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# Interior Ministry calls for heightened security measures

Coast Guard airlifts Iraqi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (Agencies): First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, has instructed an immediate increase in security measures, including heightened deployment of fixed, mobile, and foot patrols, to effectively address any emerging issues across the country.

During a security meeting chaired by Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, attended by assistant undersecretaries and presided over by Lieutenant General Anwar Al-Barjas, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, the latest security developments were reviewed.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled expressed his gratitude for the unwavering dedication exhibited by every sector within the Ministry, emphasizing his trust in the competency of the Interior Ministry's personnel to carry out their assigned responsibilities. He urged all Ministry employees to maintain their high level of competence and readiness.

During the meeting, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior and the Assistant Undersecretaries pro-

vided updates on the security plans in progress and discussed the outcomes of the Ministry's extensive campaigns designed to uphold security across various areas.

Also:

**KUWAIT CITY:** An Iraqi fisherman who brandished a weapon and attempted to fire at a Coast Guard patrol boat was injured during the confrontation and subsequently airlifted to a hospital, reports Al-Rai daily.

The incident unfolded when the fisherman entered the northern waters of Kuwait, violating the country's territorial boundaries, and disregarded directives from security personnel.

The Coast Guard patrol, stationed near **Boubyan Island**, detected the Iraqi vessel crossing into Kuwaiti territory and immediately signaled the captain to halt.

Despite repeated warnings and in adherence to established protocols, the captain failed to comply, forcing the patrol to resort to firing warning shots in response to the threat.

# Kuwait urges 'just solutions' in escalating Mideast crisis

KRCS braves bombardment, distributes aid to Gazans

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Kuwait has urged the international community to work earnestly in a bid to find "just solutions" to the conflict in the Middle East as violence there continues to intensify, a diplomat said on Tuesday.**

Underlining Kuwait's "grave concern" over the developments in the Middle East, its permanent delegate to the United Nations' cultural agency UNESCO Dr. Adam Al-Mulla said any solution to the conflict in the Middle East should address the "root cause" of the upsurge in violence.

The Kuwait diplomat went on to emphasize the "necessity" to ensure the adequate protection of the Palestinians, ultimately granting them their inalienable rights to a decent living, which includes fulfilling their statehood aspirations, he added.

Kuwait is currently serving a four-year term in the UN cultural agency's executive council.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Society for Relief, in partnership with a number of charitable societies in Kuwait, yesterday launched a popular campaign under the slogan "Support for Palestine" to collect donations for the Palestinian people.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the society Ibrahim Al-Saleh announced the continuation of national campaigns to support and provide relief to the afflicted and affected people everywhere, especially in the Palestinian territories.

He said, "The campaign was launched through high-level coordination among

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Kuwait Relief Society, and a number of charitable societies and organizations in the State of Kuwait in order to secure medical and food aid and necessary urgent shelter supplies for civilians in the various governorates and cities of the State of Palestine."

Al-Saleh urged philanthropists - individuals and organizations - to contribute to this national campaign "in order to support the steadfastness of our Palestinian people, who are making the most wonderful sacrifices in preserving the gains and sanctities of the Muslim and Arab nation."

In this regard, the Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tabboub thanked the State of Kuwait for launching this campaign.

He said, "This is something we have become accustomed to from the Kuwait of humanity, the Kuwait of Arabism, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, his faithful Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, and the government, people and the National Assembly's representatives in the beloved State of Kuwait."

Kuwait has always been the first to give us this strong spirit to withstand the occupier and the military machine. Our role as the embassy is to coordinate with the official authorities for the requirements for the campaign."

Director of the Marketing Department at Nama Charitable Trust and coordinator of the support campaign for Palestine Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim affirmed that the aim of the campaign is to provide medicine, food, and shelter to thousands of people affected by the attacks on the Gaza Strip, as well as provide urgent relief, perform urgent surgical operations for the wounded and injured, and provide medical equipment, first aid, clothes, tents, etc.

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## Opinion

## For the sake of Kuwait's reputation, end Bedoun dilemma

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

WHEN solutions are absent, the horizon gets clouded and any problem becomes a major issue.

That is why we are today living in an unprecedented state of government failure that has been inherited for decades, as a result of not resorting to realistic solutions, especially with regard to the Bedoun issue, which is putting pressure on everything in the country, especially Kuwait's reputation abroad.

We are talking about this because it is necessary to do so. Demons have infiltrated people's daily lives. The most common phrase in society has become "He is not a Kuwaiti," or "he is a parasite."

Before the taint of racism afflicted some of society members, Bedoun residents lived among us with no difference shown between them and the citizens. They had even joined the army and police.

I remember the time when an official from a neighboring country was on a visit to Kuwait. He said to the late Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah, who was then the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, "You have a category in your society whom you call Bedoun. We do not see in Kuwait a desire to grant them citizenship, so we are willing to take them and naturalize them."

The late Sheikh Saad then replied, "They live among us. What happens to the Kuwaitis happens to them. We need them and the competencies among them."

At that time, their number did not exceed 20,000, and this was not the type that exists today. Despite this, passports were issued to them in accordance with article 17. Some of them obtained it and traveled to European countries, the United States, and even settled in Canada. Kuwait lost them after educating them in its schools and after living their lives here. However, their feeling of being "Bedoun" pushed them to leave the country.

Today, with improvised decisions, the political and electoral investments, the game of interests, and the changing mood of society, the phenomenon of discrimination and racism has spread beyond the expatriates to the Bedoun residents, and even the division between the members of Kuwaiti society, such that the criterion has become sect, tribe, family, and even the area.

Instead of developing solutions, crises are happening one after the other. The issues are snowballing, not just with the Bedoun issue, but even in state institutions. However, the Bedoun issue remains the most important, as its resolution indicates the beginning of the exit from the impasses of other problems.

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## Day by Day

A PERSON approached a sage and inquired, "Guide me on how to properly nurture my son!" The sage inquired about the age of the son, to which the person responded, "He is one-year-old."

The sage responded, "You are too late. The crucial foundations of upbringing begin with selecting the mother --defining who she is and how she will nurture the child."

It appears that this sage embodies a strict or highly cautious demeanor. As the adage goes, "Early Start, Grow Smart," highlights the significance of childhood education, akin to etching on stone.

Regrettably, we have overlooked these essential principles, allowing education and inter-generational wisdom to fall by the wayside.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



A Palestinian girl cries during the funeral of Amir Ganan, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on the buildings in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. (AP)

## 25 nations default on loans owed to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development clarified that its "sovereign" loans are not subject to cancellation, write-off, or waiver, adhering to a longstanding policy since its inception. The Fund confirmed that 25 countries have defaulted on repaying the principal loans, accumulating arrears totaling 118 million Kuwaiti dinars in installment payments, reports Al-Rai daily.

Remarkably, 90 percent of these arrears are attributed to five countries: the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Yemen, the Republic of Cuba, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

This information was disclosed in a memorandum to the Fund, provided by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in response to a parliamentary inquiry by MP Jarrah Al-Fawzan regarding the count of countries that defaulted or refused loan repayments.

The KFAED clarified that the distressed countries are either undergoing a period of political instability or facing international boycotts, preventing the Fund from engaging with them. It was noted that the Fund halts loan withdrawals if the borrowing countries fail to meet their payment obligations, including installments and interest, as specified.

The Fund underscored its stance of not entering into any loan agreements with defaulting countries until they settle their outstanding arrears. It reiterated that the loans it extends are considered "sovereign loans," firmly non-negotiable or forgivable -- a policy maintained by Kuwait since the Fund's establishment.

In the past 15 years, the Fund has granted approximately 3 billion dinars in loans, with grants amounting to about 240 million dinars. The majority of grants, 85 percent, were allocated to fulfill Kuwait's commitments and pledges regarding the Syrian refugee crises and the reconstruction of affected areas in Palestine.

Concerning loan repayments since the Fund's inception, 407 loans have been repaid, totaling around 2 billion dinars by the end of July 2023, representing approximately 29.86 percent of the total loan value.

The repayment periods for these loans vary from 18 to 30 years, averaging 23 years. As a result, there are still outstanding loans for which borrowing countries are meeting their installment and interest obligations on a regular basis.

According to the agreed repayment dates specified in these loan agreements, there are a total of 605 loans with an approximate lending value of 4.7 billion dinars. Out of this, about 2.2 billion dinars have been withdrawn, and approximately 1.4 billion dinars have been repaid.



Locally made multi-purpose bricks in colors that match the Sadu motifs are seen. Al Sadu Society is scheduled to launch 'Al-Sadu Street' project to present the cultural heritage in a new, contemporary form.

## New street in Kuwait mirrors Al Sadu craft

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): Al Sadu Society is scheduled to launch "Al Sadu Street" project Tuesday evening, which was implemented with the support of the political leadership and took six months to create a new contemporary landmark.

It reflects the national identity in a new way and in innovative, sustainable methods that document the hard work over the many years in which the society has worked to preserve, develop, and transfer this heritage craft to new generations.

The society said in a press release Tuesday that the goal of the project is to document the cultural heritage and present it in a new, contemporary form to be a point of creativity and innovation that documents the association's ability to develop this craft while preserving its meanings.

It said that the street, which was chosen in a place that is in the heart of several cultural centers, will constitute an addition to that cultural area.

Al Sadu Society explained that the patterns and motifs of the street were inspired by Sadu pieces from the permanent collection of the Sadu Association, with their artistic designs to be a contemporary landmark inspired by heritage.

This was done through the use of graphic design to implement their vision of the necessity of reviving the cultural heritage and the values, arts, and customs it contains, inherited over the years, and benefiting from them in a contemporary and creative outcome, it added.

It was explained that a graphic structure was created for the street to shape the Sadu motifs to match the shape and size of the bricks that were used for the project, which took 300 working hours from March to September.

The street consisted of 190,000 Kuwaiti-made multi-purpose bricks in colors that match the Sadu motifs which took two weeks to make from the time of ordering and all the materials used in the "Al Sadu Street" were made in Kuwait with the assistance of Kuwaiti engineers from the Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Electricity and Water.



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:27	Asr .....	14:55
Sunrise ..	05:45	Maghrib ..	17:24
Zohr .....	11:35	Isha .....	18:40

# Local

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

Weather			
<b>Expected weather for the next 24 hours:</b>			
<b>By Day:</b> Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southwesterly wind to southeasterly wind with speeds of 12-38 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
<b>By Night:</b> Rather hot to mild and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to southerly wind with speeds of 12-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	41	29	
Kuwait Airport	41	22	
Abdaly	41	23	
Jahra	42	26	
Salmiyah	38	30	
Ahmadi	36	30	
Nuwaisib	37	25	
Wafra	41	22	



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (in green jacket) poses for a picture with the staff of Kuwait Embassy in the United Kingdom.

KUNA photo

## Kuwait Prime Minister visits Embassy of Kuwait in United Kingdom

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Tuesday, directed to follow up the outcomes of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visit to United Kingdom and the investment partnership agreement, which will contribute in creating added value to Kuwait foreign investments and providing job opportunities.

This came during the visit of His Highness the Prime Minister, Tuesday, to Kuwait Embassy in United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in London, where he met with embassy officials.

His Highness was briefed with embassy's mechanism in communication with citizens to facilitate their affairs, resolve their issues, in addition to the embassy's diplomatic efforts to strengthen the country's bilateral relations with the United Kingdom in various fields.

The meeting was attended by the Director of the Office of His Highness the Prime Minister Hamad Bader Al-Amer.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited on Monday the Kuwaiti patients receiving treatment in London. His Highness the Prime Minister conveyed the greetings of His High-

ness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the patients.

He told them also that His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince wished them a rapid recovery and a safe return to the homeland.

His Highness the Premier directed the staff of Kuwait Embassy to the UK to follow up on conditions of all Kuwaiti nationals and meet their needs as well as remove their obstacles. (KUNA)



National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun receives the Russian Ambassador to Kuwait.

KUNA photo

## Speaker receives Russian envoy

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun on Tuesday received the Russian Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Vladimir Zheltov. (KUNA)

## High turnout for 'flu' vaccinations

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The first week of the launch of the annual vaccination campaign against seasonal influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia witnessed a strong turnout from various age groups. About 15,000 people appeared for vaccination against seasonal influenza and 2,000 for vaccination against pneumococcal pneumonia in 50 preventive health care centers in the country.

According to informed health sources, the risk groups are the most likely to receive vaccination at a rate of 45 to 50 percent, led by patients suffering from asthma and chronic respiratory diseases, smokers, diabetics, employees

of the Ministry of Health, and morbidly obese people.

The average number of vaccination beneficiaries in each health region ranges between 2,000 to 3,000.

There is a high turnout for vaccination this year compared to previous years due to the collective awareness gained about the importance of immunization after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sources revealed the Ministry of Health's plan to intensify awareness about the importance of vaccination by organizing many joint activities and events, adding that specialized health teams will be formed to conduct field tours and organize vaccination campaigns in coordination with various institutions and companies.

# Grilling filed against MPW minister

MP Ma'arafi criticizes govt's stance

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: MP Dawood Ma'arafi submitted a grilling motion consisting of three items against the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqamaz.

MP Ma'arafi criticised the stance of the government in support of the minister in the grilling motion.

He explained that the government should have waited to hear and figure out the evidence before adopting a stance of solidarity towards any party. In case the government issues any similar statements, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah will be subject to a grilling motion.

The lawmaker revealed that he obtained over 1,000 pages filled with violations and corruption cases involving the Ministry of Public Works.

He indicated that he does not mind merging his grilling motion with the one submitted by his colleague MP Mubarak Al-Tasha, stressing that he aims only at the public interest.

Ma'arafi warned Dr. Buqamaz against making any attempt to arrange a quid pro quo with any of the MPs, revealing that if he finds out about any such attempts, he will expose them.

The grilling motion filed by MP Ma'arafi against Dr. Buqamaz included the following three items:

1 - Squandering of public funds, non-enforcement of the law, and the failure to complete the tasks.

Regarding this item, Marafie explained that it concerns the bad way the Ministry of Public Works dealt with the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART), and the way it put obstacles before PART to keep it from completing the specified tasks. The wrong attitude of the Ministry of Public Works eventually led to its nullification based on a decision issued by the Council of Ministers. The decision was preceded by the resignation of the chairman and deputy chairman of PART on December 4, 2022. The reasons behind the resignation included the lack of technical workers, which led to the failure in carrying out accurate estimation of the projects' cost, the weakness of internal audit department, dependence on expatriate workers to do work, lack of sufficient workers and the move to refrain from passing specialisations to PART.

### Damaged roads

MP Marafie said Dr. Buqamaz, in November 2022, said the issue of damaged roads dates back to 18 years. However, earlier in March 2022, she had indicated that the reason behind deterioration of roads is the failure of PART to hold those responsible for the issue.

He highlighted the contradiction between both statements, stressing that the minister said the problem dates back to 18 years, which means the issue started several years before the establishment of PART.

2 - The failure of the ministry to follow up the execution and maintenance of projects, which in turn reflected negatively on the environment as well as the citizens' interests.

Ma'arafi revealed some examples such as the violations and errors in the Umm Al-Haiman drainage network and its dangerous effect on the environment and citizens' health.

3 - The violations concerning the establishment of new Kuwait International Airport which included the delay in completion, receiving the approval of the ministry to the changes in the design of the runway without consulting the Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA), violating the agenda of the government, targeting some workers in DGCA, and refraining from executing court rulings.

Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Anbai submitted a proposal to create an electronic interface between Sahel application and the Civil Services Commission (CSC) in order to ease the procedures for applying for jobs and the appointment of willing citizens.

He stressed that the lack of such an interface causes trouble for the individuals who want to apply for jobs, because they are required to undergo a complicated process in different public institutions including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Kuwait University and other private universities, which exhausts these individuals and increases the traffic jam.

Furthermore, MP Osama Al-Shaheen submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah regarding law No. 51/2010 to establish a fund to deal with the



Representative Dawood Ma'arafi officially submits a grilling request against the Minister of Public Works.

KUNA photo

## Talks on Abdali trade zone completed

## Housing amendments discussed

By Inass Awad  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Chairman of the Joint Legal, Financial and Technical Committee in the Municipal Council Dr. Hassan Kamal affirmed that the committee has completed the discussion of the schedule of amendments submitted by the executive branch of Kuwait Municipality regarding the model and private housing regulations.

In a statement issued following the committee meeting yesterday, he said the discussion of all items had been completed and were submitted again for final deliberation of the list before submitting it to the main session.

Dr. Kamal indicated that the next meeting of the committee will involve discussions on the special schedule in the list of telecommunications towers until additional information is received by the executive branch of Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Health.

He said, "There is a special schedule related to the Abdali Economic Zone that has been completed until the arrival of some additional information related to the areas and number of plots in order for them to be

included in the special list for telecommunications towers."

On a related level, the Municipal Council member Alia Al-Farsi submitted a proposal to form a joint committee from various ministries and state bodies that includes in its membership representatives from the Kuwait Municipality's Engineering Systems Department, Organization Department, Road Monitoring Department and others relevant to this matter.

The Public Authority for the Disabled Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate are tasked with following up and ensuring the implementation of the Kuwait Accessibility Code according to the general design in all establishments and facilities in the country, as well as following up the implementation of requirements for people with disabilities.

In her proposal, Dr. Al-Farsi highlighted Article 20 of Law No. 8/2010 regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the most important of which is that public buildings and facilities frequented by people with disabilities should be designed in accordance with requirements and specifications that facilitate their movement inside and outside those buildings and facilities, which is done by applying the Kuwait code.

issue of insolvent debtors with loans from military funds. He said, according to the above mentioned law, the fund will replace the debts and write off the loan interests of the beneficiaries.

Al-Shaheen wanted to know the number of cases that have already been addressed, and the amount of money collected and yet to be collected.

Also, MP Abdul Kareem Al-Kandari submitted a proposal to cancel the requirement of personal interviews for the applicants of jobs of technical or field nature.

He suggested that, for the cases that are not included in the aforementioned item, a maximum of five percent of marks will

be allocated to personal interviews, which must be audio-visual in nature, recorded, and made available to any of the applicants to access to support his claims of being abused. In another development, parliament's Committee for Health, Social and Labor Affairs unanimously approved the bill aimed at amending the second article of the law No. 24/1979 concerning cooperative societies.

This happened during a meeting held in the presence of representatives from Ministry of Social Affairs and Civil Services Commission (CSC), and the financial controllers at the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies (UCCS)

## World Mental Health Day marked

## '20% people in Kuwait depressed'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: According to the Kuwait Center for Mental Health that is affiliated with the Ministry of Health, depression and anxiety are among the most common mental illnesses. Depression affects about 20 percent of the people annually in Kuwait.

Bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are considered rare diseases in Kuwait. The rate of patients suffering from bipolar disorder does not exceed one-two percent, and those suffering from schizophrenia do not exceed one percent of the population.

This was highlighted during an event held by the World Mental Health Day, under the slogan "Mental health is a fundamental right."

The Director of the center Dr. Kholoud Al-Ali said the expansion of mental health services in the Ministry of Health's facilities came as a result of interest in individual mental health.

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the event, Dr. Al-Ali said the center provides diagnostic and therapeutic

services, and the psychological service unit provides psychological consultations in the ministry's general and specialized hospitals, in addition to primary health care centers.

She expressed pride in the implementation of mental health law No. 14/2019, which guarantees the rights of the patients and the doctors.

Dr. Al-Ali affirmed that the center provides distinguished diagnostic, therapeutic and recreational services, in addition to day care services, as well as psychological support to develop patients' practical skills.

She indicated that the interest in mental health prompted the ministry to open mental health clinics in primary care centers, as it considers mental health as part of public health, in addition to the services provided by the psychological service unit, such as consultations.

Meanwhile, Head of the emergency unit at the Kuwait Mental Health Center and Head of the Psychiatry Department at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital Dr. Najah Al-Enezi said the "stigma" of patients suffering from psychological problems has decreased due to increased awareness about mental health issues.







# Kuwait plans to develop Durra offshore field's infrastructure

Al-Barrak unveils updated strategy for KPC until 2040

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, said Kuwait plans to develop the infrastructure for the Durra offshore field, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Al-Barrak emphasized the challenges faced by Kuwait in diversifying sources of income and sustaining the national economy, particularly in the context of the oil industry amidst climate change challenges, saying this initiative is a pivotal component of the government's economic agenda for the seventeenth legislative term.

### Conference

Addressing the conference, Al-Barrak unveiled the updated strategy for Kuwait Petroleum Corporation until 2040 and the energy transition strategy until 2050. He stressed Kuwait's commitment, through the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, to invest in the Kuwaiti oil sector's growth, ensuring a continued global role in serving customers worldwide.

He elaborated on Kuwait's initiatives aligned with the government's 2023-2027 work program and development plan, emphasizing the launch of the Strategic



Dr Saad Al-Barrak addressing the conference.

KUNA photo

Petroleum Corporation's directions until 2040 and the roadmap towards achieving zero carbon neutrality by 2050.

Al-Barrak underscored the sector's significance, responsible for over 90% of Kuwait's revenues, and emphasized the need to overcome challenges to ensure timely project implementation and a consistent financial inflow to the state.

Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, stated that the successful execution of the corporation's capital projects would contribute to additional revenues of approximately \$11 billion annually during the five-year plan. He emphasized the need for collective commitment from all sectors of Kuwaiti society to ensure the institution's success and strategic economic balance.

Ahmed Jaber Al-Eidan, CEO

of Kuwait Oil Company, outlined the company's ambition to reach a production capacity of 3.65 million barrels per day by 2035, maintaining this rate until 2040. He emphasized strategic improvements in oil extraction operations and exploration for new reserves to sustain oil and gas production operations. Al-Eidan mentioned strategies focused on enhanced oil recovery activities using carbon dioxide gas and exploring carbon dioxide gas collection and optimal storage methods.

