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# KUWAIT-CHINA MoUs POSITIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT

## Talks lay foundation for Vision '24-'40

Seven deals include massive construction projects

**HANGZHOU, Sept 23, (KUNA):** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Chinese President Xi Jinping held summit talks at the West Lake in Hangzhou, China, on Friday.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and extended an official invitation for President Xi to visit the State of Kuwait.

The two leaders discussed the historic bilateral relations which dated back to over 50 years and means of further strengthening them with the objective of boosting prosperity of the two peoples, and contribute to progress and development.

The two leaders also discussed the desire to cement the strategic partnership between Kuwait and China, in addition to exchanging views over a host of regional and international development.

The talks were held in an amicable atmosphere which reflected the spirit of understanding and friendship between the two countries and their desire to promote cooperation in all domains.

The official talks were attended by the official delegation accompanying His Highness the Crown Prince.

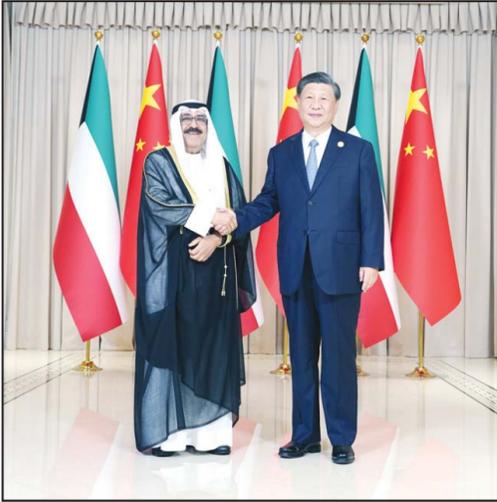
Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed signing of cooperation agreements in guest house at the West Lake in Hangzhou, China, on Friday.

The two sides signed a joint statement regarding a co-operation plan for years 2024-28. It was signed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Wang Yi, member of the Communist Party politburo, Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Communist Party Central Committee and Foreign Minister.

Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah signed an MoU with the National Development and Reform Commission Chairman Zheng Shanjie regarding a low-carbon recycling green system.

Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Sabah and Zheng also signed an MoU between Ministry of Public Works and the National Development and Reform Commission regarding infrastructure of water treatment stations.

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Crown Prince Diwan photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with President Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

### Tolerance key, says Bahrain

## 'Peace a strategic goal'

**NEW YORK, Sept 23, (KUNA):** Bahraini Foreign Minister Dr. Abdulatif Al-Zayani has affirmed that peace is the strategic goal to establish a more secure and stable world.

Al-Zayani, in a statement he addressed at the 78th United Nations General Assembly session late on Friday, said his country has conveyed to the world its experience in tolerance, peaceful co-existence among communities and respect for human rights.

Bahrain has realized that international cooperation based on mutual confidence, sincere intentions and mutual understanding constitute the best avenue for overcoming common challenges, Al-Zayani added.

Manama, among its priorities, has chosen dialogue as the best option and a peaceful means for ending wars, settling disputes, he added, alluding in particular to its stance on boosting the peace process in the Middle East and supporting rights of the Palestinian people.

He has affirmed that Bahrain supports peaceful and sustainable solutions for the crises in Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Libya and Afghanistan.

### GCC, UK press Iraq on borders

**NEW YORK, Sept 23, (KUNA):** Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council Member States and UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs James Cleverley have urged Iraq to respect international agreements and the UN resolutions, especially UNSCR No. 833 regarding the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

This came in a meeting they held in New York, was also attended by the GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi on Monday, September 18, on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, according to a joint statement issued Friday.

### Other Voices

## Ransom keyhole peek into hush-hush understandings

By Saad Bintiflah

Academic, Writer and Former Minister of Information – Kuwait

Mr. President: Seriously?

"Five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home," said American president Joe Biden last Monday. The statement came after a swap deal that led to the release of five American hostages held in Iran for years in exchange for five Iranians held in the US. The five Iranians held in America were charged with different offenses; espionage, violation of sanctions against the regime in Iran and illegally buying Canadian equipment for nuclear use for the Iranian endeavors to build its nuclear program.

For any sane person, the deal is as follows: America managed the release of five American hostages for five Iranian prisoners plus 6 billion US dollars. By doing a little math; this is the highest ransom ever paid throughout history. 1.2 billion dollars were paid for each hostage! Indeed they were hostages. They did not receive a fair trial in a rigged theological judicial system. In addition, their families were not allowed to leave Iran throughout their family members ordeal. They were, technically, held hostages too.

Observers of the "understandings" between Iran and the Biden administration can't help but notice a pattern of policies. Policies of behind-the-doors diplomacy which resulted in the relative calm on the Iraqi arena which is controlled by pro-Iranian militias and government. American troops were rotated freely last month all over Iraq for weeks in front of the armed militias who vowed to fight the American presence in the country. Hizbulla (Iraqi branch), Nojaba' movement, and the Assa'ib Alhaq did not fire a single shot at the American troops nor did they launch their usual Katyusha missiles against the American embassy in Baghdad. Such a peaceful truce was part of the hostage deal struck last week.

One must conclude that the "understandings" between Tehran and Washington is extremely complex, multi-lateral and multi-faceted. The process is reflected in truces on some fronts, hostage-taking, hostage-releasing, ransom payments and victims on both sides. One of the prices paid for the continuation of these understandings was the former special American envoy to Iran Rober Malley. Malley was stripped from his security clearance last April and disappeared from the political scene in Washington. The Washington Post likened his disappearance with that of the Chinese foreign Minister Qin Gang. A bit of an exaggeration, but a manifestation of how deep and uncanny the understandings are between the Iranians and the Americans. Malley was responsible for the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal between the 5+ and Iran. The deal was abrogated by former president Donald Trump in 2018.

