their innings with Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran (22) putting on 47 for the first wicket.

Gurbaz added another 36 with Rahmat Shah (18) before Shakib struck twice to remove Zadran and Shah.

The turning point came when Mehidy dismissed Hashmatullah Shahidi for 18 as the skipper went for a slog.

Four balls later, Mustafizur Rahman removed the in-form Gurbaz for 47 with a slower ball and the Afghanistan slide continued, with the last three wickets all falling on 156.

Bangladesh then made a poor start to its innings, Tanzid Hasan going for five and Litton Das for 13.

Mehidy, though, added 97 in 129 balls with Najmul Hossain Shanto for the third wicket to steer Bangladesh toward its target.



Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and Netherlands in Hyderabad, India. (AP)

## Al-Dawas claims 2nd at world jet ski champ'ship

ARIZONA, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Rashed Al-Dawas came in second in annual world Jet Ski championship for the Pro 1100 stock category, in Arizona's Lake Havasu, the United States.

Al-Dawas, while speaking to KUNA via phone call on Saturday, expressed his great joy at this momentous achievement, mentioning that the championship commenced last Monday as part of the International Jet Sports Boating Association (IJSBA).

He explained that the championship includes more than 33 categories and some

240 contenders are vying for the top spots, and added that he will also be competing in other categories over the course of next few days.

## JET SKIING

Rashed Al-Dawas had accumulated many titles over the span of four years, latest of which was first place winner at Al-Sharjah championship last month.

## Sheikh Talal re-elected as the president of IBF

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's candidate Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah has been re-elected as president of the International Bowling Federation (IBF) for a third term of four years.

Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah was re-elected during a meeting of the IBF's congress, held in Kuwait.

Sheikh Talal won the balloting garnering 87 votes vis a vis 17 ones won by his Canadian



Re-elected IBF president, Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad.

Naveen-ul-Haq removed Mehidy thanks to a brilliant catch at mid-off from Shah, but Shanto stayed until the end, scoring 59 not out off 83 balls including three fours and a six.

Pakistan overcame a top-order batting hiccup with sharp pace bowling to beat the Netherlands by 81 runs.

All-rounder Bas de Leede picked up 4-62 with his seam bowling to bowl out Pakistan for 286 with an over to spare - a total which captain Scott Edwards thought was a par total after he had won the toss and elected to chase on a dry wicket.

De Leede then kept the Netherlands in the chase with a knock of 67 off 68

contender, Cathy Anis.

In remarks to journalists after the election, he pledged to exert greater efforts to press ahead with the march since he first assumed the post years back.

The IBF will continue to promote the game to the largest number possible of countries in-

## BOWLING

cluding African states, he said, adding that the international tournament that kicked off in Kuwait two days ago was distinguished with high performance by the competing champions.

The federation congress elected a Cost Rican as the first deputy and a Cypriot as the second deputy, in addition to 12 board members representing all continents.

balls before Pakistan struck through express fast bowler Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi to bowl out Dutchmen for 205 in 41 overs.

Rauf picked up 3-43, Afridi claimed 1-37 and Hasan Ali bagging 2-37 in his first ODI in more than a year after being recalled for the World Cup when Naseem Shah was ruled out with a shoulder injury.

Vikramjit Singh made a fighting 52 off 67 balls and combined in a 70-run stand with de Leede as both kept challenging the Pakistan spinners in the middle overs.

Legspinner Shadab Khan (1-45), who has had a slump in his bowling form since the Asia Cup, struggled to find his lengths early but broke through when Singh holed out in the deep while going for an unnecessary big shot against the leggy's short ball.

Rauf then took the sting out of the Netherlands' chase, claiming the wickets of Teja Nidamanuru and Edwards in the space of three balls. Rauf should have had three wickets off four balls, but Iftikhar Ahmed dropped a regulation catch of Saqib Zulfiqar at the lone slip.

## Burgan dominate Al-Arabi

KUWAIT CITY Oct 7: Burgan Club's volleyball team secured a resounding victory against Al-Arabi at the Al-Itihad Championship. The match, held at the Al-Itihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, saw Burgan winning in straight sets with scores of 25-18, 25-16, 25-22.

Meanwhile, at the same venue, Al-Shabab celebrated their inaugural triumph in the Federation Championship by defeating Al-Sahel with an identical scoreline of 25-16, 25-17, 27-25.

At the Youssef Al-Shaheen Arena, Al-Qadsia extended their winning streak with a second consecutive victory in straight sets, overcoming their opponents without dropping a game with scores of 25-18, 25-19, 25-22. Simultaneously, at the Fajhan Hilal Al-Mutairi Arena, Kazma achieved a similar result against Al-Tadamon, dominating the match with scores of 25-17, 25-12, 25-14.