Walid Al-Badr, CEO of Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Company (KIPIC), revealed the imminent completion of the third refinery in the Al-Zour Refinery within days, aiming to achieve a total refining capacity of 615,000 barrels per day. This aligns with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 2040 strategy to

raise the state's refining capacity to 1.6 million barrels per day.

Wadha Al-Khatib, CEO of the National Petroleum Company, highlighted the company's efforts in improving operational and environmental performance, resulting in high-quality and environmentally friendly products. She emphasized their significant environmental project, Environmental Fuel, as a milestone in Kuwait's oil sector history.

Shafi Al-Ajmi, CEO of Kuwait Petroleum International Company, mentioned the successful operation of all production units at the Duqm Refinery and anticipated full commercial operation by the end of 2023.

### Contribution

Eng. Nadia Al-Hajji, CEO of the Petrochemical Industry Company, highlighted the company's substantial contribution to the Kuwaiti economy, supporting financial returns to the state treasury exceeding \$5.5 billion over the past decade. The company aims to continue growth in the petrochemical sector to align with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's 2040 strategic plan.

Badr Al-Attar, Managing Director for Planning at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, highlighted Kuwait's investment of approximately \$110 billion in capital projects for energy transition until 2050.

This investment will involve partnerships and collaborations with various entities, aiming to reduce harmful emissions into the environment and support the state's energy transition efforts.



Masha'el Al-Kulaib and Ibtisam Al-Fraih.

Al-Qabas photo

### Male-dominated monopoly hit

## Al-Kulaib & Al-Fraih win seats on cooperative's boards of directors

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: In a significant development, Kuwaiti women have once again shattered the male-dominated monopoly over seats on cooperative society boards of directors, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily added, Masha'el Al-Kulaib and Ibtisam Al-Fraih emerged victorious in the recent board of directors elections for the Abdullah Al-Salem and Al-Mansouriya Suburbs Cooperative.

This victory by the women was notable, with Al-Kulaib securing 197 votes and Al-Fraih obtaining 143 votes.

With the successful election of Al-Kulaib and Al-Fraih, the count of women serving on association boards of directors now stands at three. This achievement follows Haya Al-Maqroun's previous triumph in the elections for the People's Cooperative Society.



Three Thai trainers took part in cultural activities.

## Embassy of Thailand holds series of cultural activities

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand in Kuwait held recently, a series of cultural programs and training courses for Muay Thai, conducted by three trainers, in cooperation with the Lanna Fight Club, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The embassy revealed the desire of Muay Thai trainers to share with Kuwaitis knowl-

edge, skills, techniques and experiences related to the famous game, which is one of the traditional martial arts in Thailand.

The embassy added, "We learned with pleasure that Muay Thai has become one of the popular combat sports in Kuwait. There are increasing numbers of Kuwaiti men, women and youth who have trained in it and enjoyed practicing it."

### For the sake

Continued from Page 1

That is why when the "Naturalization of the Four Thousand" law was enacted, people rejoiced. However, like everything else, it was shelved. When the Central Agency for Remedying Status of Illegal Residents put forward some realistic solutions, its president Saleh Al-Fadhala was accused of abandoning national identity.

If this fact is indicative, it indicates a closed horizon, a separation from reality, and an adaptation of approaches based on narrow interests. This is why the file has grown and turned into a snowball because the state has lost the vision for an advancement project and for exploiting all potentials for development.

Because of this, some countries celebrate the Bedoun people and grant them citizenship and passports, because they realize the importance of the added values of talent and creativity, and what it represents to the wealth of its society. On the other hand, with us the noise has become deafening. Experts and specialists who do not understand anything have come to us with words of which only the good part is heard.

In light of this complex situation, we do not know who bears responsibility. Is it the ruling house, the government, or the National Assembly? This is because there is a decision-maker who takes the nonsense of what is said in some diwanias and builds solutions based on that, including granting these people "full-fat" passports for a certain period in order for them to travel elsewhere, or giving some money to those whose origin is known so that they can travel to their country.

If we take into account what is said about the presence of 400,000 people whose nationalities are doubtful, why are the Bedoun residents not granted citizenship? Aren't they the first?

Irrespective of the case, there must be a solution to this issue, which has been troubling Kuwait and is a disgrace to the state.

### Kuwait urges

Continued from Page 1

Al-Ibrahim explained that the campaign comes as a new station in continuous Kuwaiti charitable giving towards Palestine and its people, which began before the independence of Kuwait and the Nakba of Palestine. The campaign aims at providing food, clothing, and medicine, as well as providing medical equipment and performing operations and surgeries.

The relief intervention program includes supplying hospitals and health centers in Gaza Strip with medical supplies, medical devices, medicines, fuel, and ambulances to work on increasing their efficiency in treating the wounded and injured. The program also includes food parcels, drinking water, purchase plots, cash aid, shelter parcels, and aid for orphans and families, as well as clothing.

Al-Ibrahim expressed appreciation for the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the

speedy response to such a tragedy.

He highlighted that the Kuwaiti charitable work is linked to the systems of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Elsewhere, a team of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) is currently distributing food supplies and daily meals to Palestinians in Gaza strip, in spite of intensive bombardment of Gaza city and regions in the enclave, the association announced on Tuesday.

KRCS Secretary-General Maha Al-Barjas expressed to KUNA keenness to support the Palestinian people in the current tragic conditions caused by Israeli occupation's aggression on the strip.

Al-Barjas said that KRCS teams, today, distributed food supplies and daily meals to Palestinians who fled their homes and took up refuge at shelters.

She has affirmed that the KRCS teams are currently in Gaza that has been intensive Israeli bombardment, and there have been contacts with them to determine further urgent medical and food needs for the Gazans.

In coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent, a convoy of relief and medical supplies was prepared to relieve the brothers in Gaza, she said, affirming that the association would also aid Gazans who suffered losses as a result of the Israeli aggression.

Moreover, Al-Barjas called on Kuwaiti citizens, residents of Kuwait and private sectors to participate in "Aid Palestine" campaign by donating through the Society's website.

In latest developments, Israeli warplanes hammered the Gaza Strip neighborhood by neighborhood on Tuesday, reducing buildings to rubble and sending people scrambling to find safety in the tiny, sealed-off territory as Israel vowed a retaliation for Hamas' surprise weekend attack that would "reverberate ... for generations."

Aid organizations pleaded for the creation of humanitarian corridors to get aid into Gaza, warning that hospitals overwhelmed with wounded were running out of supplies. Israel has stopped all access of food, fuel and medicines into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing.

The war began after Hamas militants stormed into Israel on Saturday, bringing gunbattles to its streets for the first time in decades. At least 1,600 lives have already been claimed on both sides, and perhaps hundreds more. Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza hold more than 150 soldiers and civilians hostage, according to Israel. The conflict is only expected to escalate. Israel expanded the mobilization of reservists to 360,000 on Tuesday, according to the country's media. After days of fighting, Israel's military said Tuesday morning that it had regained effective control over areas Hamas attacked in its south, and of the Gaza border.

A looming question is whether Israel will launch a ground offensive into Gaza - a 40 kilometer-long (25 mile-long) strip of land wedged among Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is home to 2.3 million people and has been governed by Hamas since 2007.

# October

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'Bank's pioneering experience in empowering women boosts leadership positions'

# Gulf Bank participates in preparing youth for the job market

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: As part of its strategic partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, and as part of its continuous efforts to support and motivate youth, Gulf Bank participated in the recent seminar titled, INJAZ Talks, in the presence of the Chief Data & Innovation Officer at Gulf Bank, Mai Bader Al-Owaish.

Organized by INJAZ Kuwait, The seminar aimed to provide success models that inspire and motivate young people to engage in the job market, by reviewing the journey of many officials and leaders and their career experiences.

Throughout the seminar, Al-Owaish reviewed her academic and professional experiences to young people approaching the job market, where she answered their questions, and pointed to the great differences between university and practical life, and how to smoothly transition from one stage to another.

Al-Owaish further indicated that she is one of the many examples of Gulf Bank's pioneering experience in empowering women, which contributed to many



Mai Bader Al-Owaish, Chief Data & Innovation Officer at Gulf Bank.

women obtaining leadership positions, where their percentage reached 28% out of the total of those posi-

tions, which is one of the largest percentages in Kuwait's banking sector.

Gulf Bank's participation is part of its ongoing strategic partnership with INJAZ Kuwait, that spans over 17 years, where a variety of effective training programs were provided for youth. This stems from Gulf Banks' continuous endeavors to support Kuwaiti youth, who represent one of the main pillars in its 2025 strategy and in the Kuwait Vision 2035.

**Sustainability initiatives**

The Job Shadowing program is one of INJAZ's programs that align with Gulf Bank's sustainability initiatives, that aims to support youth, by helping them better understand the real work environment, post-university years.

Furthermore, a number of young people who participated in the seminar, stated that the various experiences they heard,helped them form a clearer career vision; as they were experiences shared by officials

working in major institutions, that they aspire to work for in the near future.

It is noteworthy that the successful partnership between Gulf Bank and INJAZ Kuwait, has resulted in training about 26,000 male and female students during the academic years of 2022 and 2023, covering various academic levels ranging from primary to university levels, including fresh graduates.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future.

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Health Minister hands Kuwait's Prize to Dr. Aref Al-Nouryani of UAE.



Health Minister hands Kuwait's Prize to Dr. Randa Hamadeh of Bahrain.



Health Minister hands Kuwait's Prize to Dr. Afshin Astover of Iran.

## Three doctors win Kuwait's Prize for combating diseases: minister

Pioneering cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes control in ME

**CAIRO, Oct 10, (KUNA): Three doctors won the 2023 Kuwait's Prize for cancer control, cardiovascular and diabetes diseases in the Middle East region, said Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi on Tuesday.**

This came in Dr. Al-Awadhi's speech on the celebration of hand-

ing over the prize during the World Health Organization's regional meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean held in Cairo.

The award winners are Dr. Randa Hamadeh, Bahrain, Dr. Aref Al-Nouryani, the UAE, and Dr. Afshin Astover, Iran.

**Commitment**

The minister affirmed that the celebration confirms the State of Kuwait's commitment to encouraging and sponsoring research, innovations and initiatives to combat cancer, cardiovascular

diseases and diabetes.

Further, Dr. Al-Awadhi stressed that this prestigious award represents an exceptional achievement and commitment to human health and well-being in the Middle East, adding that there are still challenges in the field of combating cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes that affect the lives of many people.

Minister Al-Awadhi heads the Kuwaiti delegation to the regional meeting of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean Region in its 70th session.



KUNA photos  
Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi speaks during the World Health Organization's regional meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean held in Cairo.

### Raising efficiency of local workforce

## MoH and UHN discuss joint work

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): Assistant Undersecretary for External Health Services Affairs at the Ministry of Health (MoH) Dr. Hisham Kelendar discussed with the Board of Directors of the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto, Canada, various areas of cooperation in patient care and investment in the Kuwaiti health care sector.

The ministry said in a press statement on Tuesday that the visit included discussing international medical expertise in Kuwait and raising the efficiency of local workforce through joint training with major international health institutions.

**Affiliated**

UHN affiliated with the University of Toronto is the largest health research organization in Canada and is a network of research and teaching hospitals that was chosen as the best research hospital in Canada during the period from 2015-22, it explained.

UHN encompasses three main hospitals: Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, in addition to the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and the Michener

**Legislative reforms tackled**

**Kuwait hands ESCWA women committee chairmanship to Lebanon in 11th session**

BEIRUT, Oct 10, (KUNA): The state of Kuwait on Tuesday handed over the chairmanship of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Committee on Women to Lebanon for the Eleventh session.

The eleventh session of the Committee on Women opening session was held in ESCWA headquarters in Beirut and will last for two days with participation from Kuwait and other Arab countries

Representative of Kuwait, Chair of the 10th session of the Committee on Women Maryam Al-Azmi told KUNA that Kuwait had worked with (ESCWA) Institute, it added.

Kelendar also represented the ministry at the Canadian-Kuwait Business Summit in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy and Kuwait

executive secretariat on legislative reforms for women's economic empowerment in the Arab region.

The eleventh session of the Committee on Women tackled the theme of women's economic empowerment as a catalyst for prosperous national economies and means to boost such empowerment through enacting legal reforms, improving transport systems and addressing sexual harassment.

The session will also discuss means of ensuring greater access to land, property and immovable assets, advancing care policies, and making social protection systems more inclusive.

Chamber of Commerce, and participated in a panel discussion as a speaker on opportunities for cooperation and investment in the Kuwaiti health sector, it pointed out.

### Education enhancement and digital transformation

## Kuwait University embraces AI revolution

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10, (KUNA): Through the widespread use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) recently, Kuwait University (KU) "hopped on the wagon" and began to use AI applications to develop the educational process and boost its output.

The usage of AI also came in line with the government's vision for digital transformation in Kuwait. In regards to the use of AI, the head of laboratories and AI at the computer engineering department of KU Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutawa told KUNA that the university uses numerous applications of AI namely Chabot's and facial recognition robots.

AI is used in administrative tasks to formulate statistics important to KU decision-making process, he added.

Al-Mutawa revealed that AI was used during the COVID-19 pandemic to monitor students taking unified exams and tests via the "Model" system without human interference.

The Model system utilizes cloud technology to ensure the continuity of services despite the growing number of users, connecting it with Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Teams, which enables students to view all available university classes and activities simultaneously or other including tests and homework, said Al-Mutawa.

In regards to AI's benefits in terms of digital transformation, the academic affirmed that AI streamlined processes and made it simple to finish tasks in record time.

For example, AI could provide academics with reminders of their eligibility to take sabbaticals for research and higher studies in addition to other services, indicated Al-Mutawa.

He noted that AI required that all data needed to be available to function properly; however, he stressed that parameters for AI usage should follow UN resolutions regarding the ethical use of technology or matters would become very complicated.

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World News Roundup

Russia

Reporter loses appeal

Russia faces challenge to regain UNHRC seat

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 10, (AP): Russia faces a tough fight to regain a seat in the UN’s premiere human rights body in Tuesday’s election in the General Assembly, which voted last year to suspend Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine.

The 193-member assembly will be electing 15 members to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council, with candidates put forward by the UN’s five regional groups.

Russia is competing against Albania and Bulgaria for two seats allotted to the East European regional group, and Moscow’s UN ambassador, **Vassily Nebenzia**, accused the United States on Monday of leading a campaign to prevent their return to the council.

“The main phobia of our American colleagues today is electing Russia to the Human Rights Council,” Nebenzia told a Security Council meeting called by Ukraine on last week’s strike by a Russian missile on a Ukrainian soldier’s wake in a small village that killed 52 people.

The United States and others have sent letters to many of the 193 members of the General Assembly urging a vote against Russia, according to diplomats. Felice Gaer, director of the American Jewish Committee’s Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, was among the non-government letter-writers also urging Russia’s defeat.

Albania’s UN Ambassador Ferit Hoxha also urged those who care about human rights and “the credibility of the Human Rights Council and its work” to oppose a country that kills innocent people, destroys civilian infrastructure, ports and grain silos “and then takes pride in doing so.”

Undermine

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood told the Security Council that Russia’s re-election to the Human Rights Council “while it openly continues to commit war crimes and other atrocities would be an ugly stain that would undermine the credibility of the institution and the United Nations.”

In April 2022, less than two months after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the General Assembly voted 93-24 with 58 abstentions on a U.S.-initiated resolution to suspend Russia from the Human Rights Council over allegations that its soldiers in Ukraine engaged in rights violations that the US and Ukraine called war crimes.

In Tuesday’s election, the only other competitive race is in the Latin America and Caribbean group where Cuba, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Peru are competing for three seats.

The other regional races are not competitive. The Asian group put up China, Japan, Kuwait and Indonesia for four seats. The African group chose Burundi, Malawi, Ghana and Ivory Coast for four seats. And the Western group has France and the Netherlands seeking the two seats.

Human Rights Watch said last week that Russia and China are unfit to serve on the Human Rights Council. “Every day, Russia and China remind us by committing abuses on a massive scale that they should not be members of the UN Human Rights Council,” said Louis Charbonneau, UN director of Human Rights Watch.

The rights group said Russian forces in Ukraine continue to commit apparent war crimes, including unlawful attacks and crimes against humanity, torture and summary executions. President Vladimir Putin and his children’s rights commissioner are also sought by the International Criminal Court for the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children, it said.

Detention

The New York-based watchdog said China’s rights record should also disqualify it from the Human Rights Council. It pointed to last year’s report by the office of the U.N. human rights commissioner which said China’s discriminatory detention of Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in the western region of Xinjiang may constitute crimes against humanity.

The rights group said Cuba and Burundi have also committed systematic human rights violations, including harassment, arbitrary detention, and torture of dissidents, and don’t belong on the council.

The Geneva-based Human Rights Council was created in 2006 to replace a commission discredited because of some members’ poor rights records. But the new council soon came to face similar criticism, including that rights abusers sought seats to protect themselves and their allies.

The council reviews the human rights records of all countries periodically, appoints independent investigators to examine and report on issues like torture and situations in countries like North Korea and Iran. It also sends fact-finding missions to investigate rights violations, including in Ukraine.

Under the council’s rules, its 47 seats are allocated to regional groups to ensure geographical representation. Members are elected yearly by the General Assembly for staggered three-year terms that begin Jan. 1. In last year’s election, Venezuela, South Korea and Afghanistan lost contested races, but countries including Vietnam and Sudan, which have been accused of having abysmal human rights records, won seats.

Also:

**MOSCOW:** A Wall Street Journal reporter who was detained in **Russia** on espionage charges lost his appeal against his arrest Tuesday, meaning he will stay in jail until at least the end of November.

**Evan Gershkovich**, wearing a blue shirt, T-shirt and jeans, appeared in a glass defendant’s cage at Moscow City Court as he once again appealed his release. He stared at the cameras in court with a blank expression.

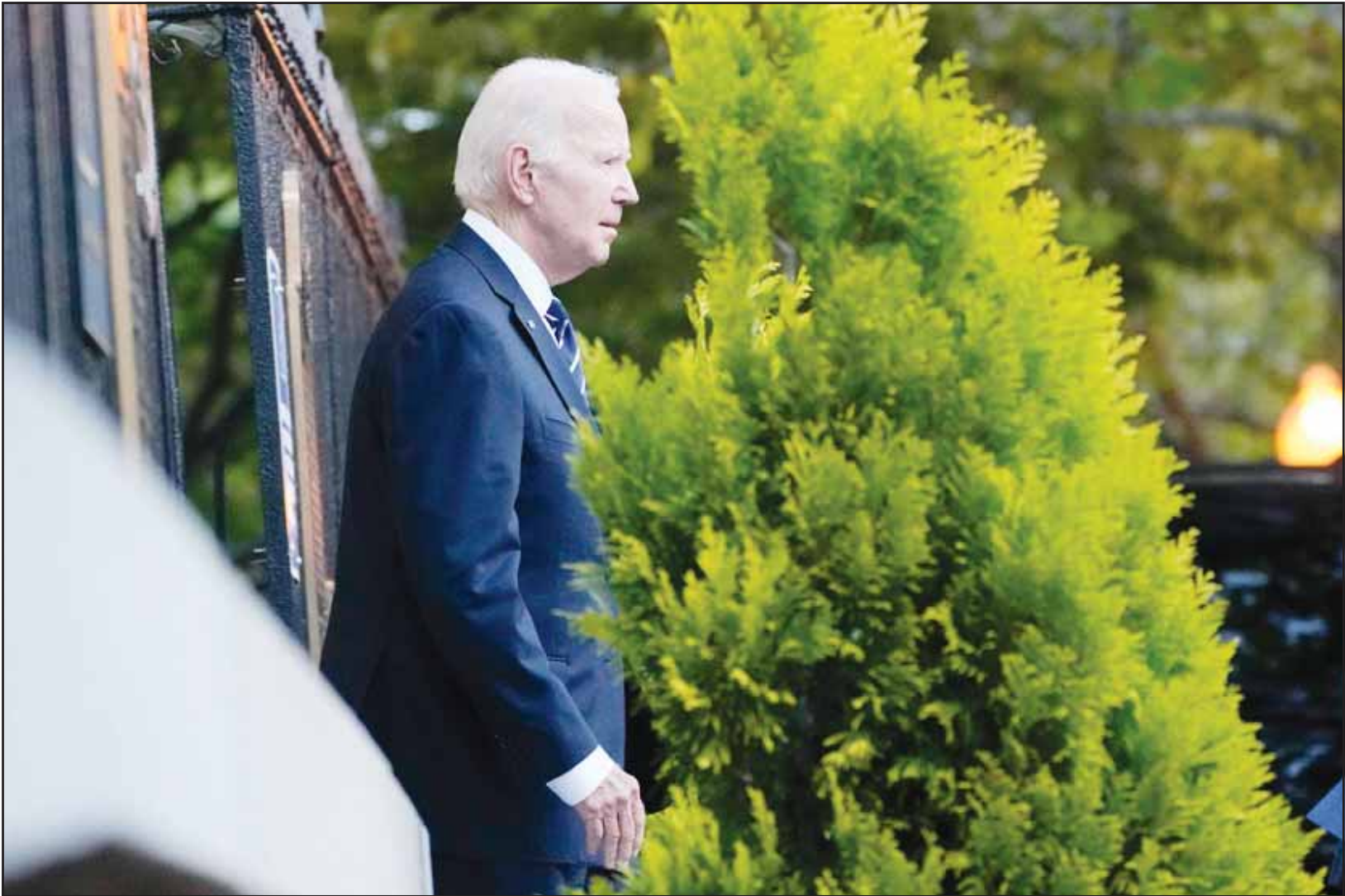
It was the second time in less than a month that the journalist had appeared before a judge after the Moscow court declined to hear his appeal in September owing to unspecified procedural violations.

The latest decision means Gershkovich, 31, will remain jailed at least until Nov. 30, unless an appeal is heard in the meantime and he is released - an unlikely outcome.

The journalist was detained in March while on a reporting trip to the city of **Yekaterinburg**, about 2,000 kms (1,200 miles) east of Moscow, and a judge ruled in August that he must stay in jail until the end of November.

The court proceedings are closed because prosecutors say details of the criminal case are classified.

Russia’s Federal Security Service alleged Gershkovich, “acting on the instructions of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex.”



US President Joe Biden leaves Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the Georgetown section of Washington after attending Mass on Oct 7. (AP)

Politics

Republicans split over who will be House speaker

Biden interviewed in classified docus probe

WASHINGTON, Oct 10, (AP): US President Joe Biden has been interviewed as part of an independent investigation into his handling of classified documents, the White House said late Monday. It’s a possible sign that the investigation is nearing its end.

Special counsel Robert Hur is examining the improper retention of classified documents by Biden from his time as a US senator and as vice president that were found at his Delaware home, as well as at a private office that he used in between his service in the Obama administration and becoming president.

Biden has said he was unaware he had the documents and that “there’s no there there.”

Ian Sams, a spokesperson for the White House counsel’s office, said in a statement that the interview was voluntary and conducted at the White House on Sunday and Monday.

It’s not clear when Hur’s team approached Biden’s lawyers about an interview or how long they’d been negotiating. Asked on Aug. 25 if he planned to sit for an interview with the special counsel, Biden replied, “There’s no such request and no such interest.”

The interview could signal that the special counsel investigation is nearing its conclusion.

In 2016, then-FBI Director James Comey announced his recommendation against criminal charges for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The Democratic presidential nominee, over her handling of classified information just three days after agents interviewed her at FBI headquarters.

Investigators with Hur’s office have already cast a broad net in the Biden probe, interviewing a wide range of witnesses about their knowledge of the handling of classified documents.

In his statement, Sams reiterated that Biden and the White House were cooperating. He referred any questions to the Justice Department.

“As we have said from the beginning, the President and the White House are cooperating with this investigation, and as it has been appropriate, we have provided relevant updates publicly, being as transparent as we can consistent with protecting and

preserving the integrity of the investigation,” Sams said. “We would refer other questions to the Justice Department at this time.”

Attorney General Merrick Garland in January 2023 named Hur, a former US attorney for Maryland, to handle the politically sensitive Justice Department inquiry in an attempt to avoid conflicts of interest.

It is one of three recent Justice Department investigations into the handling of classified documents by politically prominent figures.

The investigation into Biden is separate from special counsel Jack Smith’s probe into the handling of classified documents by former President Donald Trump after he left the White House. Smith’s team has charged Trump with illegally retaining top secret records at his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida and then obstructing government efforts to get them back. Trump has said he did nothing wrong.

Emerg

No evidence has emerged to suggest that Biden engaged in comparable conduct or willfully held onto records he wasn’t supposed to have.

Questioned in January about the discovery, Biden told reporters that the documents were immediately turned over to the National Archives and the Justice Department. He said he was cooperating fully with the investigation and was “looking forward to getting this resolved quickly.”

“I think you’re going to find there’s nothing there,” he said. “There’s no there there.”

In June, the Justice Department informed former Vice President Mike Pence’s legal team that it would not pursue criminal charges against him related to the discovery of classified documents at his Indiana home. The news came as Pence finalized plans to launch his campaign for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

About a dozen documents with classified markings were discovered at Pence’s home in January after he asked his lawyers to search his vice presidential belongings “out of an abundance of caution” after the Biden discovery. The items had been “inadvertently boxed

and transported” to Pence’s home at the end of the last administration, Pence’s lawyer, Greg Jacob, wrote in a letter to the National Archives.

Also:

**WASHINGTON:** Republicans have no clear idea who will be the next US House speaker, leaving an unprecedented power vacuum in Congress and severely limiting America’s ability to quickly respond to the crisis in Israel - or any number of other problems at home and abroad.

On Monday, the ousted former speaker, **Kevin McCarthy**, quickly jumped into the void, bitterly criticizing President **Joe Biden**’s administration over the strength of its defense of Israel and positioning himself as a de facto Republican leader even though his colleagues toppled him from power.

But it’s not at all clear if McCarthy could seriously make a comeback - or if one of the other Republicans seeking the gavel, **Steve Scalise** or **Jim Jordan**, can be elected speaker as their majority stumbles into infighting. House Republicans met behind closed doors for hours Monday evening as anger and blame spilled out, with no clear path forward.

“Whether I’m speaker or not ... I can lead in any position I’m in,” McCarthy, R-Calif., said earlier at the Capitol.

The upheaval in the House puts the US Congress at a crossroads during a moment of crisis, the first time in history it has booted a speaker from power, operating without a constitutional officer, second in line to the presidency. House business, and with it most congressional action, has come to a standstill.

There are unanswered questions about what, if anything, the Congress can do with only an interim speaker pro tempore, a position created to ensure the continuity of government after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. At risk is immediate aid to Israel along with passage of a resolution that would show U.S. support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas for the attack as the region is now engulfed in war.



North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein speaks at a campaign party hosted by Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Cheri Beasley, Nov 8, 2022, in Raleigh, N.C. Stein, a North Carolina gubernatorial candidate, is holding his most public campaign event to date, nine months after the Democrat entered the race. The sitting attorney general on Oct 10 was set to hold a rally on the Shaw University campus in Raleigh. (AP)



Lake



Schwinden

America

**Trump fraud trial resumes:** As Donald Trump’s longtime finance chief, Allen Weisselberg helped spare the former president’s real estate empire from its last existential threat, staving off insolvency after casino bankruptcies and an airline failure in the 1990s.

Now, after a recent jail stint for tax fraud, Weisselberg is front and center again - was set to testify Tuesday in the civil trial in New York Attorney General Letitia James’ fraud lawsuit against Trump and his company, the Trump Organization.

Weisselberg, also a defendant in the lawsuit, is expected to testify about his role in preparing Trump’s annual financial statements - including conversations they had while finalizing the documents, which were given to banks, insurers and others to make deals and secure loans.

James’ lawsuit alleges that Weisselberg engineered Trump’s financial statements to meet his demands that they show increases in his net worth and signed off on lofty valuations for assets despite appraisals to the contrary. (AP)

□ □ □

**Lake wants Senate seat:** Kari Lake asked for a show of hands.

Who’s been canceled? Who’s lost friends? Has strained relations with family? Been indicted? Sued for defamation?

“If your hand did not go up in any of that, then I do think you need to work a little harder. I really do,” Lake told an adoring crowd of Michigan Republicans gathering last month on Mackinac Island.

Lake was to launch a US Senate campaign for an Arizona seat in a splashy Scottsdale rally on Tuesday, having never conceded that she lost last year’s race for Arizona governor. She is trying out new messages and courting the support of national Republicans she’s insulted in the past. But the former television news host isn’t backing down on the things that made her a star on the far right - her combativeness with perceived enemies, her fealty to Donald Trump and her willingness to defend his election lies.

That worries some Republicans who fear she will cost them a race that could decide control of the Senate. (AP)

□ □ □

**Judge upholds serious charges:** A judge delivered a victory Monday to the state prosecution of white Louisiana lawmen in the deadly 2019 arrest of Ronald

Greene, allowing the most serious charge of negligent homicide to go forward against a trooper captured on body-camera video dragging the Black motorist by



Poland’s Chief of the General Staff, Gen. Rajmund Andrzejczak, right, talks to conscripted tank crews during the Aurora 23 military exercise at the Rinkaby firing range outside Kristianstad, Sweden on May 6. Two top commanders of the armed forces, the Chief of the General Staff, Gen. Rajmund Andrzejczak, and operational commander Gen. Tomasz Piotrowski have tendered their resignations. (AP)

his ankle shackles and forcing him to lie facedown in the dirt.

The case had been steeped in uncertainty in recent months after the judge dismissed obstruction charges against two other troopers, leaving three officers still facing charges.

“My heart is lifted by this,” said Greene’s mother, Mona Hardin. “We shouldn’t have waited four plus years, but we’re still moving forward.” (AP)

□ □ □

**Ex-gov Schwinden dies:** Ted Schwinden, a wheat farmer and World War II veteran who gained national attention for keeping his home phone number listed during two terms as Montana’s governor, has died. He was 98.

Schwinden died Saturday in Phoenix at his daughter’s home, son Dore Schwinden said Monday. The cause of death was “old age,” his son said. “He went to sleep in the afternoon and didn’t wake up.”

Ted Schwinden was a Democrat who served as Montana’s 19th governor from 1981 and 1989.

He and his wife, Jean, opened the governor’s mansion to the public for the first time and often welcomed the public tours in person.

The governor periodically drew national attention because he answered his own, listed telephone. Radio talk shows throughout the nation would call him at home for impromptu interviews. (AP)



Lat/Am

**‘Act against protesters’:** Guatemala’s attorney general on Monday called for the government to act against largely peaceful protesters, who have taken to the streets for weeks demanding her resignation for what they say are clear attempts to undermine their nation’s democracy.

Protests broke out in Guatemala two weeks ago following one of the most tumultuous elections in the country’s recent history. The protests are fueled by accusations that Attorney General Consuelo Porras has tried to prevent President-elect

**Bernardo Arévalo** from taking office in January.

Since emerging as a political contender earlier this year, Arévalo - a progressive outsider challenging the elite who have long controlled the Central American nation - and his Seed Movement party have

faced waves of legal attacks. Those only ramped up when he won the country’s elections in August.

The attacks have included raids on electoral facilities and the suspension of Arévalo’s political party, effectively handicapping his ability to govern. (AP)

**Security forces launch raids:** Rio de Janeiro’s state government deployed hundreds of police officers early Monday to three of the city’s sprawling, low-income neighborhoods, saying it aimed to clamp down on organized crime groups.

Security forces targeted not only the Mare complex of favelas by Rio’s international airport, but also the adjacent Vila Cruzeiro neighborhood and the City of God neighborhood on the city’s opposite side. All three are controlled by the Red Command drug trafficking group.

Recent intelligence had indicated that crime bosses had migrated from Mare to the other two communities, Rio’s government said on X, formerly Twitter. It also said 1,000 officers participated in the three-pronged raid.

Residents of the communities started hearing shootouts soon after dawn, according to Fogo Cruzado, a nonprofit organization that provides real-time reporting of gun violence. Local media G1 reported that two police helicopters took fire and were forced to the ground. (AP)

**Prez to send diplomatic note:** Mexico’s president said Monday he is going to send a diplomatic note to the United States to protest Texas truck inspections that have caused major delays at border crossings.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador claimed Monday that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott’s decision to enforce additional truck inspections was “very irresponsible” and politically motivated.

Mexico’s national freight transport chamber said Sunday that 19,000 trucks were delayed at the border. The freight association claimed the delayed trucks were carrying about \$1.9 billion in goods.

It said in a statement that the delays were “severely affecting” cross-border trade.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said it had started “enhanced commercial vehicle safety inspections” on Sept. 19 in crossing around El Paso and Del Rio, Texas, “to deter the placement of migrants and other smuggling activity” and detect unsafe vehicles.

López Obrador claimed it was about politics. (AP)

**Max makes landfall in Mexico:** Tropical Storm Max made landfall in Mexico’s southern Pacific coast Monday, as the country braces for a second punch from Tropical Storm Lidia, expected to hit Tuesday as a hurricane in a different part of the country.

Max was located about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of the resort town of Zihuatanejo with winds of about 60 mph (95 kph) and was moving inland at about 7 mph (11 kph). Mexico’s Civil Defense office said Max was causing “torrential” rain in the states of Guerrero and Michoacan. The storm was expected to quickly weaken.

However, the U.S. National Hurricane Center and Mexican authorities warned of the possibility of flash floods from both systems.

Lidia was gaining strength farther north off Mexico’s western Pacific coast and was expected to make landfall Tuesday as a hurricane on a stretch of coast north of the resort of Puerto Vallarta with winds of up to 100 mph (160 kph).

Hurricane warnings were in force for the resort of Puerto Vallarta and the surrounding coast.

Lidia was expected to pass near or over the government-run nature education center on the Islas Marias, but the islands are frequently hit by bad weather and are mostly unpopulated. (AP)

**43 freed from scam syndicate:** The 43 Malaysians rescued from a human trafficking syndicate operating a telecommunications fraud in Peru were young people who had arrived in Lima just a week earlier, Malaysian police said Tuesday.

The Malaysians were ensnared in a scam that reportedly originates from crime syndicates in Taiwan and China, in which scammers impersonate banks or a public official to trick a person into disclosing personal banking information or transfer money. Hundreds of Malaysians have been lured by job offers in other Southeast Asian nations only to end up being forced to defraud people through online romance or cryptocurrency schemes.

“This is the first such (trafficking) case in Peru (involving Malaysians). We are trying to do our best to educate Malaysians including on social media but these job scams still happen,” Malaysian police chief Razarudin Husain told a news conference.

The 26 women and 17 men arrived in Peru on Sept. 29 and were fortunate to have been freed on Saturday after Peruvian police raided a house in La Molina in the capital Lima, he said. (AP)



Chinese Coast Guard members approach Filipino fishermen as they confront each other off Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea on Sept. 23, 2015. China’s coast guard claimed Oct 10 to have chased a Philippine navy ship from a disputed shoal in the South China Sea as tensions between the two countries over rich fishing areas escalate. (AP)

Asia

Seoul vows to push for suspension of inter-Korean army pact

Peace only option to resolve differences: Tsai

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Oct 10, (AP): Peace between Taiwan and China is the “only option,” Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said Tuesday, while strongly asserting the self-governing island’s defenses against Beijing’s threats to invade.

Tsai said in a National Day address that the international community views stability in the Taiwan Strait as an “indispensable component of global security and prosperity.”

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has been increasingly sending ships and warplanes across the Taiwan Strait in an effort to intimidate the population of 23 million, who strongly favor the status-quo of de-facto independence.

Tsai’s Democratic Progressive Party will seek to maintain power in elections next year against the Nationalists, who officially support unification between the sides that divided amid civil war in 1949.

“Let me reiterate that peace is the only option across the Taiwan Strait,” said Tsai, who will step down after two terms in office. “Maintaining the status quo, as the largest common denominator for all sides, is the critical key to ensuring peace.”

“Neither side can unilaterally change the status quo. Differences across the strait must be resolved peacefully,” Tsai said.

Tsai also referred to Taiwan’s recent launch of a home-built submarine as a major breakthrough in efforts to re-energize the domestic arms industry.

“We took a big step forward in our national defense self-sufficiency and further enhanced the asymmetric capabilities of our military,” she said.

The ceremonies with marching bands from Taiwan, Japan and the U.S. also underscored Taiwan’s split personality as a self-governing democracy whose national symbols and state institutions were founded on mainland China after the Manchu Qing dynasty was overthrown in 1911. The Chinese Nationalist Party under Chiang Kai-shek moved the government to Taiwan in 1949 following the takeover of mainland China by the Communist Party under Mao Zedong following a years-long bloody civil war.

Also:

**TOKYO:** South Korea’s new Defense Minister **Shin Won-sik** vowed Tuesday to push for the suspension of the 2018 inter-Korean military tension reduction agreement, citing its impact on limiting **Seoul’s** surveillance capabilities against North Korean military activities, Yonhap News Agency reported.

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 10, (AP): A senior Filipino diplomat known for his past expletive-laced tirade against China joined a coast guard trip to the disputed South China Sea last week and saw Beijing’s ships block and nearly collide with Philippine vessels, including one he was on.

Teodoro Locsin Jr. was on one of two Philippine coast guard vessels that escorted two Philippine boats to deliver food and other supplies to a Filipino marine territorial outpost in the Second Thomas Shoal on Oct. 4, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Tuesday. It was not immediately clear why the public disclosure of his participation in the trip was delayed.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appointed Locsin, 74, as a special envoy to China in August, in addition to his role as the Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom based in London.

“As special envoy, he is expected to be up to date on the matters that he will discuss with China and there is no better way to understand the West Philippine Sea issue than to see, for himself, what is happening in our own waters,” Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson

Teresita Daza said, using the Philippine name for the South China Sea waters nearer the country’s western coast.

“We are confident that this firsthand information will allow him to effectively convey our concerns to China,” Daza said.

As the Philippine foreign secretary under Marcos’s predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, Locsin often lashed out with blunt language on social media at China’s increasingly aggressive actions in the disputed waters.

When a swarm of Chinese boats converged in a Philippines-claimed reef in 2021, the then-foreign secretary demanded in a tweet that the Chinese get out, using an expletive-laced critique.

Meanwhile, China’s coast guard claimed Tuesday to have chased a Philippine navy ship from a disputed shoal in the South China Sea as tensions between the two countries over rich fishing areas escalate.

Coast guard spokesman Gan Yu said the Philippine ship had sailed into waters next to the Scarborough Shoal, which China calls Huangyan Island, and ignored “multiple calls” to turn back.

**BANGKOK:** Myanmar’s military was accused of launching an airstrike on a camp for displaced persons in the northern state of **Kachin** late Monday that killed more than 30 people, including 13 children, a human rights group and local media said.

The attack on the Mung Lai Hkyat displacement camp in the northern part of **Laiza**, a town where the headquarters of the rebel Kachin Independence Army is based, also wounded about 60 people, a spokesperson for Kachin Human Rights Watch told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Laiza is about 324 kilometers (200 miles) northeast of **Mandalay**, Myanmar’s second-biggest city.

The spokesperson, who asked to be identified only as Jacob for security reasons, said 19 adults and 13 children from the camp were killed by the airstrikes, which occurred around 11 p.m.

“I will push for the suspension of the Sept. 19 inter-Korean military agreement as soon as possible,” he said.

“Scrapping (the agreement) requires a legal process, but I understand a suspension only requires a Cabinet approval,” said Shin.

The new minister made the remarks in his first meeting with reporters after taking office on Saturday, noting the no-fly zone set by the agreement near the border “greatly” limits surveillance on signs of imminent North Korean provocations in the front line.

The agreement, signed under the previous liberal President **Moon Jae-in** who sought inter-Korean reconciliation, also includes setting up a land buffer zone, where artillery drills and regiment-level field maneuvers are to be suspended, as well as maritime buffer zones, banning artillery firing and naval drills.

After nearly a year, Justice Ibironke Harrison of the Lagos High Court found police officer Drambi Vandi guilty of one count of murder of Bolanle Raheem, who was pregnant at the time when she was shot dead Christmas

Day last year. Local reports said Raheem was in her early forties.

Vandi shot the lawyer after her vehicle in the town of Ajah in Lagos failed to stop at a checkpoint, local media reported at the time.



Police ride past residents in a bulldozer they are using to block street barricades during a police operation against organized crime in the Mare Complex favela of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Oct 9. Security forces targeted three neighborhoods that are controlled by the Red Command drug trafficking group. (AP)



Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a speech during National Day celebrations in front of the Presidential Building in Taipei, Taiwan Oct 10. (AP)



Bazoum



Weah

Africa

**Blinken calls Bazoum:** US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Niger’s deposed President **Mohamed Bazoum** ahead of an expected decision by the Biden administration to formally declare that his overthrow was a coup d’etat.

The State Department said Blinken called Bazoum on Monday to stress that a restoration of a freely elected government remains the best way for Niger to not only succeed for its people but also to remain a key partner of the US and others in countering extremism.

In the call, Blinken “reiterated that a democratically elected, civilian-led government presents the best opportunity to ensure that Niger remains a strong partner in security and development in the region,” the State Department said in a brief statement.

“The United States calls for the immediate release of all those unjustly detained following the military takeover,” the department said.

Blinken’s call came as the Democratic administration is preparing to make a formal determination that July’s military takeover in the central African nation meets the legal standard for a coup, according to officials familiar with the matter. (AP)

**Weah seeks 2nd term:** Liberian President **George Weah** is seeking a second term in office Tuesday, hoping that his efforts to pave roads, build hospitals and bring electricity to more areas will win votes despite growing economic hardships in the West African nation.

He faces a crowded field of 19 challengers, led by his main rival from the last election in 2017, Joseph Boakai, who served as vice president under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa’s first democratically elected female leader.

“I want to tell you, my fellow Liberians, I have done well,” Weah, a 57-year-old former international soccer star, said in his closing campaign message at his party’s headquarters in the capital, Monrovia.

Boakai, though, has campaigned on promises to rescue Liberia from what he calls Weah’s failed leadership, dubbing himself and his running mate “Rescue 1” and “Rescue 2.”

“We are all excited and optimistic about what is now a national call to rally citizens of this great country for a rescue mission to reverse the hardships so many Liberians and their families have been subjected to,” Boakai said during a recent stop at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium. (AP)

**Policeman gets death:** A Nigerian court sentenced Monday a police officer to death for shooting and killing a lawyer in the commercial hub of Lagos. Many applauded the rare sentence as a punitive measure against rampant cases of police abuse.





A group photo from the event.



H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov, (fourth from left) the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria being presented with a plaque.



Some of the IWG guests at the event.



Some photos from the event.



Photos by Leah Qurtal

### Event showcases rich culture, heritage and beauty of Bulgaria

## IWG Kuwait hosts enchanting Bulgarian Cultural Day

By Suzan Nasser  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The International Women's Group in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria, hosted a captivating Bulgarian Cultural Day on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova, the President of IWG and the spouse of the Bulgarian Ambassador, graciously welcomed esteemed guests and members upon their arrival.

The event was inaugurated with Mrs. Laila Boulos, the Public Relations Coordinator, introducing H.E. Dimitar Dimitrov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In his address, Ambassador Dimitrov expressed his immense joy at being part of this event, especially during a time when Bulgaria and Kuwait were celebrating the remarkable 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to IWG for hosting this Bulgarian Cultural Day, considering it an

outstanding opportunity to showcase some facets of his country's rich culture and traditions.

Ambassador Dimitrov emphasized the longstanding history of friendship and cooperation between Bulgaria and Kuwait, with culture playing a pivotal role in this relationship. Over the years, cultural exchange has encompassed exhibitions, participation in cultural festivals, concerts, collaborative efforts between libraries and museums, student exchanges, and various other activities.