Following the conclusion of the second round, the standings for the Federation Volleyball Championship are as follows: Kazma lead with 6 points, followed by Al-Qadsia in second place. Al-Kuwait occupy third place with three points, with Burgan in fourth place. Al-Shabab secure fifth place, and Al-Arabi rank sixth. Meanwhile, Yarmouk, Al-Sahel, and Al-Tadamon are yet to secure victories in both rounds of the competition.

# October

## Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 57.173/-net</b>	<b>BHD 128.000/-net</b>
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 65.000/-net</b>	<b>BHD 145.000/-net</b>

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023      Terms & conditions apply\*



Real Madrid's Joselu, (centre), in action during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Osasuna at the Santiago Bernabéu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

# Sports

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Kuwait handball team receive a warm welcome upon their return from the Asiad in China.

Grand ceremony attended by significant contingent of Kuwaiti sports dignitaries

## Flowers and cheers as Kuwait handball team receive heroes' welcome

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: In a grand ceremony attended by a significant contingent of Kuwaiti sports dignitaries, Kuwait national handball team received a hero's welcome upon their return to Kuwait. The event took place at the Kuwait International Airport's ceremonial hall, where the team were greeted with flowers and cheers after concluding their successful campaign in the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China. The team secured a well-deserved bronze medal following a thrilling victory over the Japanese national team in a closely contested match, with a final score of 31-30.

Among the prominent figures present to welcome the Kuwait handball team were the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Muhammad Al-Aiban, the Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Yousef Al-Baidan, the Vice President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Muhammad Jaafar, the Vice President of the International Handball Federation for the Asian continent, Badr Al-Dhiyab, as well as numerous officials, athletes, and the players' families.

### ASIAN GAMES

In his address, Secretary General of the Handball Federation, Qayed Al-Adwani, underlined that this achievement was a testament to Kuwaiti handball's enduring excellence, with its champions consistently gracing the podiums. Al-Adwani praised the tireless efforts of the federation members and the dedicated technical, administrative, and medical staff, acknowledging their role in enabling the players to perform at a remarkable and honorable level that captivated audiences both in Asia and around the world. He expressed profound pride in the players, acknowledging them as the driving force behind this remarkable achievement.

Looking ahead, Al-Adwani mentioned that the handball team are gearing up for upcoming competitions and tournaments. This includes the pivotal Asian Championship, which serves as a qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics, scheduled for this month in Qatar. Additionally, the team are preparing for the Asian Championship, a qualifier for the World Cup, set to take place in Bahrain

next January. Al-Adwani emphasized the importance of giving due attention to the handball teams, recognizing their standing as regional and continental champions. He stressed the necessity of constructing a dedicated handball facility to enhance the players' capabilities.

Kuwait's handball achievement in securing the bronze medal at the Asian Games marks a momentous return to the podium after a 17-year hiatus, following their gold medal victory in the 2006 Asian Games.

Minister Al-Aiban expressed his heartfelt welcome to the national team and all attendees, commending the exceptional technical prowess displayed by the players, befitting Kuwaiti handball's stature. He lauded the players for fulfilling their commitment to perform at the highest level, underscoring the historic significance of their achievement. Al-Aiban emphasized that the team's remarkable success was just the beginning, promising unwavering support and dedication from the authorities to help them reach even greater heights in the future.

Yousef Al-Baidan also celebrated the team's remarkable achievement, vowing to restore Kuwaiti handball to its rightful place among the champions of the sport. He assured that the General Sports Authority would provide all the necessary support to fulfill their aspirations, aligning with the directives of the political leadership and governmental officials. He reiterated the commitment to collaborate with the Handball Federation to formulate effective strategies and plans for the development of national teams.

In accordance with prevailing regulations, the General Sports Authority will organize a tribute to honor the national handball team in the coming days. Al-Azraq (The Blues) will receive the recognition and support required to continue their pursuit of podium finishes and accomplish their goals in various international competitions, underscoring the resilience and enduring spirit of Kuwaiti handball.

Badr Al-Dhiyab conveyed that Kuwaiti handball remains resilient and steadfast, never succumbing to adversity. He emphasized that the team's dedication and effort had repositioned Kuwait on the podiums, sending a clear message to all Asian teams that Kuwaiti prowess is a force to be reckoned with on the global stage.

## India win gold after rain stops 'play' in final with Afghanistan

HANGZHOU, China, Oct 7, (AP): India picked up the gold medal in men's cricket on Saturday at the Asian Games after the final against Afghanistan was halted by rain.

India was the higher seeded team going into the final, and officials awarded the medal using that logic with the games closing on Sunday.

It was Afghanistan's first silver medal at these Games after winning four bronze. It has not won a gold.