The Ambassador also acknowledged the significant role of women, stating that, as guests of an association that unites women from diverse backgrounds, he couldn't help but highlight the vital role of women in Bulgarian society. He commended Bulgarian women for their active involvement in all aspects of life and their role as true custodians of Bulgarian cultural and spiritual traditions.

Highlighting Bulgaria's historical and cultural heritage, Ambassador Dimitrov noted that the Bulgarian state has flourished in the Balkans for over 14 centuries, with its traditions influenced by a myriad of civiliza-

tions and peoples, including ancient Thrace, Greece, Rome, and the Near East. Many Bulgarian sites and traditions have earned recognition on UNESCO's world heritage list, alongside the country's natural beauty, which draws millions of foreign tourists each year.

#### Progress

In conclusion, Ambassador Dimitrov took the opportunity to extend his congratulations to H.H. the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the third anniversary of his assumption of office. He also expressed his wishes for the continuous progress and prosperity of the State of Kuwait, its wise leadership, and its friendly people.

Following his speech, Mrs. Polina Dlamini, Vice President of IWG and spouse of the Ambassador of Eswatini, presented an honorary shield to the Bulgarian Ambassador and his wife, Mrs. Antonia Dimitrova, as a token of appreciation for organizing this special day and for introducing the attendees to the cultural richness and beauty of Bulgaria.

Throughout the event, a short film showcased Bulgaria's diverse natural and cultural heritage, historical landmarks, breathtaking mountains, lakes, caves, mineral springs, and exciting adventure tourism activities.

The audience was treated to a mesmerizing harp performance by Mrs. Violeta Shabanliyska, featuring compositions by Bulgarian composers.

The event also featured a visual display of hand-crafted cultural items and traditional rituals that were inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017. Traditional Bulgarian folklore costumes, known for their uniqueness, were also on display.

To tantalize the taste buds, the chefs at the Crowne Plaza Hotel prepared some famous Bulgarian dishes, all served in an ambiance filled with Bulgarian traditional music.

As a delightful conclusion to the Bulgarian Cultural Day, attendees had the chance to participate in raffles offering precious prizes generously provided by the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria.

### Students thrive at US universities

## AUK goes global with its International Programs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) continues to demonstrate its commitment to offering a unique and globally competitive educational experience. The University's dynamic International Programs facilitated the placement of eight students who were chosen by the International Programs Selection Committee. Six of the selected students spent their summer at Dartmouth College and two students went to George Washington University in the USA.

Four of the students were selected for the Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange Program, securing positions closely aligned with their individual academic pursuits and career aspirations. Mariam Shehadeh pioneered to undertake an internship at Dartmouth's prestigious Thayer School of Engineering; Marina Ayoub and Lea Calingasan interned at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business; while Lolwah Salem also pioneered to intern at the



AUK students at George Washington.

Dartmouth Center for Social Impact.

Embarking on the Dartmouth-AUK Summer Student Exchange Program were two students, Ahmed AboElhiba and Aiza Hussain who described their experiences as a convergence of their interests and an invaluable journey of self-discovery.

Noora Al-Sabah and Reem Qasem

also spent their summer in the US at George Washington University where they enrolled in courses to broaden their knowledge and enhance their expertise.

The International Programs at AUK partners with top universities worldwide to provide students with the opportunity to take their education

overseas to study and intern. The international exchange is also reciprocal whereby AUK is the only private university in Kuwait that also welcomes international students seeking to further their academic and professional pursuits.

AUK cultivates dynamic international partnerships and collaborations with renowned global institutions, expanding the academic and professional horizons of its students whilst also pushing the boundaries of education on a local and global scale.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and coeducational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw)



AUK students at Dartmouth.



PepsiCo hikes prices by double digits for the 7th consecutive quarter

Price hikes lifted PepsiCo's profits in the third quarter, but the company says those increases are likely to moderate in the coming year.

Pepsi raised prices 11% in the July-September period, the seventh straight quarter that the Purchase, New York, company has increased prices by double-digits. The higher prices took a toll on demand, with sales volumes down 2.5%.

PepsiCo said some of that volume decline is strategic. The company said it has been shrinking package sizes to meet

consumer demand for convenience and portion control.

"Units are growing much faster than volume," PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta said Tuesday in a conference call with investors.

But there is also some consumer push-back on prices. Consumers are looking for value and, in some cases, are trading down to cheaper stores.

"I do think that we see the consumer right now being more selective," PepsiCo's Chief Financial Officer Hugh John-

ston said Tuesday on a conference call with investors.

Still, Johnston said convenience store sales and food service sales – which usually weaken in times of high consumer stress – are strong.

Johnston said Pepsi continues to see higher prices for commodities like grain and cooking oil. In 2024, Pepsi expects inflation to be slightly higher than the 2% to 3% it was accustomed to before the pandemic. Consumers should expect to see price increases roughly in line with

inflation, he said.

Pepsi is watching the growing use of weight loss drugs like Ozempic, but so far their impact on the business has been negligible, Laguarta said. They could be outweighed by other trends, including rising incomes in many countries and the growing popularity of snacking in place of meals.

"We're seeing a lot of tailwinds that will continue to drive our categories," he said.

Pepsi shares were up 1.5% in morning trading.

In the third quarter, Frito-Lay North Amer-

ica sales volumes dropped 0.5% during the July-September period as net prices rose 8%. North American beverage sales volumes dropped 6% as prices rose 12%.

Sales volumes in Europe were flat. Sales volumes in Latin America dropped 5%.

Net pricing includes price hikes as well as changes in the mix of products sold and smaller package sizes. In prepared remarks Tuesday, PepsiCo said consumers are gravitating toward smaller packages for convenience and portion control. (AP)

Market Movements				10-10-2023			
		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
▲ JAPAN	- Nikkei	+2.43	31,746.53	▼ UAE	- DFM	-0.12	4,051.12
	PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.85	48,143.50				
	PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.19	6,264.07				
	SAUDI - Tadawul	+0.61	10,640.06				

# Business

## Oil prices ‘surge’ in September, before macro worries spur early October drop

By National Bank of Kuwait

Oil prices increased for the fourth month in a row in September, driven by tightening oil market fundamentals amid still resilient economic activity. Brent crude closed the month up at \$95.3/bbl (+9.7% m/m; +10.9% ytd), also posting its best quarterly performance (+27% q/q) since Q1 2022 in the process. (Chart 1.) Local crude marker Kuwait Export Crude (KEC) rose to \$97.9/bbl (+9.1% m/m; +19.3% ytd), maintaining its premium over Brent in reflection of the relatively tighter medium sour crude landscape post-Saudi and Russian supply cuts.

Moving into October, however, and oil's sharp rise ran into resistance, with the price of Brent falling to the mid-80s. The impetus appeared to be a mix of profit-taking by speculators and oil demand concerns related to key central banks including the US Fed keeping interest rates higher for longer. The consequent strengthening of the US dollar—up 1.7% over the last two weeks on a trade-weighted basis—has also been a negative influence on the dollar-denominated oil price. That said, the attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7 has seen oil's geopolitical risk premium resurface: Brent rose more than 4% the following day to \$88/bbl, recouping some of its early month losses.

The bullish sentiment that has driven the oil rally is evident in money flows into Brent futures by hedge funds and speculators. Net length, a measure of the difference between the number of contracts betting on oil prices increasing ('longs') and those betting on prices falling ('shorts'), spiked to its highest level (265k futures and options contracts) since early March, while the volume of outstanding oil contracts ('open interest') continued to rise to near-two-year high levels. (Chart 2.)

Global oil demand growth has remained fairly robust this year despite the economic dampening effect of tighter central bank monetary policies. Resurgent activity in China and firm OECD economic activity lifted demand to a record 103 mb/d in July, setting it on course to grow by 2.2 mb/d this year, predicts the International Energy Agency's

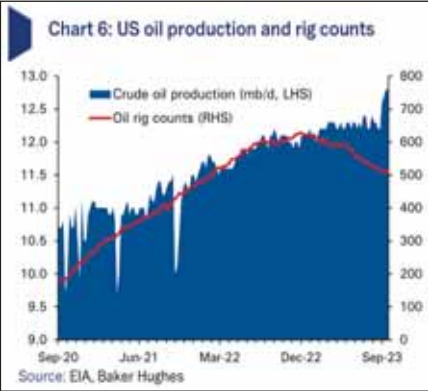
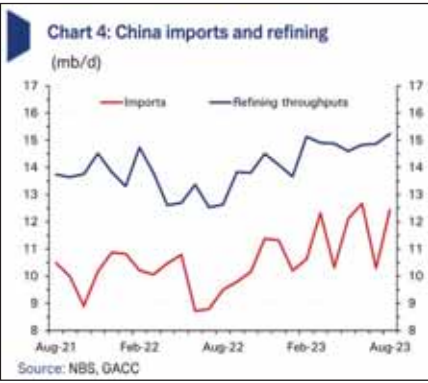
Oil prices extended gains for the fourth consecutive month in September, on the back of robust demand and tighter global supplies. October opened with prices on the back foot amid persistent macro worries and some profit-taking, though following Hamas's attack on Israel, prices then firmed once more on heightened geopolitical risk. OPEC+ production fell to a 2-year low in August, while the IEA projects global oil demand to grow by a solid 2.2 mb/d this year—dynamics that should support a tight market and elevated oil prices through Q4 2023.

(IEA). (Chart 3.) The oil market balance, which switched into a supply deficit in Q2 2023, is estimated to have widened in Q3 to around 1.9 b/d, according to our calculations. The final quarter of the year should see it marginally narrow to a still hefty 1.5 mb/d.

China's oil consumption data has surprised on the upside in recent months, with Chinese refiners setting a new record with the volume of crude they processed in July (approx. 15.2 mb/d) amid fairly elevated crude imports. (Chart 4.)

For 2024, however, the growth outlook appears less clear-cut, with wide variation among major energy forecasters' demand growth estimates. While the IEA sees oil demand growth more than halving to 1.0 mb/d, OPEC sees a more bullish gain of 2.2 mb/d. Both acknowledge, however, the potential negative impact on oil demand and macro-economic activity of persistently high global interest rates. The IEA also sees oil consumption in the transportation sector especially being further suppressed by increased efficiency gains, electric vehicle penetration and working from home practices.

On the supply side, combined data from OPEC secondary sources and S&P Global show aggregate OPEC+ output (excluding quota-exempt countries Iran, Libya and Venezuela) falling by 87 kb/d in August to 35.6 mb/d, the lowest level since July 2021.



(Chart 5.) The decline was due to lower Saudi (-88 kb/d), Angolan (-60 kb/d) and Kazakhstani (-50 kb/d), volumes, partially offset by

higher Nigerian output (+98 kb/d). Russian production fell marginally to 9.4 mb/d (-20 kb/d) in August. It is difficult to reconcile

this data with Russia's supply cut promises, however, as those pertained to exports rather than production.

Kuwait's crude production was flat month-on-month at 2.55 mb/d, according to secondary source data. It is expected to stay at this level until year-end as per Kuwait's voluntary cut commitments, but should then rise to 2.68 mb/d in January once the cuts are rolled back (assuming no change in OPEC+ policy). The increase in crude volumes will be welcomed by the authorities, as they look to utilize more fully the completed 650 kb/d Al-Zour refinery to produce more refined products (fuel oil and gasoil especially) for export to international markets and to supply more crude to the nearly-completed 230 kb/d Al-Duqm refinery in Oman, in which Kuwait holds a 50% stake. Kuwait is signed on to supply 65% of the refinery's crude.

Outside of the OPEC+ group, US crude production has surged to its highest level since March 2020 at 12.9 mb/d, US Energy Information Administration (EIA) data shows. (Chart 6.) This is a gain of 800 kb/d year-to-date—the most since 2019—as high oil prices spur renewed oil major spending and efficiency gains. Indeed, crude output has increased even while the number of actively producing rigs continues to decline. According to Baker Hughes, oil rig counts have declined 18% since the start of the year. The EIA has marginally revised up its oil production forecasts for 2024 to 13.16 mb/d.

We expect the tight global oil market fundamentals to persist in the near-term amid continued OPEC+ supply cuts—Saudi and Russia just this week reaffirmed their commitment to extending their voluntary cuts to year-end and the OPEC+ monitoring committee recommended no change in member production quotas—and relatively solid oil consumption. For oil prices, the potential for further upside may be capped, though, by lower seasonal oil demand and the likelihood of some supply increases from both OPEC (Iran and quota-bound members currently producing well below their allowances) and non-OPEC (especially the US and Brazil).

### 1st on the continent in 50 yrs

## IMF & World Bank pledge Africa focus at meetings

MARRAKECH, Morocco, Oct 10, (AP): In the shadow of a deadly earthquake in Morocco that caused nearly \$12 billion in damage, the world's most powerful economic policymakers said they would focus on Africa as they work to grow and stabilizing the global economy during times of war, inequality and climate change.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are holding their annual meetings in Africa for the first time in 50 years as they face a growing chorus of criticism that poorer nations are underrepresented at the two institutions. Both have recently said they plan to give Africa additional seats on their executive boards. The conference theme was clear Monday during the gathering in Marrakech, although definitive details had yet to be discussed.

"We're here, Africa," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on a panel with African entrepreneurs.

Often lenders of last resort, the IMF and the World Bank use billions in loans and assistance to buoy struggling economies and encourage countries operating in deficit to implement reforms they say promote stability and growth.

But critics - including officials from throughout Africa - have said policies that deny economies access to credit and loans in the absence of balanced budgets often require governments to make impossible choices, including tax reform or making cuts to subsidies for food or energy.

Though the policies often intend to prevent countries from defaulting, keeping up with high interest loans in Africa means less money for critical needs, youth and infrastructure, said Nadia Fettah, Morocco's economy and finance minister.

"When we're having the conversation about how much financial resources are available, that we need to choose between food security and debt or climate finance and economic outside investment - we need both," she said. "Emerging countries need all of this, and the future of growth in the world needs growth in Africa."

From Egypt to Ghana, those choices have sparked opposition in recent months. And for years, they have formed the basis of criticisms that the institutions sideline the neediest nations from their governance and decision-making process.

Those criticisms came to a head during the pandemic, when wealthy countries pumped

billions into keeping their economies afloat while poorer ones took on more debt.

"It's a time of multiple crises, particularly for Arab and African countries who've been hit by various exogenous shocks not of their making," said Iskander Erzini Vernoit, director of the Morocco-based Imal Initiative for Climate and Development. "There's this massive financing gap on the order of trillions for developing countries and also the key question of how affordable the financing can be."

Those shocks include rising energy and food costs spurred by the war in Ukraine. The challenges are particularly pronounced in Africa, where many countries spend more on debt than health care and education combined.

Africa is also among the places most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with critics calling on the World Bank and IMF to increasingly factor climate resiliency into its decision-making.

In the aftermath of last month's earthquake, the IMF approved a \$1.3 billion loan for Morocco to "help strengthen its preparedness and resilience against natural disasters."

The North African country is a longtime borrower that has used loans and credit to weather economic downturns, including most recently when the pandemic hit tourism and exports particularly hard. The institution has pushed Morocco to balance its budget and continue raising interest rates.

Morocco has experienced rapid development in its major cities, constructing world-class infrastructure that includes renovating airports, repaving roads and building a new high-speed rail.

Signs of the country's rapid economic development are on display during the meetings in Marrakech, where attendees were welcomed with a video describing Morocco as a place where "institutional continuity and sound leadership of the country's affairs have fostered progress and speeded development."

But the transformation remains uneven. Far from the meeting's air-conditioned and carpeted tents, in earthquake-hit mountain villages, roads remain unpaved, water can be scarce and jobs are hard to come by.

The disaster, residents say, exacerbated disparities plaguing rural areas and compounded struggles facing already-improvised communities.

## IMF outlook worsens for a ‘limping’ world economy

Mideast war poses new uncertainty

## Warba Bank participates in the annual meeting of IMF

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Warba Bank announced its participation in the annual conference of the International Monetary Fund, which is scheduled to be held between October 9-15 in Marrakesh, Morocco. Warba Bank will participate with a high-level delegation headed by Vice Chairman, Bader Khalid Al-Shalfan.

Regarding his participation in this conference, Vice Chairman, Bader Khalid Al-Shalfan, commented: "Given the development that Warba Bank has witnessed recently, especially with regard to developing its investment and financing portfolio, in light of the global trend towards the Islamic banking sector, which has been able to prove its remarkable success, Warba Bank believes that participating in this important international conference is an opportunity to gain more experience and also get to know potential international strategic partners that would contribute to consolidating the distinguished position that the Bank aims to occupy in the Islamic



Bader Al Shalfan

banking sector."

The IMF Conference works to provide a meeting platform for a global policy dialogue between high-level decision makers, including central banks governors and ministers, officials in regulatory bodies and those concerned with setting standards for conventional and Islamic finance, and CEOs of major private and public financial institutions, and academics, to formulate a

from the days-old war between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza, Gourinchas said. He said the IMF was "monitoring the situation closely" and noted that oil prices have risen by about 4% in the past several days.

"We've seen that in previous crises and previous conflicts. And of course, this reflects the potential

risk that there could be disruption either in production or transport of oil in the region," he said.

If sustained, a 10% increase in oil prices would reduce global economic growth by 0.15% and increase global inflation by 0.4%, Gourinchas said.

"But again, I emphasize that it's really too early to jump to any conclusion here," he added.

So far, the increase in oil prices has been "fairly muted," said Commerzbank commodities analyst Carsten Fritsch. He noted the absence of declarations of support for Hamas from key oil producers Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq, which would make it unlikely that they would restrict supply in response to the war.



‘Naif Alrajhi Investment’ makes strategic move with significant stake acquisition

Naif Alrajhi Investment, a premier Saudi investment group, has recently acquired a significant stake in Veyron Marketing, a leading name in Saudi Arabia's marketing and advertising sector. Veyron, renowned for its rapid growth, specializes in the strategic planning and execution of both local and international advertising campaigns. This acquisition underscores Veyron's robust competitive standing, its expansive business trajectory, and its pioneering role in the marketing and advertising industry. In a strategic move, Veyron's recent ac-

quisition is set to amplify its forward-looking plans, tapping into the collective strengths of both companies. This partnership is poised to champion a seamless exchange of expertise, data-driven insights, and professional prowess. With an emphasis on top-tier consultancy services and innovative solution design, the collaboration is geared to seize the myriad of opportunities presented by the sector's robust expansion. Naif Saleh Alrajhi, Chairman and CEO of Naif Alrajhi Investment group, commented on the acquisition, saying, "This

move sets a fresh paradigm in marketing investment, with an eye on amplifying the digital content landscape and enhancing community engagement, all while sharpening our competitive edge." Mohammad Al Esmail, Co-founder and CEO of Veyron Company, shared his insights on the recent acquisition, noting, "This strategic move not only aligns with our vision to diversify and broaden our horizons but also introduces a new caliber of professional marketing products and cutting-edge tools."

Al Esmail added, "It's all about elevating the sector's profile on both local and global stages, perfectly syncing with the Vision 2030 objectives. This acquisition is more than just a business decision; it's about shaping the future of marketing, driving next-gen trends, and ensuring our advertising solutions stand out in terms of quality and efficiency." Salim Majzoub, Co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer at Veyron Company, underscored the pivotal role of marketing and advertising in driving economic and

cultural advancements. "Partnerships like these," Majzoub commented, "are not just beneficial-they're essential for the holistic evolution of the sector." Established in 2015, Veyron has consistently made its mark in the industry, amassing a slew of local and international accolades for its innovative endeavors. Just last year, the company was honored with two SMARTIES awards at the prestigious MMA SMARTIES ceremony in Dubai, a testament to its team's exemplary marketing campaigns. (Business Wire)

Violence in Israel hangs over conference

UK’s Labour Party says it will invest for growth

LIVERPOOL, England, Oct 10, (AP): Britain's main opposition Labour Party said Monday that it will focus on economic growth rather than higher taxes to "rebuild" the country after more than a decade of Conservative rule.

Labour economy spokeswoman Rachel Reeves told delegates at the party's annual conference that "Labour will tax fairly and spend wisely."

"But I must tell you, you cannot tax and spend your way to economic growth," she said. "The lifeblood of a growing economy is business investment."

Reeves was making her pitch to British voters and businesses at the four-day conference in Liverpool, where Labour is trying to cement its front-runner status in opinion polls before an election due in 2024.

The party is running 15 or more points ahead of the governing Conservatives in multiple opinion polls,

as Britain endures a sluggish economy and a cost-of-living crisis driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and economic disruption following the U.K.'s exit from the European Union.

Labour is trying to show it can provide an alternative to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives, who have been in power since 2010. But the opposition party is wary of promising big public spending increases that would require tax hikes. The social democratic party also wants to convince corporate Britain that it is on the side of business.

For years, businesses were wary of the party, which has its roots in the trade union movement, and tended to favor the Conservatives. But recent economic and political upheavals have made many think again.

Reeves said a Labour government would get the economy growing faster to fund public services and boost investment through a new

national wealth fund. She pledged to build 1.5 million homes to ease Britain's chronic housing crisis, reform an "antiquated" planning system Labour says is holding back infrastructure improvements, and repair the creaking, overburdened state-funded National Health Service.

Money for health and education will come from abolishing "non-domiciled" tax status, which allows some wealthy individuals to avoid paying U.K. tax, and ending private schools' tax-free status, she said.

Reeves said Labour also will strengthen workers' rights and abolish "zero hours" contracts that do not guarantee employees a minimum number of hours a week.

The speech was broadly welcomed by both business and workers' groups - no mean feat. Rain Newton-Smith, chief executive of the Confederation of British Industry, said businesses would be "encouraged" to hear Labour "speak so ambitiously about

driving up business investment and committing to tackle some of the key blockers."

Gary Smith, general secretary of the GMB trade union, said Reeves' speech "gave a far-sighted vision of a better U.K."

Reeves also said a Labour government would appoint a "COVID corruption commissioner" to try to recoup some of the billions lost to fraud and waste during the pandemic.

Reeves said the commissioner would bring together tax officials, fraud investigators and law enforcement officers to track down an estimated 7.2 billion pounds (\$8.8 billion) in lost public money spent on grants and contracts related to COVID-19, and "get back every penny of taxpayers' money that they can."

Like many countries, the U.K. was forced to sidestep usual rules as it rushed to procure essential supplies and prop up people's livelihoods during the coronavirus pandemic.

A multi-year public inquiry is examining Britain's handling of the pandemic, which left more than 200,000 people in the country dead.

Leader Keir Starmer has steered Labour back toward the political middle ground after the divisive tenure of predecessor Jeremy Corbyn, a staunch socialist who advocated nationalization of key industries and infrastructure. Corbyn resigned after Labour suffered its worst election defeat in almost a century in 2019.

The brutal, shocking attack by Hamas militants on Israel, and Israel's military response, overshadowed the gathering of a party that has spent several years confronting allegations that antisemitism was allowed to fester under Corbyn, a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause.

After being elected leader in 2020, Starmer apologized and vowed to restore relations between Labour and the Jewish community. Corbyn was

expelled from the party.

The conference schedule includes several meetings by pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian groups, including one on Monday organized by Labour Friends of Palestine that opened with 30 seconds of silence to reflect on the "horrors" of recent days.

In a speech to delegates, party foreign affairs spokesman David Lammy said that Labour "utterly condemns Hamas's appalling attack on Israel."

"There is never a justification for terrorism," he said. "Labour stands firmly in support of Israel's right to defend itself, rescue hostages and protect its citizens."

He reiterated Labour's support for a two-state solution that now seems a distant prospect.

"There will not be a just and lasting peace until Israel is secure, Palestine is a sovereign state and both Israelis and Palestinians enjoy security, dignity and human rights," Lammy said.

China touts its Belt and Road infrastructure lending policy

Beijing sees initiative as an alternative for int'l devt

BEIJING, Oct 10, (AP): China is touting its 10-year-old Belt and Road Initiative as an alternative model for economic development, releasing a government report that praises the program while glossing over criticism that it has saddled poor countries with too much debt.

The program championed by Chinese leader Xi Jinping has financed construction of ports, power plants, railroads and other projects around the world.

"Over the past 10 years, the fruitful results of building the Belt and Road together and the growing circle of friends have fully proved that the Belt and Road does not engage in a closed and narrow circle, transcends the old mindset of geopolitical games and creates a new paradigm of international cooperation," Li Kexin, the Foreign Ministry's director for international economics affairs, told reporters in Beijing.

Since it was launched, the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI, has backed projects carried out mostly by Chinese construction companies, financed by loans from Chinese development banks.

Its official goal is to boost trade and investment by improving China's transport links with the rest of the world. Analysts credit the program with directing needed funding to poor countries but say that came at a cost.

A study released Monday by Boston University's Global Development Policy Center said the BRI had delivered more than \$330 billion in loans to developing country governments through 2021, lending more than the World Bank in some years.

"On some level, China has added a World Bank to the developing world, and that is no small feat and very appreciated by developing countries," said Kevin Gallagher, the center's director.

But the same study noted that many recipients of Chinese loans are now struggling with their overall debts. Also, Chinese-funded power plants are emitting about 245 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, adding to emissions of climate altering greenhouse gases.

Gallagher says the initiative has switched to a new focus, dubbed "small and beautiful," that favors smaller projects and renewable energy.

China's development lending has slumped in recent years, in part because China has learned from the debt crises in multiple countries and also because it has less money to lend as its own economy slows down.

Cong Liang, a senior official of China's main planning agency, said during the release of the BRI report that the country would adhere to "the principle of sustainable debt"



High-speed train is parked during the opening ceremony for launching Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway, a key project under China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, at Halim station in Jakarta, Indonesia on Oct 2, 2023. China is touting its 10-year-old Belt and Road Initiative as an alternative model for economic development, releasing a government report that praises the program while glossing over criticism that it has saddled poor countries with too much debt. (AP)

Bid to expand role in SE Asia

HK eyes stronger economic and trade ties with Thailand

HONG KONG, Oct 10, (AP): Hong Kong's leader said Tuesday the city would seek to strengthen its economic and trade ties with Thailand after a meeting with the country's prime minister, as the Chinese financial hub looks for more business opportunities in Southeast Asia.

Chief Executive John Lee said at a weekly press briefing that he and Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin agreed during a meeting on Monday that the two sides have "good and close relations" and that they would promote more exchanges between their people.

Lee's administration wants to expand the city's role in Southeast Asia

to boost economic growth for the financial hub after years of COVID-19 restrictions. It aims to position the city as a bridge between mainland China and the international community.

Lee said Hong Kong will work to deepen regional cooperation and strengthen its work on economic, trade and investment activities with countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Since 2010, ASEAN has been the second-largest trading partner for Hong Kong, the government said.

Srettha arrived in Hong Kong on Sunday for a three-day trip. He met with officials and business leaders in-

cluding Bernard Chan and Allan Zeman, according to his post on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter.

In a press statement on Monday, Lee also thanked Thailand for supporting Hong Kong's early entry into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a major 15-nation trade agreement that took effect last year. The deal slashes tariffs on thousands of products, streamlining trade procedures and providing mutual advantages for member nations.

Members of the trade bloc hope the initiative, encompassing about a third of world trade and business activity, will help power their recoveries from the pandemic.

and social systems, offering an alternative to the current path of globalization that Beijing says has just widened the gap between rich and poor countries.

"It is no longer acceptable that only a few countries dominate world economic development, control economic rules, and enjoy development fruits," the report said.

Next week, China is expected to host a forum showcasing the BRI program.

Airlines halt flights in and out of Israel

LONDON, Oct 10, (AP): Major airlines have suspended flights in and out of Israel after the nation declared war following a massive attack by Hamas.

Israel hit more than 1,000 targets in Gaza and Palestinian militants continued firing barrages of rockets, setting off air raid sirens in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Video posted online appeared to show a plume of smoke near a terminal at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport.

Scores of arriving and departing flights at Ben Gurion were canceled or delayed, according to the airport's online flight board, which also showed a steady trickle of flights. Most were operated by Israel's national airline El Al along with others by regional carriers like Turkey's Pegasus Airlines and Greece's Blue Bird Airways.

American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines suspended service as the U.S. State Department issued travel advisories for the region citing potential for terrorism and civil unrest.

American suspended service to Tel Aviv through Friday. The airline said that it has issued a travel alert providing additional flexibility for customers whose travel plans are impacted.

"We continue to monitor the situation with safety and security top of mind and will adjust our operation as needed," American said.

United said it allowed two scheduled flights out of Tel Aviv late Saturday and early Sunday and accommodated its customers, crews and employee travelers who were at the airport. The airline said that its Tel Aviv flights will remain suspended until conditions improve.

Delta said its Tel Aviv flights have been canceled through Oct. 31. The airline said it's monitoring the situation and making schedule adjustments accordingly. The company said customers with canceled flights or who want to change their Tel Aviv ticket should check the Delta app, website or call Delta reservations to make adjustments.

Airlines in Europe and Asia also put flights on hold amid the hostilities, offering refunds and waiving rebooking fees for passengers.

Air France said that it has suspended services to Tel Aviv "until

further notice" after coordinating with French and Israeli authorities.

"The airline is constantly monitoring the geopolitical situation in the areas served and overflown by its aircraft in order to ensure the highest level of flight safety," Air France said in on its website.

Germany's Lufthansa, which suspended flights to and from Tel Aviv until Saturday, said Monday that the decision regarding its planes and those of its subsidiaries was made "due to the still unclear developing security situation in Israel and after an intensive analysis of the situation."

The Lufthansa Group includes Austrian Airlines, Swiss and Brussels Airlines as well as Lufthansa itself.

Hong Kong's main carrier, Cathay Pacific Airways, said that "in view of the latest situation in Israel," it was cancelling its Tel Aviv flights scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday.

"The safety of our passengers and crew are our top priority. We will continue to monitor the situation very closely," the airline said on its website, adding it would provide another update on Friday ahead of its third weekly flight on Sunday to the Israeli city.

Virgin Atlantic canceled its service between London's Heathrow Airport to Tel Aviv on Monday and Tuesday as well as part of that route on Wednesday.

Budget airline Wizz Air, which flies to Israel from Abu Dhabi and more than two dozen airports in Europe, said it was cancelling all flights to and from Tel Aviv "until further notice."

The U.K. discount carrier easyJet said that "due to the evolving situation in Israel," it has decided to "temporarily pause operations," by canceling its Monday flights from London Luton and Manchester airports to Tel Aviv.

"Our thoughts are with those who have been affected and the safety and security of our passengers and crew is always easyJet's highest priority," easyJet said in a statement.

British Airways said it's planning to continue operating flights to Israel "over the coming days with adjusted departure times."

Dutch carrier KLM said it's scrubbing flights to Tel Aviv "until and including Wednesday."

TAQA announces the divestiture of its stake in Air Liquide Arabia

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia, Oct. 10, (PR Newswire): The Industrialization and Energy Services Company ("TAQA") announced today the completion of the sale of its stake in Air Liquide Arabia Limited Company ("ALAR"), with proceeds exceeding SAR 600 million.

"This transaction is in line with TAQA's strategy to rationalize our non-core portfolio and divest investments that are not in line with our growth plan, the proceeds will enable us to further invest in growing our core organically and acquire more technologies to further enhance TAQA Well Solutions offering," Khalid Nough, TAQA's Chief Executive Officer

About TAQA

Founded in 2003 and with 54% ownership by the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, TAQA (The Industrialization and Energy Services Company) is an international company headquartered in Dharan and Abu Dhabi that offers leading well solutions for the energy industry and is creating value and opportunity for all its stakeholders. TAQA has more than 5,000 people in more than 20 countries and serves multiple markets. TAQA offers a complete well solutions portfolio that includes Coiled Tubing and Stimulation, Cementing, Wireline, Frac, Directional Drilling, Downhole Tools, Completions, Well Testing, Slickline, Inspection, H2S Safety, and Logging and Perforating.



Books

Actor’s unique parenting philosophy shines in ‘Zilot & Other’ book

Odenkirk and his daughter turn zany poems into a kids’ book

LOS ANGELES, Oct 10, (AP): Bob Odenkirk has known he wanted to immortalize the playful poems he created with his kids since they were first scribbled down years ago.

The Emmy-nominated actor always assumed “Zilot & Other Important Rhymes,” hitting shelves Tuesday, would be a project he completed once his son and daughter had long been out of the house. “Maybe when I was a grandpa,” he mused.

But when the entire family hunkered down under the same roof for the better part of 2020, he and his daughter Erin, the younger of the two siblings, wanted to create something that fosters wonder and joy in children in the midst of abundant despair.

“We tried to make the most of the limitations, the situation. But you know, that was a hard time for everyone in the country,” Odenkirk recalled of the coronavirus pandemic. “Erin’s an illustrator and an artist. And I thought, ‘Let’s just get to work on that book.’”

So they dusted off the whimsical rhymes they had collaborated on nearly two decades ago. Odenkirk added some new ones and his daughter, who was remotely finishing up at the Pratt Institute, enveloped her bedroom wall with her father’s poems as she sought inspiration for accompanying artwork during study breaks.

“I’d put them on my closet door right by my desk. And I had this wall of pages,” Erin, now 22, recalled. “Every day, I’d pull like two or three down and I’d try to do a sketch.”

The duo looks back fondly on that time of collaboration. But they both admit the process was not without challenges.

“There’s tension there. I mean, think of any business partner or any project partner you’ve ever had,” the “Better Call Saul” star said. “You’re trying to make choices and decisions together. And in this case, you kind of can’t leave, both because there’s a pandemic and because you’re in a family together.”

Overall, however, they say the experience brought them closer and helped them get to know each other in new ways.

**Complex**

“Zilot & Other Important Rhymes” - a title inspired by a word meaning “fort” that Odenkirk’s son made up as a child - shows a distinct amount of respect for its young readers, not shying away from daunting words and concepts like bacteria and climate change. Odenkirk said this was in keeping with his philosophy as a parent when he was raising young children.

“I’m not trying to be overly complex, but not being afraid to use language that was a little more complex and refined than most people talk to their kids with,” he said. “I want kids to be comfortable around words and feel that they can use them and maybe even make a mistake, use them wrong and learn and then not feel embarrassed.”

Though he has of late opted for more dramatic roles - he starred

in the hit series, “ Breaking Bad ” and played the titular role in its spinoff, “Better Call Saul” - Odenkirk spent much of his career as a writer (he has two Emmys for that) and actor in sketch comedy shows like “Saturday Night Live” and “Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!”

A regular on the picket lines in both Los Angeles and New York since the Writers Guild of America went on strike back in May, Odenkirk has been a member of the WGA for more than three decades. But last month’s news that the writers had struck a deal with the studios didn’t deter Odenkirk from heading back to the picket lines with the still striking actors in Los Angeles the following day.

“I always knew we would get here. These are challenging negotiations. And we have to hold out. And this is where a strike gets really hard and hopefully people suffer on both sides, especially the other side,” he said, alluding to the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

“We have to show the AMPTP that the things that we’re arguing about and discussing are of a crucial enough level that it matters to us that we’ll suffer,” he said.

But his shrewd understanding of Hollywood negotiations has not stopped him from encouraging his own children to follow in his footsteps and pursue careers in the arts - though he acknowledged some ambivalence.

Variety



This image released by Paramount+ shows Jack Cutmore-Scott as Freddy Crane, (left), and Kelsey Grammer as Frasier Crane in a scene from ‘Frasier.’ (AP)

Television

Grammer back as Crane in multi-cam comedy

‘Frasier’ returns with its timeless humor

**LOS ANGELES:** Hollywood writers have voted almost unanimously to approve the contract agreement reached by their union leaders that ended a strike after nearly five months, while actors remain in negotiations to find a way out of their own strike.

The Writers Guild of America announced Monday that 99% of the 8,525 members who cast ballots voted to ratify the deal.

The agreement was widely touted as a win by leaders, and widely praised by members, with major gains in payment, size of show staffs and control of artificial intelligence in scripts. The result of the vote taken over the past week was never really in doubt.

“Together we were able to accomplish what many said was impossible only six months ago,” **Meredith Stiehm**, president of the WGA-East, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, nearly three months after their strike began, leaders of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists were back in contract negotiations with studios on Monday, a week after talks restarted.

Unlike the marathon night-and-weekend sessions that brought an end to the writers strike, the actors and their employers are moving more methodically in their talks, and it was not clear how much progress was being made.

Writers guild leaders urged studios to grant actors’ demands and said their members would picket alongside them until a deal was reached.

The writers’ new contract runs through May 1, 2026, three years after their previous contract expired and they went on strike. After negotiations that saw direct involvement from the chiefs of Disney, Netflix and Warner Bros. Discovery, a tentative deal was struck on Sept. 24. Two days later, when the board members voted to approve the agreement and send it to members, the strike was declared over and writers were released to work. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** **Michael Chiarello**, a chef known for his Italian-inspired Californian restaurants who won an Emmy Award for best host for “Easy Entertaining With Michael Chiarello” and appeared on Bravo’s “Top Chef” and “Top Chef Masters,” has died. He was 61.

LOS ANGELES, Oct 10, (AP): You could say Joe Cristalli tweeted his role as an executive producer and co-showrunner on the new “Frasier” sitcom into existence.

About 10 years ago as a fledgling TV writer and “Frasier” super fan, Cristalli started a Twitter account with “random jokes” about the show and character made famous by Kelsey Grammer in the sitcoms “Cheers” and “Frasier.”

“It was stupid and nobody cared about it. I think I had maybe 3,000 followers at its height,” he recalled in a recent interview.

At this point, “Frasier” had been off the air for 10 years, but Cristalli used it as “an outlet to practice writing because I was such a super fan and I just loved the style of joke-telling, so I would work on it.”

A few years later, Cristalli read that Grammer was interested in reviving the character. He had his agent send a sample script and examples from his “Frasier”-centric Twitter feed to Grammer’s team. He was eventually hired alongside “How I Met Your Mother” writer Chris Harris to be co-showrunners of a new “Frasier” series, debuting Oct. 12 on Paramount+.

This “Frasier” stars Grammer in the title role of the high-brow psychiatrist, as he moves back to Boston. His son Freddy is now grown, working as a firefighter, and Frasier realizes he needs to prioritize their relationship (much in the way the character set out to connect with his retired police officer father, played by John Mahoney, in the original). He also begins a new career as a professor at Harvard.

Writing for the character is a fun challenge, said Harris, because “when you think of Frasier Crane speaking, you think of flowery language.” Because of time constraints, every line can’t be in Frasier-speak. “We save those moments for certain times,” said Harris.

They also reference the original series sparingly and smartly - which is an act of restraint that Cristalli said Harris helped him to understand.

“I put in a very specific reference to something in (‘Frasier’) season four, and I remember Chris very

gently saying, ‘Do you think maybe we should do jokes that everyone will laugh at?’”

“There are analogies and callbacks to the old show, but we try not to do any of them shamelessly,” Cristalli said. “We’re not going to just throw a recliner or a Jack Russell in, like we’re trying to do them subtly and elegantly. So if you catch them, great, but we’re not hanging everything on those jokes. I love (the references) ... but Chris makes a very good point. We want other people to like this show besides me.”

The show is a throwback in that it’s a multi-cam comedy taped in front of a live audience. Most comedies these days are single-cam and filmed without an audience.

Harris hopes the show is a success and provides a much-needed boost for the multi-cam format.

**Creativity**

“I will say that nothing feels as much like showbiz as a tape night,” said Harris. “There’s a working-without-a-net kind of feeling and you really are putting all your work and all your creativity out there for people to judge. You don’t know something works until you get that immediate response, but that immediate response is awesome.”

Famed sitcom director James Burrows (“Taxi,” “Friends,” “Will & Grace”), who worked with Grammer on both “Cheers” and “Frasier,” signed on to direct two episodes.

“It’s such a comfort because he didn’t have to do the show,” said Cristalli. “He didn’t have to help out. But he read the scripts, he was in the auditioning process, he was pitching jokes and genuinely laughing and enjoying himself. It just made everybody more relaxed because it’s a lot of pressure to bring back something this iconic.”

Burrows shared his advice to the new actors on “Frasier” (including Jack Cutmore-Scott as Freddy and Anders Keith as David, Frasier’s nephew and the son of Niles and Daphne).

“What I tell them is, ‘When we rehearse, Kelsey is at 50%. When he’s in front of an audience, he’s at

100% and you better be on that level otherwise you’ll get blown away.’ That’s what I used to tell guest stars on ‘Cheers.’ ... ‘They’re marking time in rehearsal. When they get on a stage and the laughter comes, if you don’t play up on their level, you’re going to disappear.’”

Cristalli said Grammer slowly morphs into the character.

“In the first rehearsal day, he’ll be in like, a T-shirt and shorts and it’s like, ‘Hold on. That’s not. Who’s that? That’s not Frasier.’ The next day he’s got, you know, longer pants and the next day it’s a blazer. And then all of a sudden it’s like, ‘Oh, wait a second, I see him now,’” Cristalli said. “There’s a very clear distinction between Frasier and Kelsey Grammer, but he slips into those shoes real comfortably and it’s very seamless.”

For the show’s theme, composers and father-son duo Bruce and Jason Miller were brought in to update the original “Tossed Salads & Scrambled Eggs” song. Bruce Miller composed the original “Frasier” theme. Grammer also sings this version.

The composers first did a “hipper” version “that had movement to it, and energy,” Bruce Miller said. Grammer listened and suggested the sound reflect how the character is older now, and looking for calmness at this stage in his life. They went back and used a small band, which is the version that viewers will hear.

This “Frasier” also has a bar, but it’s not the bar made famous in “Cheers.” Its name, Mahoney’s, is a tribute to John Mahoney, who died in 2018. Just as the Martin character was different than his sons, this set captures that juxtaposition. It’s conceived as a place where both firefighters and academics gather.

“It’s an older bar, something you would find near Cambridge,” said set director Glenda Rovello.

“There’s a sweet line where Frasier is in Mahoney’s and remarks, ‘I may have spent too much time in a particular bar,’ which I made sure the boys kept because it was a wonderful tribute,” Burrows said.

Chiarello died Friday at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa due to an allergic reaction that resulted in anaphylactic shock, according to Chiarello’s restaurant group Gruppo Chiarello. He had been at the hospital receiving treatment for the allergic reaction over the past week. Details on how he developed the allergic reaction



Chiarello



Stiehm

were not immediately available.

“We deeply mourn the loss of our beloved patriarch Michael. His culinary brilliance, boundless creativity, and unwavering commitment to family were at the core of his being,” the restaurant group said in a statement.

Chiarello, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in

New York, opened his first restaurant at just 22 - Toby’s, in **Miami**. He would go on to open various restaurants around Napa Valley and **San Francisco**, including Tra Vigne Restaurant, Coqueta, Ottimo and Bottega. He also owned the Chiarello Family Vineyards in **Yountville, California**. Bottega was named Best New-

comer by Zagat in 2008 and was selected as one of America’s best new restaurants by both Forbes and Esquire. At the restaurant, he served Lasagnetta di Zucchini, Pesce alla Milanese and Pollo alla Diavola. Ottimo had paninis and family dishes that served four, like tomato-braised and roasted whole chicken. (AP)



People & Places

People

Push for dance emojis

Copeland ‘promotes’ diversity in all spaces

NEW YORK, Oct 10, (AP): **Misty Copeland** has her hands (and feet!) in many different projects simultaneously, but all are motivated by her passion to use her platform to promote diversity in all the spaces she inhabits.