After India won the toss and bowled first, Afghanistan was 112-5 off 18.2 overs when rain forced the players from the field in Hangzhou. Persistent rain prevented any further play and the umpires called the match off.

India made a clean sweep of the cricket competitions at these Games after its women's team also won gold, beating Sri Lanka by 19 runs in the final.

South Korea defeated Japan 2-1 in the men's gold-medal soccer game, a victory that gives the winning players an exemption from military service.

All male gold-medal winners at the Games are, by South Korean law, granted exemptions from the 18 to 21 months of military that all able-bodied men must start by the time they turn 28. Olympic medals also do the trick.

Cho Young-wook scored the winner in the 56th minute, making him a hero for the entire team.

Kotaro Uchino scored in the 2nd for Japan, and Jeong Woo-yeong equalized in the 27th.

### ASIAN GAMES

At the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, Son Heung-min led South Korea to gold, which earned him the right to stay at English Premier League team Tottenham Hotspur.

The Asian Games close their two-week run on Sunday with three gold medals to be awarded on the final day - two in karate and one in artistic swimming.

China won a record 416 medals at the 2010 Games in Guangzhou and will not surpass that total. It had 375 medals overall through much of the play on Saturday.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported that Chinese Premier Li Qiang will attend Sunday's closing ceremony in Hangzhou. It cited the foreign ministry spokesperson. President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony on Sept. 23.

The 2026 Games will be held in Nagoya, Japan.

China defeated Japan in the women's gold-medal game, winning 3-0.

South Korea edge Japan for soccer title

Bellingham scores twice, Real maintain lead

## Tottenham go top, last-gasp Man U beat Brentford

LUTON, England, Oct 7, (AP): Tottenham moved to the top of the Premier League after a 1-0 win against Luton on Saturday, despite going down to 10 men.

Micky van de Ven's 52nd-minute goal at Kenilworth Road extended Spurs' unbeaten league start to eight games, while Yves Bissouma was sent off in first-half added time.

The win saw Tottenham move two points clear of defending champions Manchester City, which play Arsenal on Sunday.

James Maddison was the architect of Van de Ven's goal with a twisting run in the box before crossing for his teammate to score from close range.

For Luton it was a sixth league loss of the season following its promotion to English soccer's top flight.

Richardson could have put Tottenham ahead early on, but he twice failed to take advantage. First he shot off target from a promising position and then Luton goalkeeper Thomas Kaminski denied the Brazilian forward with his feet.

Pedro Porro also failed to take another opportunity and Kaminski pro-



Chelsea's Armando Broja (left) and Burnley's Ameen Al-Dakhil vie for the ball, during the English Premier League soccer match between Burnley and Chelsea, at Turf Moor, in Burnley, England. (AP)

duced an excellent fingertip save to deny Dejan Kulusevski.

Bissouma was booked twice in quick succession by referee John Brooks, the second for simulation, which led to his

sending off.

Elijah Adebayo had the chance to put Luton ahead before Van de Ven's winner, which was his first goal in English soccer.

Maddison collected Kulusevski's short corner and brilliantly spun away from Alfie Doughty before playing in Van de Ven to finish.

Substitute Scott McTominay scored two goals in second-half stoppage time on Saturday as Manchester United ral-

### SOCCER

lied to beat Brentford 2-1.

Erik ten Hag's struggling team looked set to lose a third straight game after Mathias Jensen's first-half goal.

But McTominay came off the bench in the 87th to score in the third and seventh minutes of stoppage time and send Old Trafford wild.

Ten Hag joined in the celebrations on the sidelines to reveal his own relief after avoiding a third straight defeat.

United was on the brink of losing for a seventh time in 11 games in all competitions in a troubled season as it struggled to find a way back after Jensen's goal in the 26th.

Ten Hag threw on a host of substitutes to try to turn things around and finally called for McTominay.

The midfielder, who has been out of favor this season, scored from close range after Diogo Dalot's initial shot was saved.

But he wasn't finished there. Just four minutes later he rose to head in a winner that caused an eruption of noise from the home fans.

□ □ □

Jude Bellingham extended his superb scoring run since joining Real Madrid after striking twice in a 4-0 win over Osasuna to help maintain their lead of the Spanish league on Saturday.

Bellingham made it 10 goals in 10 games in all competitions since he arrived in Spain this summer with goals in the ninth and 54th minutes at the Santiago Bernabéu.

The 20-year-old England midfielder leads the league with eight goals. He has also scored in both of Madrid's Champions League games, including a 3-2 win at Napoli this week.

Vinicius Júnior and Joselu Mato scored the hosts' third and fourth goals against Osasuna.



Fahad Al-Ajmi with other winners on the podium.