The first Black woman to be promoted to principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre in 2015, Copeland says she never takes that opportunity for granted. Beyond performing, she says she feels a responsibility to show the importance of representation, and work on projects that are an extension of who she is as a dancer.

Her influence has transcended the stage to author, head of her own production company and charitable foundation, and now co-founder and designer of a new athletic wear brand, Greatness Wins, that focuses on clothing for women of all ages and body types.

Copeland also likes to try new things that scare her so she’s taken on the role of interviewer on a new show called “PBS Arts Talk,” where she recently interviewed painter Nathaniel Mary Quinn and dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp.

Copeland spoke with The Associated Press about her new focus, fighting for more inclusive emojis, and staying in shape.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

**AP:** You know Tharp personally so what was it like being on the other side and interviewing her?

**Copeland:** Twyla it ended up being more nerve wracking once I got into it with her because - I mean, I should have known - I’ve been working with her since I was 6 years old. I’m 41 now- she’s a ball buster. She wants to push the boundaries and it didn’t matter what question I asked her, she was going to push me (laughs) in every way.

But also, we’ve had an amazing relationship and she’s been a mentor to me my whole career. I was nervous being on this side of things. And, you know, whenever we would cut, she would just say, “Misty, just be you. You’ve done so much, there’s nothing you have to prove. Let’s just talk.”

**AP:** Quinn has a compelling personal story that he brings into his art. How did that inform your artistry to talk to him?

**Copeland:** It was so emotional just hearing his story and the way that he tells it. And to see it so vividly reflected in his work is inspiring as an artist. I asked him about what it was to be a Black artist and has it been a struggle and he just looks at things in a very different lens, at least from what my experience has been as a Black artist. And I think those two different stories are so important to tell. He kind of uses these things that he’s gone through as a launching pad. And he’s like “I’m an artist. I make work that I hope will speak to all people. Of course I’m thinking about my community, but it’s for everyone.”

**AP:** You executive produced a new documentary called “LIFT” about a program that helps kids experiencing housing insecurity find ways to express themselves through dance. Why was that important to you?

**Copeland:** It follows a handful of young people and really watching how LIFT has provided tools to be better human beings to evolve and to kind of make choices in a positive way. But it’s just showing the power of the arts. That to me is like the grand scheme theme is that art saves lives, and dance and ballet can be inclusive. It’s about who’s teaching it. It’s about getting rid of all of the trauma and things you’ve dealt with and coming into the room and bringing ballet at its core to these young people. It’s just a beautiful documentary.

**AP:** It feels like everything you do has a sense of common purpose, why?

**Copeland:** I’ve always felt so privileged to be in the position that I’m in. I’ve watched generations and generations and I have relationships with a lot of these dancers, Black and brown, who weren’t given an opportunity like I have. So I feel a responsibility being in this position that it’s not just about going on stage and performing, though that’s extremely important to have representation in that space. But for me to do everything I can to show what I’ve gained by being a part of this art form and the importance of diversity, the importance of having representation.

It’s amazing to have these things that are an extension of who I am as a ballerina.

**AP:** Why did you start a petition to create new emojis related to dance that are more inclusive?

**Copeland:** Dance should be inclusive, it should be uniting. It’s a universal language. It should be for everyone. These may seem like small, insignificant things to a lot of people, but there’s a much bigger meaning and deeper meaning behind it. You know, going back to the history of the pink tight and the pink ballet slipper - yes, there were white European people doing it in that time, so they made these things to reflect them in their skin color. But now that’s not all who’s dancing and who’s being exposed to it. So we should see that representation through and through.

I look at these young people who are influenced by these things like emojis. They’re on Tik Tok, they’re texting, they’re on Twitter and Instagram. It may seem like an insignificant thing to maybe someone my age, but these young people want to see themselves represented and reflected in these spaces.

**AP:** You are so busy, do you still make time to train?

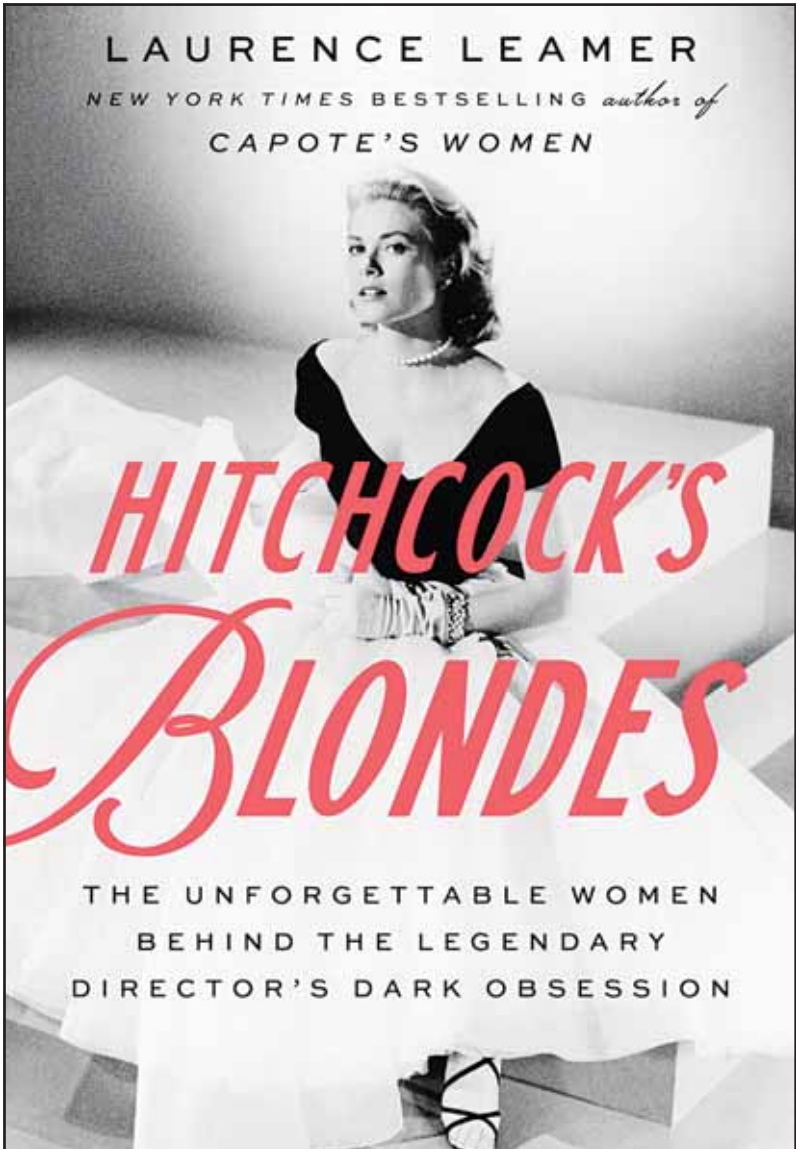
**Copeland:** I was up at 5 a.m. this morning on the treadmill (laughs.) I’m not actively on stage right now because I really felt like it’s kind of now or never. I’ve had an incredible career so far with ABT, and I’ve done everything and more than I imagined.

I’m now in a position where I’ve founded this athletic wear line with Derek Jeter and Wayne Gretzky, Greatness Wins. I’m the president and founder of the Misty Copeland Foundation. I sit on the board of Lincoln Center and The Shed. All of these things that I think are such an incredible evolution of where I’ve come from as an artist and as a Black artist. And I now am in these spaces where I can have impact and I have a voice and I have power and I want to take advantage of this time.

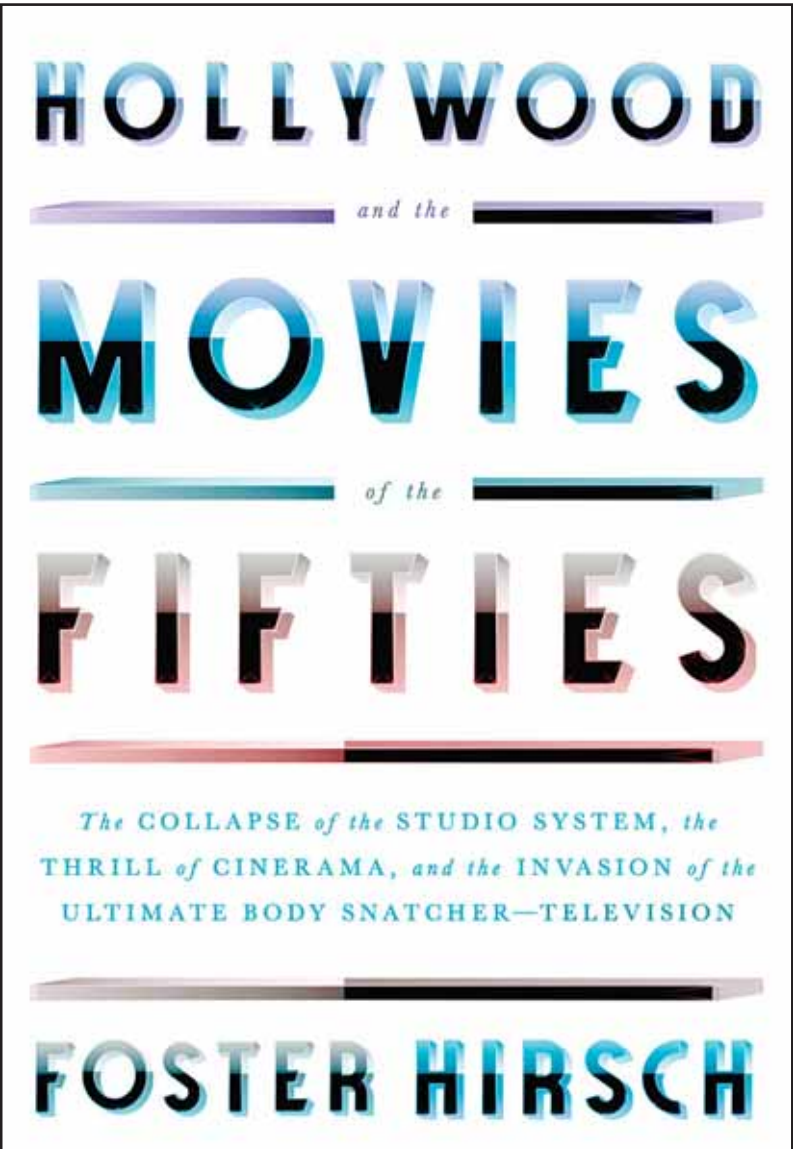
But yes, I still have to take care of myself. I have to put myself first and make sure I’m healthy so that I can take care of my 18-month-old and do all these other things.

**AP:** Does your son show any desire to dance?

**Copeland:** 100%! He came out of the womb with quads and calves and he’s like this little muscle man. And he’s obsessed with ballet, which I did not try and do! He didn’t see ballet until about a month ago, just on the screen. And he dances. It’s unbelievable. I can’t wait to actually get him in a formal dance class.



This cover image released by Putnam shows ‘Hitchcock’s Blondes: The Unforgettable Women Behind the Legendary Director’s Dark Obsession’ by Laurence Leamer. (AP)



This cover image released by Knopf shows ‘Hollywood and the Movies of the Fifties: The Collapse of the Studio System, the Thrill of Cinerama, and the Invasion of the Ultimate Body Snatcher - Television’ by Foster Hirsch. (AP)

Books

Film historian delves into the turbulent ’50s

‘Hitchcock’s Blondes’ unmask the auteur

LOS ANGELES, Oct 10, (AP): Though often lauded as one of the greatest filmmakers of all time, Alfred Hitchcock was also known for having a dark side, including his authoritarian tendencies as a director and sexually inappropriate behavior toward the women in his films. Tippi Hedren, who starred in “The Birds” and “Marnie,” has even alleged in recent years that the late director sexually assaulted her and threatened her career after she rejected his advances.

For the famed auteur, women, and actors in general, were props to be controlled and molded with the sole purpose of realizing his vision.

In “Hitchcock’s Blondes: The Unforgettable Women Behind the Legendary Director’s Dark Obsession,” Laurence Leamer seeks to divert the reader from seeing the female actors through the director’s gaze, constructing instead vignettes that attempt to memorialize these women as more than their captivating beauty.

“Hitchcock’s Blondes” is part biography of the auteur, part crash course into his catalogue of movies. But mostly this book is just what it says it is: a survey of the women on whom Hitchcock relied to bring his artistry to life.

Although Leamer betrays a reverence and appreciation for the filmmaker, Hitchcock is very much the complicated antagonist of the story, the women the sympathetic stooges.

His warranted efforts to accentuate Hitchcock’s problematic behavior are sometimes executed at the expense of conveying a holistic picture of reality. Despite occasional references to their narcissism and ambition, Hitchcock’s blondes are often portrayed as wooden innocents with little agency or autonomy — objects at the mercy of the powerful director no matter how hard he pushed them or out of line he became.

Though at times meandering, “Hitchcock’s Blondes” dishes sufficient old Hollywood gossip to keep interested readers entertained.

When film historian Foster Hirsch began research for his latest book about the changing and turbulent movie landscape of the 1950s, he could not have known the timeliness of his subject matter upon the release of “Hollywood and the Movies of the Fifties: The Collapse of the Studio System, the Thrill of Cinerama, and the Invasion of the Ultimate Body Snatcher.”

Following a summer of historic Hollywood strikes and discussions about our own new technology, evolving studio framework and the increasing import of television, Hirsch looks to history to show us there is nothing new under the sun.

Though the decade gave us a host of classics still beloved by critics, Hirsch’s epic historical account peels back the curtain to reveal the tumultuous uncertainty that characterized the Tinseltown of the ’50s.

He meticulously contextualizes important historical details while artfully combining them with some good old-fashioned Hollywood gossip. The result is a gripping yet informative report on a time in show business where threats to the industry seemingly lurked around every corner of society.

While this book is not for the casually interested reader — Hirsch is a college professor likely writing for his industry-obsessed colleagues after all — it promises to entertain and educate movie lovers wanting to know more about the evolution of the film industry.

In conjunction with the book’s release, Hirsch is co-programming “50 from the ’50s,” a four-week film festi-

val in New York beginning this week featuring some of the decade’s most iconic films.

It’s hard to escape the name Astor when you are in New York: from Astor Place downtown to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and even the neighborhood of Astoria, Queens, the family’s legacy is everywhere.

In “Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune,” CNN journalist Anderson Cooper and his co-writer Katherine Howe trace the famous family’s legacy from its beginning, when John Jacob Astor immigrated from Germany and established himself in the beaver fur trade, a bloody and highly competitive business. He invested his fortune in buying up land in the rapidly developing island of Manhattan and became one of the richest men in the US.

Cooper and Howe wrote the book as a follow-up to “Vanderbilt,” a chronicle of Cooper’s own famous family that came out in 2021. “Astor” sketches how subsequent generations either built on or frittered away the family’s initial fortune. It ends with the elder abuse case of Brooke Astor in the 2000s. At times, the narrative drifts away from the Astor family itself, with a chapter on a riot that happened at the Astor Opera House and another on a second person named John Jacob Astor who may or may not have been related to the family. It’s an effort to paint a fuller picture of the US during the time period, but at times it feels like filler.

Drawing mainly from secondary sources, “Astor” is a breezy overview of a storied family. Those who want to dig deeper into the family can turn to the extensive bibliography that references the many other books written about the Astors.



Cailee Spaeny poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film ‘Priscilla’ at the 2023 London Film Festival in London, Monday, Oct. 9. (AP)



Satake



Lopez

Variety

NEW YORK: Macy’s recently launched JLo Beauty with the brand’s assortment of skincare, beauty and bodycare products, inspiring all women to be their everyday superstar. JLo Beauty products feature luxurious, high-performing formulas with immediately visible and long-lasting results with prices ranging from \$15 to \$105. The full assortment including fan favorites like That JLo Glow Serum, Firm + Flaut Targeted Booty Balm and more are available to shop on macys.com, Macy’s mobile app and at select Macy’s stores nationwide.

“We are excited to launch JLo Beauty at Macy’s and bring Jennifer Lopez’s luxurious but accessible skincare to our customers. Jennifer is an icon and her brand continues to empower women to celebrate the skin they’re in, no matter their age,” said Nicolette Bosco, VP of Beauty at Macy’s. “Adding Jennifer’s range of products for glowing skin strengthens our assortment in these categories and gives customers more ways to own their style.”

“I’m so excited that JLo Beauty will be available at Macy’s,” said Jennifer Lopez, Founder of JLo Beauty. “JLo Beauty empowers women with transformative, clinically proven formulas that deliver an inner and outer glow at any age. Macy’s — with its wide and diverse reach — is an ideal partner for us in our quest to bring more people our high-performance skincare and body products, proving beauty has no expiration date.”

Macy’s empowers customers to Own Your Style, celebrating individuality and personal style through a curated assortment of the best brands and latest trends. Over the past few years, Macy’s iconic beauty business has been dominated by fragrance, cosmetics and skincare. By listening to market trends, Macy’s continues to expand their assortment in direct response to their customers’ needs. The company has also made a formal commitment to cleaner and conscious beauty standards.

JLo Beauty takes a fresh, modern and sexy approach to beauty, inspired by the beauty secrets of multihyphenate Jennifer Lopez. As a brand committed to delivering confidence and undimmed beauty that only gets better with age, JLo Beauty is

grounded in science and backed by years of research and product development. The “JLo Glow” has become a hallmark in beauty and culture and is delivered through the brand’s performance driven products. (AP)

TOKYO: Three bears that snuck into a tatami mat factory in northern Japan and were holed up inside for nearly a day have

been captured and killed, according to town officials and media reports.

A patrolling official spotted the bears, believed to be a parent and two cubs, as they walked into the factory on Wednesday morning in Misato, a town in Akita prefecture, where there’s been a growing number of reported bear attacks in or near residential areas.

An owner of the factory said he saw the bears walking outside but never thought

they would come inside.

Town officials and police officers rushed to the site, wearing helmets and carrying shields, and kept watch. Local hunters used fire crackers to try to scare the intruders out, without success. They later set up a pair of cages at the entrance of the factory and waited overnight.

On Thursday morning, the bears were trapped in cages, two cubs in one and the adult in another. Television footage showed the cages being taken out of the factory and placed on a pickup truck with a crane.

Misato issued an urgent message later Thursday to residents that all three bears had been captured. Media reports said the bears were later killed for fear that they would return to the town and pose a threat if released.

Akita’s governor, Norihisa Satake, who had sounded the alarm over the increase of marauding bears in the prefecture, told reporters on Thursday that he planned to seek the central government’s support to combat the bears, including revising wildlife protection law to allow the use of hunting guns in residential areas.

“Otherwise we cannot eliminate bears in residential areas,” Satake said. “The problem is growing around the country.”

Akita has logged a record 30 cases of bear attacks on people in 2023 alone, increasingly in residential areas. Experts say they come down from forests looking for food due to a scarcity of acorns, their staple food. Officials warned residents not to leave garbage outside, and advised hikers to carry bells to make noise, and use anti-bear spray or lie flat face-down in case of an encounter with bears. (AP)



Kevin Thompson, (from left), Josh Singer, Sian Grigg, Jamie Bernstein, Nina Bernstein, Kristie Macosko Krieger, Yannick Nezet-Seguin, BFI Festivals Director Kristy Matheson, Kazu Hiro, Mark Bridges and Duncan Jarman pose for photographers upon arrival for the premiere the film ‘Maestro’ at the 2023 London Film Festival in London, Monday, Oct. 9. (AP)



AI Mulla Automobiles kicks off its EQ University Tour

Mercedes-Benz Kuwait educates AUK students on EV technology

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: AI Mulla Automobiles Co., a member of AI Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor and of Mercedes-Benz vehicles in Kuwait, has recently kicked-off of its EQ University Tour showcasing Mercedes-Benz electric vehicles at the American University of Kuwait. The tour aims at presenting the wide range of EQ vehicles from Mercedes-Benz while providing university students with invaluable knowledge related to the technology behind electric vehicles by Mercedes-Benz.

Further highlighting its commitment to sustainability initiatives and awareness, Mr. Michael Iskander, Customer Experience and Training Manager at AI Mulla Automobiles, Mercedes-Benz Kuwait, conducted a thorough presentation on the technical elements of the electric vehicle range to the university's Engineering students and members of faculty. The session included a walk-through of the vehicles and highlighted the technical elements through the vehicle display in the university. The presentation was well received by the students and faculty and provided valuable information to the engineering students in their field regarding cutting edge technology within Mercedes-Benz electric vehicles.

**Presentation**

Commenting on this event, Mr. Steve Brown, Director of AI Mulla Automobiles, Mercedes-Benz Kuwait, said: "We are delighted to take this opportunity to kick start our EQ University Showcase at the American University of Kuwait. We focused on not only highlighting our exceptional offerings in terms of electric vehicles from Mercedes-Benz, but also providing some educational context through our presentation of the key technical elements behind the vehicles to the university's engineering students. We look forward to continuing this outreach program with a variety of academic institutions



Mercedes-Benz EQA AUK display



Michael Iskander, Customer Experience and Training Manager at AI Mulla Automobiles, Mercedes-Benz Kuwait, conducts presentation on the technical elements of the electric vehicle range to the AUK's engineering students and faculty members.

in Kuwait soon."

AI Mulla Automobiles showcased the exceptional EQA from Mercedes-Benz which is the new entry-level model to the electric vehicle range by Mercedes-Benz. The aesthetic of its design are indicative of progressive luxury by the Mercedes-Benz brand. The car features various exceptional Mercedes-Benz functions, such as ENERGIZING Comfort and MBUX (Mercedes-Benz User Experience).

**Design**

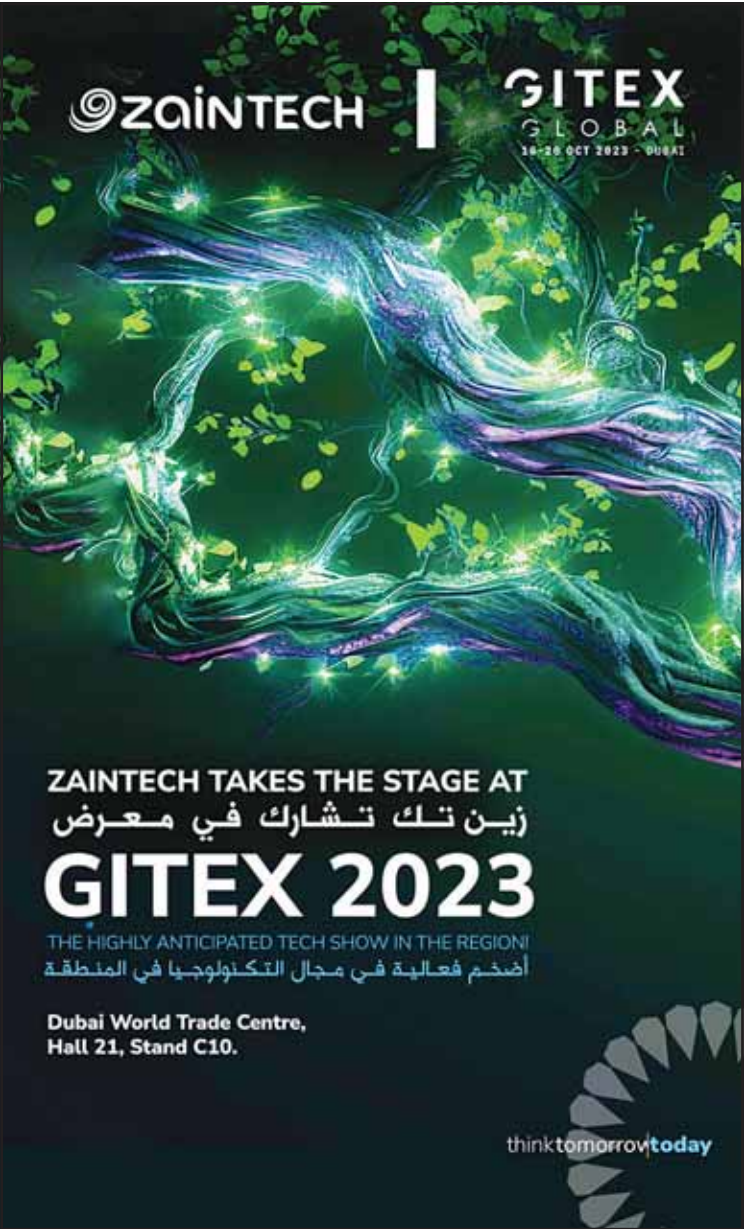
The EQA features the black panel radiator grille with central star that is the hallmark of Mercedes-Benz. A further distinctive design feature of the Mercedes-Benz EQ range is the continuous light strip at front and rear. Adding to the general ease of using the EQA on a day-to-day basis is the standard feature of Navigation with Electric Intelligence. This calculates the fastest route to the given destination. On the basis of continual range simulations, the system makes allowance for any necessary charging stops as well as for numerous other factors, such as the topography and the weather. It is also able to react dynamically to changes, for instance in the traffic situation or personal driving style.

In its "Ambition 2039," Mercedes-Benz has targeted making its fleet of new vehicles net carbon-neutral over the vehicles' entire life cycle by 2039. And by the end of this decade, the brand will offer all-electric vehicles wherever market conditions allow.

For more information and to learn more about the latest Mercedes-Benz vehicles and services, customers can visit AI Mulla Automobiles - Mercedes-Benz in AI Rai, Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues or call the customer center at 1887888, follow the account on Instagram @MercedesBenzKuwait, or visit the website at [www.mercedes-benz-mena.com](http://www.mercedes-benz-mena.com)

Firm aims to empower enterprises with future-proof solutions

ZainTECH to present digital solutions & sustainability at GITEX Global '23 debut



A flyer of the GITEX Global 2023.

sented at the stand. Notably, the acquisition of Adfolks, a UAE-based cloud-native engineering firm recognized for its expertise in Modern Infrastructure, Application Modernization, Security, Data & Machine Learning, and Automation, was announced in May 2023. This strategic move follows the acquisition of BIOS Middle East, a regional managed secure cloud provider, announced in October 2022.

**Dizlee and FOO @GITEX23**

Digital-oriented entities from within Zain Group will also be showcasing their services at GITEX 2023, including

ing Dizlee, Zain Group's API digital monetization ecosystem provider, which as of 2023 had partnered with 30+ global OTT and solutions providers offering 100+ different digital innovations. Dizlee has processed over 240 million payment transactions since its launch in 2018. During GITEX, the platform will showcase its plans to launch an API marketplace that will allow developers around the world to instantly find the right tools & services and open up new revenue streams through API monetization.

Zain's B2B SAAS solution provider FOO specializes in empowering businesses providing innovative fintech solutions, built entirely in-house, that optimize digital capabilities for clients across diverse industries and enable them to deliver an unparalleled user experience.

During GITEX 2023, FOO will showcase the digital transformation it has provided banks, fintech companies and key retailers across the globe, including Mastercard, Visa, Benefit, Zain Group, PwC and MAF. FOO's innovative platform is modular, built on digital micro-services that can be assembled to meet the specific requirements of each client. FOO's key products include solutions for remittances, digital wallets, tokenized transactions, fully automated micro-lending and BNPL.

**Sustainability and leadership**

Zain places sustainability at the heart of everything it does in providing meaningful connectivity that drives equitable systemic change, empowering the communities it serves. During GITEX 23, Zain will have a dedicated area showcasing its multiple Sustainability initiatives across the region and release its latest thought leadership report, re-affirming Zain's position as the only telco in the region to regularly publish reports of this nature, which provoke conversations and lobby for change.

The ZainTECH stand will be built utilizing recycled material, with component parts designed for reuse, aligning with the company's commitment to sustainability principles. The stand itself is modern and sleek, serving as the backdrop for a series of exciting demonstrations. Moreover, during GITEX 23, ZainTECH plans to announce a multitude of strategic partnerships.

Cambodia records second bird flu death in a week

Gates funds \$40m drive for African mRNA vaccines

DAKAR, Senegal, Oct 10, (AP): A \$40 million investment will help several African manufacturers produce new messenger RNA vaccines on the continent where people were last in line to receive jabs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced Monday.

While it could still take at least three more years before any of the vaccines are approved and on the market, the foundation said that its mRNA investment marks an important step forward in improving vaccine equity.

"Whether it's for local diseases in Africa like Rift Valley (fever) or for global diseases like TB, mRNA looks

like a very promising approach," Bill Gates told The Associated Press on Sunday after visiting one of the facilities involved, the Institut Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal. "And so it allows us to bring in lots of African capabilities to work on these vaccines, and then this can be scaled up."

The announcement comes as the foundation opens its annual three-day Grand Challenges event, which brings together scientists and public health researchers from around the world.

Institut Pasteur, along with the South Africa-based company Biovac, will be using an mRNA research and manufacturing platform that was developed by Quantum Biosciences

in Belgium. The two Africa-based vaccine manufacturers are receiving \$5 million each in funding from the foundation, while another \$10 million is earmarked for other companies that have not yet been named. The remaining \$20 million is going to Quantum "to further advance the technology and lower costs."

The mRNA vaccine technology came to the forefront with the production of COVID-19 vaccines made by Pfizer and Moderna. The messenger RNA approach starts with a snippet of genetic code-carrying instructions for making proteins. And by picking the right virus protein to target, the body turns into a mini vaccine factory.

**Also:**

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia:** A 2-year-old girl is the second person in Cambodia to die of bird flu this week, and the third this year, the country's Health Ministry has announced.

Laboratory tests confirmed that the girl, who lived in the southeastern province of Prey Veng, died Monday with H5N1 avian influenza, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry had announced on Sunday that a 50-year-old man in neighboring Svay Rieng province also had died from bird flu. In February, an 11-year-old girl became the country's first bird flu fatality since 2014. Her father was also found to be infected but survived.

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‘It feels very good when you defeat big teams’

# Confident India aim to maintain perfect start when they take on Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, Oct 10, (AP): Beating five-time champions Australia in their opening match has given India extra confidence for the rest of the group stage at the Cricket World Cup.

The tournament hosts take on Afghanistan on Wednesday in the second of their nine group games, preparing to be the most-traveled team in the six-week tournament.

The 48,000-seater Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi will be the second of nine match venues for India, with Hyderabad the only host city Rohit Sharma's squad won't be playing at during the tournament.

India beat Australia by six wickets on Sunday in a thrilling, low-scoring game at Chennai, with spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav combining for five wickets to bowl out the Aussies for 199. India struggled initially and were three wickets down for two runs within 12 deliveries before Lokesh Rahul and Virat Kohli joined forces to guide the hosts to victory.

"It feels very good when you defeat big teams, and your confidence definitely goes up," Jadeja said. "I won't say it will be easy in front of the other teams because every team is good. But if you win in front of the big teams, you have a different level of confidence."

That makes India a hot favorites against No. 9-ranked Afghanistan.

While the Chennai pitch had plenty to offer the spinners, the Delhi wicket is expected to be harder and offer less turn. And the shorter boundaries should prove advantageous for batters. South Africa belted a World Cup record total of 428-5 in the first game there on the weekend and Sri Lanka replied with 326.

The conditions could force a change for



India's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and Australia in Chennai, India. (AP)

India, with allrounder Shardul Thakur and pace bowler Mohammed Shami contenders to replace veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. Thakur makes a firmer case for his batting ability, while his medium-pace variations on a harder surface could prove a handful for the Afghan batters as well.

Changes, if any, will be minimal for the home team. India still have concerns over the health of opener Shubman Gill, who is struggling with a virus.

Instead of traveling with the team to Delhi, Gill stayed in Chennai for treatment. The opening batter, who has scored 1,230 runs in 20 ODIs this year, is also expected to miss India's high-profile match against archrival Pakistan on Oct. 14.

Gill's continued absence is likely to mean Ishan Kishan gets an extended run opening the innings. He failed in Chennai, chasing after a wide delivery from Mitchell Starc, and the general expectation would be of more patience from the stand-in opener.

## CRICKET

"Ishan Kishan has played as an opener in the past. He understands what is needed from this moment," India batting coach Vikram Rathour said. "We knew he can bat both at the top and in the middle - that was the reason he was picked. We are just hoping he comes good tomorrow."

Afghanistan have struggled to bat collectively as a unit since joining cricket's elite. Despite a good start against Bangladesh in Dharamsala last Friday, Afghanistan failed to build their innings and was bundled out for 156 runs. From 83-2, they lost eight wickets for just 73 runs in a six-wicket defeat.

Afghanistan have only managed to score 300-plus on seven occasions in 153 ODIs - a reflection of their batting depth. In the past two years, they have crossed 300 only three times in 24 ODIs.

Head-to-head, India have won two of the three ODIs, and were held to a dramatic tie by Afghanistan in the 2018 Asian Cup. All the contests have come in multi-team tournaments so far.

Afghanistan have games against the tournament hosts and defending champions England within five days, a difficult assignment under any circumstances.

"We have a good spin bowling attack (for these conditions). But only one department cannot win you games," Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said.

"Against Bangladesh, we didn't bat well. We still believe as a team that we can come back in the next game," he said. "We are playing the hosts so there will be crowd pressure. The stadium will be packed. We are used to it, and we will not worry about it."



England goalkeeper Sam Johnstone in action during a training session at St. George's Park, Burton upon Trent. (AP)

# Less than year after Ronaldo career seemed in crisis, Portugal on the brink of reaching Euros

Teenage sensation Yamal out of Spain squad after injury with Barca

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 10, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo is on the brink of leading Portugal to another major soccer tournament less than a year after his international career appeared to be over.

It wasn't clear what the future held for the five-time Champions League winner when he walked away from Manchester United last November and was then dropped by his country as it made an early exit from the World Cup in Qatar.

His move to Saudi Arabia wasn't exactly a guarantee of success, but Ronaldo has proven he is far from done. On Friday, Portugal can secure their place at next year's European Championship in Germany.

It will be a personal triumph for Ronaldo, who insisted his career wasn't over after leaving European club soccer behind to join Al-Nassr last December.

Not only has he been the catalyst for a slew of soccer's biggest names, such as Neymar and Karim Benzema, following him to the Saudi league, but he has helped Portugal to its best-ever performance in a European qualifying campaign with six wins from six matches in Group J.

A win against Slovakia on Friday will guarantee qualification and, if Ronaldo is selected, the chance for him to repeat his 2016 triumph with Portugal at the tournament.

Things have also turned around for Portugal coach Roberto Martinez, who left his post as Belgium coach at the end of his contract after failing to advance from the group stage at the World Cup. He had been criticized for failing to make the most of the country's golden generation that included Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, despite leading the team to the semifinals of the 2018 World Cup

and to No. 1 in the FIFA rankings - a position it held for four years.

At the time of his appointment, one newspaper poll in Portugal claimed 75% of fans who responded were against it. But Martinez is on the verge of getting another chance to deliver the major trophy he never managed to win for Belgium.

Jude Bellingham continued his sensational start with Real Madrid on Saturday by equaling Ronaldo's record of 10 goals in his first 10 games. That is the best scoring start for Madrid since Ronaldo achieved that feat when he joined from Manchester United in 2009.

Bellingham has emerged as one of the brightest stars in Europe since the departures of Ronaldo and Neymar for Saudi Arabia and Lionel Messi for Inter Miami. He is now a key figure in the England team, which play Italy at Wembley Stadium next week in a repeat of the Euro 2020 final.

Things haven't gone too well for Kylian Mbappe at Paris Saint-Germain in what could be his final season at the club, but at least he's close to qualifying for Euro 2024 with France.

PSG are in third place in the French league and last week lost to Newcastle in the Champions League.



Wales' Connor Roberts, left, and Ben Davies attend a training session at the STok Racecourse, Wrexham, Wales. (AP)

Mbappe, who has said he will leave the club when his contract expires, was initially made to train away from the first team as a result, but was then recalled. That led to renewed hope at PSG that he would extend his contract, but as it stands he will be a free agent at the end of the season.

PSG's loss to Newcastle also raises questions about their credentials to finally win the Champions League - European club soccer's biggest trophy and one that Mbappe craves. The France forward has won several domestic honors with the club.

## SOCCER

With the national team, Mbappe won the World Cup in 2018 and finished runner-up last year. At least qualification for next year's European Championship would give him the opportunity to win another major prize for his country.

France play the Netherlands in Amsterdam on Friday.

Teenage sensation Lamine Yamal has been removed from Spain's squad for upcoming European Championship qualifying games, the Spanish soccer federation said Tuesday.

The federation said tests have

determined that the 16-year-old Yamal won't be able to play in Spain's matches against Scotland on Thursday and Norway on Sunday. It did not give details.

Yamal was replaced in the second half of Barcelona's 2-2 draw at Granada in the Spanish league on Sunday. The Catalan club said he had a hip flexor injury.

Yamal was returning to Spain's squad after becoming the youngest player to appear for La Roja last month. He also was the youngest scorer in a European Championship qualifier for any national team.

On Sunday, Yamal became the youngest-ever player to score in the Spanish league, surpassing Malaga player Fabrice Olinga, who was a few days older when he scored against Celta Vigo in 2012. Yamal was already the youngest player to debut in the league, and the youngest to start in the Champions League.

Spain coach Luis de La Fuente earlier this week called up Ansu Fati and Bryan Zaragoza to replace Yéremy Pino because of an injury.

Napoli's loss appears to be Italy's gain. Luciano Spalletti left Napoli at the end of last season after leading the club to its first Serie A title in 33 years and was later appointed Italy coach following Roberto Mancini's resignation. While Napoli is currently looking like a shadow of the team that won the league title, Spalletti seems to have Italy playing like his former team.

His first match in charge was a drab 1-1 draw at North Macedonia but the attacking flair that characterized Napoli last season was evident in Italy's 2-1 win over Ukraine that got the Azzurri's Euro 2024 qualifying campaign back on track.

Italy moved into second place in Group C, above Ukraine on head-to-head record - with the return match scheduled for Nov. 20. The Azzurri have played a game less than Ukraine and England, which lead the group by six points. Italy host Malta on Saturday before playing England at Wembley three days later.

UEFA fails to make new policy work

# Russian teams won't play in Under-17 Euros qualifying

NYON, Switzerland, Oct 10, (AP): Russia will not after all play in Under-17 European Championship qualifying games this month, European soccer body UEFA said Tuesday after being unable to make its preferred new policy work.

So much opposition from member federations to playing Russia at any level of international games left UEFA going back to the status quo, which it had controversially

## SOCCER

tried to change two weeks ago.

UEFA had surprisingly on Sept. 26 eased its policy imposed within days of Russia invading Ukraine last year that all the country's national and club teams be excluded from international competitions.

UEFA had cited the importance of not punishing children for the decisions of a national government in suggesting Russian U17 teams could play games outside the country without their national colors, flag or anthem.

The move provoked a split in UEFA's executive committee - its vice presidents from England, Poland and Wales refused to back the proposal - and at least 12 of the 55 member federations said their teams would continue to refuse to play games against Russia.

For the last two weeks, UEFA staff explored inserting Russia into its men's and women's youth competitions despite having already drawn the qualifying groups. Each group was due to play all its games spread over several days in a single

host country.

After another executive committee meeting on Tuesday, UEFA said "the agenda point was withdrawn as no technical solution to allow Russian teams to play could be found."

UEFA's updated decision came after awarding its men's Euro 2028 hosting rights to the United Kingdom and Ireland, whose members have opposed playing Russia, and the 2032 edition to Italy and Turkey, whose executive committee members had supported the pro-Russia move.

"We have made ourselves really clear on Russia," English Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham told reporters at UEFA headquarters. "From our understanding nothing has changed."

UEFA leaders, including its president Aleksander Ceferin, did

not meet with reporters Tuesday.

UEFA's most senior vice president, Karl-Erik Nilsson, attended the meeting days after the Russia issue cost him his job as head of the Sweden sports confederation, a government-backed national funding body.

Nilsson resigned last week under pressure at home for backing UEFA's pro-Russia decision in direct contravention of Swedish national sports policy.

The former World Cup referee retains his 250,000 euros (\$265,000) per year position as one of UEFA's six vice presidents with a mandate that expires in 18 months' time.

Russian soccer's delegate on the UEFA executive committee, Alexander Dyukov, did not travel to Switzerland for the meeting.

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Kuwait go head-to-head with Beirut in semis

**Khaled El Anzi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Oct 10: In the 35th edition of the Arab Club Championship held in Doha, the Kuwait Club's basketball team, the reigning Arab Championship titleholder, face a formidable challenge as they go head-to-head with the Lebanese club Beirut in the semi-finals. In the other semi-final clash, Morocco's Salé take on Egypt's Al-Ahly.

"Al-Abyad" secured their spot in this stage of the competition after finishing at the top of their group during the preliminary rounds and then overcoming Oman's Al-Seeb in the round of sixteen and Iraq's Degla

in the quarter-finals. Today's match stands as a pivotal and demanding encounter for the Al-Ameed Basketball team as they square off against one of the top contenders for the championship. The team boast an impressive lineup of stars, including the Adnan brothers, Muhammad and Hamad, Alexander Al-Ghais, Abdul-Rahman Al-Sahu, Turki Hammoud, and international professionals such as Marcus Hunt from the United States and Cady LaLanne from Haiti, alongside Algerian talent Muhammad Harath. "White" are under the guidance of German coach Peter Schurms, who is well aware of the formidable challenge posed by one of the tournament's strongest

teams.

Meanwhile, the other Kuwaiti representative, Al-Qadsia, were eliminated from the semi-finals after a close-fought match that ended with a 90-94 loss to Degla Al-Jamaa.

On a separate note, Al-Nasr Club have inked a contract with former Al-Jahra basketball player Abdullah Al-Enezi to bolster Al-Anabi's ranks in the upcoming 2023-2024 season. The signing event was attended by Khaled Al-Sharaida, Chairman of the Club's Board of Directors, Abdulaziz Al-Nami, Board Member, Mansour Jalawi, Al-Nasr Basketball Manager, Youssef Al-Daihani, First Team Manager, and Lieutenant General Abdulaziz Al-Shammari.

Outstanding performances by Kuwaitis at Kuwait Int'l Champ'ships

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Kuwait's national tennis talents, Hussein Al-Shatti and Yaqoub Muhammad, added another prestigious accolade to the country's tennis legacy by securing first place and the gold medal in the doubles category at the 23rd Kuwait International Tennis Championship for junior male and female players (J30 ZAHRA). The tournament concluded just two days ago on the courts of the Kuwait Tennis Federation at the International Tennis Complex, featuring 57 players from 20 different countries.

In the electrifying doubles final, the Kuwaiti pair, comprised of Hussein Abdul-Rida Al-Shatti and Yaqoub Youssef Muhammad, displayed exceptional skill as they triumphed over their opponents, Mars Argun (from Turkey) and Pietro Ferno (from Italy), with a score of 6/3 and 7/5 in a closely contested match.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti national tennis star clinched second place and the individual silver medal in the competition, following a hard-fought final against Germa-

ny's Mars Botbecker, where the scoreline ended at 6/1 and 7/5.

The final matches and the subsequent awarding of titles were graced by the presence of key figures, including Ali Hayat, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Tennis Federation, Abdul Redha Al-Gharib, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Faleh Al-Otaibi, the Secretary-General.

TENNIS

Following the conclusion of this remarkable tournament, which received supervision from the International Tennis Federation, Kuwait has eagerly launched another similar event, the 24th Kuwait International Tennis Championship for junior male and female players (J30 ALZAHRA), set to continue until the 15th of this month.

Burgan 'soar' to 2nd straight win

**Khaled El Anzi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Burgan Club's volleyball team continued their impressive run in the Al-Itihad tournament, securing their second consecutive victory. They defeated Al-Kuwait in a convincing fashion, winning all three sets with scores of 25-22, 25-22, 25-22. This thrilling match took place at the Al-Itihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex during the third round of the tournament.

In the remaining matches of the round, Al-Shabab dominated Al-Tadamon with a 3-0 win, achieving set scores of 25-8, 25-15, 25-22, while Kazma also secured a 3-0 victory against their opponent, Yarmouk, with set scores of 25-10, 25-21, 25-21. Additionally, Al-Arabi emerged victorious over Al-Sahel in a hard-fought contest, clinching three sets to one with set scores of 25-16, 23-25, 25-13, 25-13.

VOLLEYBALL

As a result, the Union Championship team standings are as follows: Kazma led the standings with 9 points, followed by Al-Qadsia, who missed this round, with 6 points. Burgan held the third position, followed by Al-Shabab in fourth and Al-Arabi in fifth place. Meanwhile, Al-Kuwait had 3 points, and Yarmouk, Al-Sahel, and Al-Tadamon remained without a score.

On a different note, Kuwaiti-Iranian volleyball professional Saber Kazemi returned to Kuwait after representing the Iranian national team in the Asian Games held in China, where he helped his team secure the top spot. He received a warm welcome from Mosleh Al-Rashidi, the director of Kuwait Club's volleyball department.

Augsburg 'fire' coach Enrico after poor start

AUGSBURG, Germany, Oct 10, (AP): Bundesliga club Augsburg have fired coach Enrico Maaßen after just one win from their opening seven games in the league.

Augsburg said late Monday that Maaßen was leaving "with immediate effect" to be replaced by under-23 coach Tobias Strobl on an interim basis until a new head coach is appointed.

Maaßen's last game in charge was a 2-1 loss at home to Darmstadt on Saturday, its second straight defeat after a 2-0 loss at Freiburg the weekend before.

"Despite all their commitment and hard work, Enno and the team haven't managed to buck the trend and be successful on the pitch," Augsburg sporting director Marinko Jurendić said.

Maaßen took over as coach last year after joining from Bundesliga rival Borussia Dortmund's under-23s before the season started. He succeeded Markus Weinzierl, who quit unexpectedly at the end of the previous season.

Maaßen's team survived in the Bundesliga last season despite losing its last three games.

The club has played in the Bundesliga every year since clinching promotion in 2011.

Former Brazil coach Tite took over at Flamengo on Monday, signing a contract that will run until the end of 2024.

The Rio de Janeiro club said on its social media channels that Tite's staff would include the assistant coaches who worked under him during this six years in charge of Brazil's national team.

SOCCER

ABU DHABI, Oct 10: Asia is set to start its 2026 World Cup journey, giving the lower-ranked teams such as Afghanistan, Bhutan and Pakistan a chance to grab some attention and secure matches against soccer's continental heavyweights.

The Asian Football Confederation's 20 lowest-ranked teams compete in two-leg, home-and-away series on Thursday and next Tuesday, with the 10 winners advancing to the second round of the qualifying group stage.

Afghanistan, ranked 158th, takes on No. 183 Mongolia. Getting to the next stage, where each team will have six games, is not just valuable financially but also in terms of experience.

"It's very important for us to get past Mongolia into the second round as we would play India,

Kuwait and Qatar," Afghanistan coach Abdullah Al-Mutairi told The Associated Press. "We need as many games as possible, and these are strong teams, but we have the quality to show what we can do."

With little in the way of domestic soccer in Afghanistan, Al-Mutairi has tapped into the country's diaspora and selected talent based in Europe, Asia and Australia to fill the national team's roster.

"We have six or seven local players and we want more in the future but there has not been a regular league in Afghanistan for two years," Al-Mutairi added. "Most come from Europe and Asia such as Singapore, India, Indonesia, Georgia, England and Sweden."

Due to the security situation in Kabul, Afghanistan will play their home game against Mongolia in neighboring Tajikistan.



Chinese Liu faces a wall of resistance from Burgan.

Al-Qadsia grappling with absence of multiple midfield players

Cruciate ligament injury ends Al-Qadsia's Al-Shamali season

**By Hassan Musa**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Al-Qadsia's midfielder, Abdullah Al-Shamali, is set to be sidelined for the remainder of the current season due to a severe cruciate ligament tear.

Al-Shamali, aged 35, had to exit his team's match against their traditional Arab rivals, Al-Arabi, last Saturday during the fourth round of the Zain Premier League. The match concluded in a 1-1 draw.

A recent X-ray confirmed that Al-Shamali suffered a complete rupture of the cruciate ligament. His injury occurred towards the end of the first half due to a collision with Al-Arabi's defender, Hassan Hamdan.

Al-Shamali now faces a lengthy road to recovery, including a treatment program and rehabilitation, which is estimated to take approximately 6 months.

Al-Qadsia are grappling with the absence of multiple midfield players, especially following the retirement of Fahd Al-Ansari, the departure of Sultan Al-Anzi to Al-Arabi, and the transfers of Ahmed Al-Dhafiri and Reda Hani to Kuwait. In addition, injuries have kept Abdulaziz Wadi and Muhammad Khalil away from the "Yellow" squad for an extended

period.

On the other hand, Al-Qadsia have resumed training after a brief rest granted to the coaching staff, led by coach Mohamed Ibrahim, following the conclusion of the fourth round of the league. "The General" has introduced an intensive training regimen during this break, aiming to maintain the players' fitness and

address the team's recent shortcomings.

League action is set to resume on October 20 with the fifth round of the tournament. Al-Qadsia, currently occupying third place in the league standings with 8 points, will face Al-Nasr on October 22, followed by a showdown with the league leaders in the sixth round on October 29.



Al-Arabi player Bandar Al-Salama checks on Abdullah Al-Shamali.

Avoids jail time

Executive guilty in Olympics 'scandal'

TOKYO, Oct 10, (AP): An executive at Japanese publishing house Kadokawa was found guilty Tuesday of bribing a former Tokyo Olympics organizing committee member.

Toshiyuki Yoshihara, charged with paying 69 million yen (\$463,000) to Haruyuki Takahashi, was given a two-year prison sentence, suspended for four years. That means he avoids prison, as long as he doesn't break the law in the next four years.

Tokyo District Court Presiding Judge Yoshihisa Nakao said Yoshihara wanted Kadokawa to have an edge in becoming a sponsor, which he believed would enhance its brand power.

"The belief in the fairness of the Games has been damaged," Nakao said, stressing Yoshihara knew the payments were illegal and sought to disguise them as consulting fees.

The punishment was suspended because Yoshihara had expressed remorse, and his wife had promised to watch over him, Nakao said.

Yoshihara said, "Yes," once, in accepting the verdict, but otherwise said nothing, and bowed repeatedly as he left the courtroom.

The verdict for Yoshihara, arrested last year, was the latest in a series of bribery trials over sponsorships and licensing for products for the Tokyo Games.

Kadokawa Group was chosen as a sponsor and published the Games program and guidebooks.

The ballooning scandal has marred the Olympic image in Japan, denting Sapporo's bid for the 2030 Winter Games.

An official announcement on the bid is expected Wednesday, after the mayor meets with Japanese Olympic Committee President Yasuhiro Yamashita, a judo gold medalist and IOC member, a Sapporo city official said.

At the center of the scandal is Takahashi, a former executive at advertising company Dentsu, who joined the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee in 2014, and had great influence in arranging sponsorships for the Games. Takahashi says he is innocent. His trial is yet to begin.

Fifteen people at five companies face trial in the bribery scandal. The other companies are Aoki Holdings, a clothing company that outfitted Japan's Olympic team, Daiko Advertising Inc., Sun Arrow, which made the mascots, and ADK, an advertising company.

An official at a consultant company called Amuse was given a suspended sentence in July after being convicted of helping Takahashi receive bribes in return for a part of the money.

"The weather is similar to Europe and we hope that the Afghan people living there will come and support us," Al-Mutairi said.

Yemen, ranked 156th, are another team unable to play on home soil and will take on Sri Lanka in Saudi Arabia. Sri Lanka are Asian football's lowest-ranked nation at No. 202 on FIFA's global list of 207 members. The Sri Lankans are, however, happy to play at all after FIFA lifted a ban in August that was imposed in January for government interference in the running of the federation.

Indonesia and Hong Kong are the two highest-ranked teams in the first round at 147th and 148th. Indonesia is taking on Brunei, and Hong Kong is the clear favorite against Bhutan.

Singapore and Guam will play off to go into a second-round group with South Korea, while Myanmar and Macau will meet to decide a spot in a second-round group against Japan, which beat Germany 4-1 last month.

Pakistan's hopes of winning a first ever World Cup qualifier have improved with the news that the AFC has allowed Islamabad to host the second leg of the series against Cambodia, for what will be a first home game for eight years.



Constantine

SOCCER

With no domestic league since 2018, Pakistan's English coach Stephen Constantine, appointed just 13 days before the first qualifier, has a difficult job in his attempt to take the team, ranked 197th, to the next stage.

"Everything is an area of concern in my opinion - defense, midfield and attack," said Constantine, who has had two spells in charge of India. "The most important thing is for the players to understand their roles in the system."

"If we get the combination right, watch out."

In other games, Maldives will play Bangladesh, Taiwan are against Timor-Leste and Nepal takes on Laos.

The second round of Asian qualifying will feature 36 teams divided into nine groups, with the top two teams in each group advancing to the third round.

With the expansion from 32 to 48 teams for the 2026 World Cup, Asia is guaranteed eight places at the tournament being staged in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.





Mohammad Rizwan plays a shot during the ICC Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Hyderabad, India. (AP)

# Sports

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## Big win for England over Bangladesh at WC

Malan hits century

**DHARAMSALA, India, Oct 10, (AP): Dawid Malan’s century set up England’s first win at the Cricket World Cup with a 137-run victory over Bangladesh on Tuesday.**

Malan scored 140 off 107 balls - his fifth ODI hundred - as England reached 364-9 at Dharamsala to bounce back from being humiliated by New Zealand in the tournament opener.

Left-arm pacer Reece Topley returned figures of 4-43 as England bowled out Bangladesh for 227 in 48.2 overs.

It was England’s fourth biggest win by runs in World Cup history.

Put into bat, England made a great start as Malan and Jonny Bairstow (52) shared 115 runs for the first wicket.

Shakib Al Hasan bowled Bairstow with a beautiful delivery, but it brought no respite for the Tigers. Malan and Joe Root added 151 runs for the second wicket.

Malan hit 16 fours and five sixes overall, and reached his hundred off 91 balls. After the landmark, he cut loose to score 40 off only 16 balls, hitting four fours and three sixes.

“It was fantastic to put in a performance like this and win a game (for the team). Hopefully my form will continue ahead,” Malan said. “With Root at three, it allows us to play freely. I am desperate to do well in this format and prove a point.”

Root also scored quickly, reaching 50 off 44 balls. Overall, he hit 82 off

68 balls, including eight fours and a six, as he continues to rediscover his form.

England lost its way a bit in the last phase of the innings. After Malan’s dismissal, it went from 296-2 to 307-5, losing Root and Jos Buttler (20). Liam Livingstone, who has a good IPL record at this ground, was bowled for a golden duck. Harry Brook (20) guided the score past 350 along with the lower middle-order.

Topley then destroyed Bangladesh’s chase with the new ball. He sent back Tanzid Hasan for one, and then Najmul Hossain Shanto was out caught for a golden duck, in the second over.

Four overs later, Topley bowled Shakib for one. Chris Woakes had Mehidy Hasan Miraz caught behind for eight as Bangladesh struggled at 49-4 in 8.3 overs.

The game was effectively already over, even as Litton Das top scored with 76 to help stabilize the innings. He put on 72 runs with Mushfiquur Rahim, the only time when Bangladesh looked comfortable.

### CRICKET

Rahim scored 51 runs, and there weren’t any lower-order heroics to jeopardize England’s win.

England and Bangladesh, which beat Afghanistan in their opener, both have two points after two games.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board has expressed “extreme disappointment” about a delay in the issuing of Indian visas to its country’s journalists and fans for the World Cup.

The chairman of the PCB management committee, Zaka Ashraf, met with Pakistan foreign secretary Syrus Sajjad Qazi on Monday and asked him to take up the matter with India’s home ministry through Pakistan’s high commission in New Delhi.

“The PCB is extremely disappointed to see that journalists from Pakistan and fans are still facing uncertainty about obtaining an Indian visa,” it said in a statement.

The PCB said it has already reminded the ICC and the Board of Control for Cricket in India of “their respective obligations and terms and conditions stipulated in the host agreement to guarantee visas for fans and journalists of participating teams.”

The Pakistan players received a warm reception in Hyderabad and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan said it felt at the airport as if the team had landed in Karachi or Lahore after winning a World Cup.

The PCB, however, said it has also asked its government “to evaluate player security in India.” “He (Ashraf) emphasised that the well being and safety of the Pakistan squad was of paramount importance,” the board said in the statement.

It is unclear how many Pakistan fans will be issued visas ahead of the marquee game against India to be played at the 134,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Pakistani Zainab Abbas went to India as an ICC television presenter before flying home on Monday, five days into the six-week long tournament.

An ICC spokesperson said Abbas “has not been deported (but) she has left for personal reasons.”

Pakistan and India have not met in a test match since 2007 but has played against one another regularly in other formats.

Political tensions between the two countries meant India played their recent Asia Cup games in Sri Lanka after refusing to travel to Pakistan for the tournament.



Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah crowns the winners of the individual competitions.

Sheikh Talal praises high technical level displayed

## Asia takes center stage at Bowling World Cup

Italy-Turkey to stage Euro 2032

### Britain-Ireland to host 2028 European Championship

NYON, Switzerland, Oct 10, (AP): The trend of reaching friendly agreements to pick hosts of the Olympics or major soccer tournaments without a contested vote continued in Europe on Tuesday.

European soccer body UEFA made winners of all seven of its member federations who were competing to be future hosts of the European Championship in 2028 and 2032. The four member nations of Britain will co-host with Ireland in 2028, and an unusual Italy-Turkey plan was picked for 2032.

Final approval from the UEFA executive committee appeared inevitable after former bid rivals Italy and Turkey united under one flag of convenience in July. That deal took Turkey out of the Euro 2028 contest, where the team of five neighboring UEFA member federations - England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Ireland - was long favored to win.

The seven members “whose dedication, hard work and commitment have been duly recognized” were praised in a written statement by UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin.

The UEFA decisions followed six days after another deal was revealed by FIFA to stage the 2030 World Cup in six countries on three continents. That arrangement added South American neighbors Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay to their former bid rival, the heavily favored Europe-led co-hosting plan of Spain and Portugal that this year added Morocco.

The 2030 deal allowed FIFA to fast-track opening the 2034 bidding contest reserved only for member federations from Asia and Oceania. That makes it look like a shoo-in for Saudi Arabia. FIFA is aiming to finalize both 2030 and 2034 World Cup decisions late next year.

The International Olympic Committee set the trend of double awards when it changed rules midway through the 2024 Summer Games bid campaign to pick the 2028 host also. That let Los Angeles be rewarded without the risk of losing the 2024 vote that Paris was expected to win.

The IOC has since ended contested votes - often at risk of bribery - for Olympic hosts in favor of exclusive talks with a preferred candidate. The new process let Brisbane, Australia, be fast-tracked as the 2032 Summer Games host.

In soccer, Turkey appeared likely to lose a vote for 2032 even amid doubts Italy could finish a massive construction project to build and upgrade the stadiums needed for a 24-team, 51-game tournament.

“The challenges are enormous,” Italian soccer federation president Gabriele Gravina said. “We’ve never had the courage to face them with full strength. So, Euro 2032 will be a great stimulus.”

The UEFA-brokered accord with Italy means Turkey finally will get to host a European Championship after several failed previous bids, including by one vote against France for Euro 2016.

Splitting the 2032 tournament between Italy and Turkey means each country need only provide five viable stadiums, making it easier on each co-host. That is despite UEFA bid rules stating that only neighboring member federations can propose co-hosting. Rome and Istanbul are separated by about 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) with flights across the Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea taking more than two hours.

Britain and Ireland were widely expected to get Euro 2028 when it was clear UEFA’s preference was for Spain and Portugal to lead Europe’s attempt to secure the 2030 World Cup.

### SOCCER

“Today does help to vindicate that decision,” English Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham said Tuesday, describing its 2030 option as “at least a real long shot to win.”

Co-hosting by five UEFA members in 2028 and two in 2032 follows the radical 13-member project that was agreed on for Euro 2020. It was cut to 11 when the tournament was eventually played during the COVID-19 pandemic one year behind schedule.

The Euro 2020 final and semifinals were played at the 85,000-seat Wembley Stadium in London and the plan is for those three games to return in 2028.

The UEFA picks are not even the most scattered and logistically challenging chosen this month for a major soccer event. The FIFA-backed plan for the

2030 World Cup requires teams, fans and officials to make flights of about 11 hours from a single game in each of the three South American co-hosts.

All six 2030 hosts will get automatic entry to that World Cup, and Italy and Turkey both get direct places at Euro 2032. But UEFA will not offer five automatic places for the 2028 hosts. One option is putting all five into traditional qualifying and awarding automatic places to the two best records among the non-qualifiers.

The Euro 2028 bid plan has six stadiums in England, led by Wembley along with the club venues of Aston Villa, Manchester City, Newcastle, Tottenham and the under-construction new home of Everton in the dock area of Liverpool. The national stadiums of Ireland, Scotland and Wales will also be used, plus a planned new stadium in Belfast at the currently derelict Casement Park.

“We are assured that the (British) government will put the funding behind this to make it happen,” said Patrick Nelson, CEO of the Northern Irish soccer federation.

The project is set to cost at least 150 million pounds (\$180 million).

Euro 2024, which will be held next year in Germany, is an increasingly rare example in modern soccer of a single host nation.

UEFA has targeted Euro 2024 and 2028 to be high-profit tournaments with revenues at each edition of at least 2 billion euros (\$2.12 billion). UEFA is hoping to rebuild its cash reserves above 500 million euros (\$528 million) after being depleted during the pandemic.

The men’s European Championship funds much of UEFA’s organizational costs and pays for development costs to 55 member federations.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: The Asian continent dominated the men’s and women’s singles competitions at this year’s World Bowling Championship, hosted by Kuwait from October 4 to 15. They secured the top positions, with a single exception in the men’s category, where European player Tobies Boarding from Germany shared third place.

In the men’s singles category, Singaporean player Jarn Ong emerged as the champion at the Kuwait World Bowling Championship, defeating his compatriot Mohad Jaris in a thrilling final match held at the Kuwaiti Sports Club Bowling Hall. Qatari Ghanem Abu Jassum and German Tobias Jörding both secured third place.

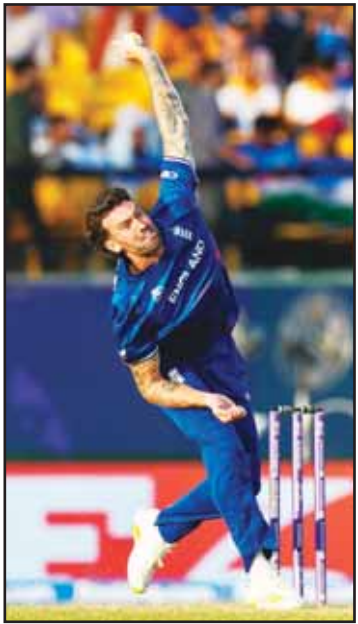
In the women’s singles competition, Malaysian Natasha Roslan claimed the title by defeating her experienced compatriot Sin Jin in a closely contested match. The third-place finish was shared by Koreans Hong Ni and Sun Ren.

Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the President of the International and Asian Bowling Federations, praised the high technical level displayed in the individual competitions, especially in the later rounds, highlighting the presence of top-ranked male and female players, which showcased the international bowling’s excellence.

### BOWLING

Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, who also heads the tournament organizing committee, assured that their commitment to ensuring the continued success of the tournament in terms of organization, technical aspects, and media coverage remains steadfast. He congratulated the champions and top performers in both competitions.

Abdullah Al-Qattan, President of the Qatar Bowling Federation, echoed the sentiments of a strong competition at the championship. He emphasized that the championship serves as a valuable platform for Gulf and Arab players to enhance their technical skills. He also commended Sheikh Talal Al-Sabah’s re-election as the head of the International Bowling Federation for a third consecutive term, acknowledging the significant progress made in the sport over the past two sessions.



England’s Reece Topley bowls during the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup match between England and Bangladesh in Dharamsala, India. (AP)



Mishari Al-Dhafiri displays a trophy.

## Al-Dhafiri seeks to ‘continue’ achievements in Champ’ship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 10: Kuwaiti racing sensation Mishari Al-Dhafiri, a triumphant eight-time champion in the Middle East Rally Championship, has affirmed his unwavering commitment to continue pursuing excellence, victories, and proudly representing the Kuwaiti flag on various global platforms.

### RALLYING

Al-Dhafiri shared his resolute stance in a statement upon his return to Kuwait after participating in the fourth and final rally of the Middle East Rally Championship’s (Merck 2) category. This event unfolded over two intense days in the Cypriot city of Nicosia and concluded just

the day before yesterday.

He reflected on the Middle East Rally Championship, comprising four rallies, starting with the Aman International Rally, followed by the Qatar International Rally, the Lebanon International Rally, and ultimately, the Cyprus International Rally. Al-Dhafiri emphasized that he has reigned supreme in this category of the Middle East Rally for several years and that this participation marked his farewell in this particular category.

Mishari Al-Dhafiri disclosed his ambitions to elevate his game and compete in a higher category in forthcoming tournaments. He expressed readiness and confidence in his ability to vie for more prestigious titles.



UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin (center left), shows the name of UK and Ireland elected to host the UEFA 2028 football tournament with Gareth Bale, (center right), Welsh soccer player and Ambassador during the UEFA EURO 2028 and 2032 hosts announcement ceremony after the UEFA Executive Committee, at UEFA Headquarters, in Nyon, Switzerland. (AP)