In an effort to justify the American hostages' deal, top US presidential aids said that strict and constant surveillance of the Qatari account in which the 6 billion dollars ransom was transferred will forbid Iran from using the money for anything but food, medicine and humanitarian needs. One can only imagine Iranian negotiators laughing through their teeth as they were listening to this nonsense. Iranians have a long experience of dogging and avoiding sanctions. In fact, they have a huge lung through which they can breathe financially comfortably; namely, Iraq. This monetary respiration via Iraqi banks can only be facilitated by American approval. Hence, no attacks on the American troops nor at the American embassy in Baghdad.

The American hostages' deal was "a slap in the face of the people of Iran", said Hadi Ghaemi- executive director at the Campaign for Human Rights in Iran. The ransom deal came two days after the first anniversary of the murder of the 22 year old Mahsa Amini by clergy police for not wearing a hijab "properly". Her murder sparked a nationwide rebellion in Iran resulting in hundreds killed and 20 thousand detained, according to UN sources.

Furthering his efforts to calm the storm against the hostage deal, president Biden said: "Still too many (Americans) remain unjustly held in Russia, Venezuela, Syria, and elsewhere around the world. We remain unflinching in our efforts to keep faith with them and their families – and we will not stop working until we bring home every American held hostage or wrongfully detained."

Needless to say, countries who "wrongfully" detain innocent Americans will expect similar deals to that with the Iranians: billions of dollars in ransom and more, Mr. President.



Bintiflah



His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah addresses the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023. (AP)

PM affirms navigation agreement in UN speech

## Khor Abdullah pact valid ... in full force

### NewsWatch

**UNITED NATIONS:** The head of Yemen's Southern Transitional Council, an umbrella group of heavily armed and well-financed militias, said Friday that he will prioritize the creation of a separate country in negotiations with their rivals, the Houthi rebels.

**Aidarous al-Zubaidi's** comments, in an interview with The Associated Press, come days after the conclusion of landmark talks in Riyadh between the Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia, which leads a coalition fighting them in the country's civil war. The remarks signal that his group might not get on board for a solution without inclusion of a separate state's creation. (AP)



Al-Zubaidi

**CAIRO:** Egypt has affirmed its unwavering support for enforcing a stable "humanitarian truce" and reaching viable political solution to the crisis in Yemen.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri has said that Cairo backs a consensus political solution for maintaining unity of the Yemeni people, their nation's sovereignty and territorial sanctity. (KUNA)

**TEHRAN:** A fire in a storage area of an Iranian defense ministry's car battery factory north of the capital has been extinguished, state TV reported Friday. The fire happened around midnight in a 2-square-kilometer (about 500-acre) storage area of plastic items in the factory north of Tehran. The TV footage showed a black column of smoke rising in the nighttime sky. (AP)

**NEW YORK, Sept 23, (KUNA):** Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah affirmed on Thursday that Kuwait considers the agreement to regulate navigation in Khor Abdullah waterway valid and in full force.

"The State of Kuwait will consider the agreement to regulate navigation in Khor Abdullah waterway and the security swap protocol, effective because of their importance in maintaining security and safety of navigation," His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf said in his speech at the 78th UN General Assembly in New York.

He underlined that the agreement and the protocol are crucial for preventing chaos, border violations, and the high possibility of influx of illicit arms and drug, which are the two main sources for financing various terrorist militias.

His Highness the Amir Representative pointed out that the State of Kuwait, over nearly two decades, and out of its belief in the principle of good neighborliness has standing by the side of Iraq to develop and restore its regional and international status to achieve the hopes and aspirations of its people.

"However, we were astonished by the ruling of the Federal Supreme Court in the brotherly Republic of Iraq, declaring as unconstitutional the law ratifying the agreement regulating maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah," His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf said, noting that the agreement was signed and ratified by Kuwait and Iraq in 2012 and deposited with the United Nations in 2013.

He also regretted the historical fallacies about Kuwait mentioned in the Court ruling.

"We were also stunned by the Iraqi government decision, a few days ago, to invalidate the security swap protocol inked between the leadership of the Kuwaiti Naval Force and the leadership of the Iraqi Naval Force in 2008," he said, cautioning about the negative repercussions of such move on the maritime security and navigation in Khor Abdullah waterway.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf called on the Iraqi government to act swiftly to address the fallout of the Supreme Court's verdict.

"From this platform, from which the multilateral diplomatic process was launched to maintain international peace

and security, the State of Kuwait urges the Iraqi government to take concrete, decisive and urgent measures to address the repercussions of the ruling and the historical fallacies mentioned therein in a way that preserves good neighborly relations," he stated.

He reiterated Kuwait's call for mutual respect of the security, independence and territorial integrity of both countries, the signed bilateral agreements and the relevant UN resolutions, most notably the UN Security Council Resolution No. 833, which delineated the land and sea borders between the two sides up to the marine mark No. 162.

"We call on the brotherly Republic of Iraq to prove good intentions and complete the meetings of the relevant technical teams,

"Till the demarcation of the borders beyond mark No. 162, in accordance with international laws and conventions, the State of Kuwait reserves its full right to take whatever measures it deems necessary at the legal and international levels to preserve its established legitimate and legal rights in accordance with international resolutions and the international law provisions," he said.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf also stressed on Thursday that the natural resources in the submerged area adjacent to the Divide Zone belong solely to the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"The natural resources in the submerged area adjacent to the Kuwaiti-Saudi Divided Zone, including the entire Durra field, belong solely to the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," His Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf said in his speech.

"Only Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have full rights to exploit these resources," he affirmed.

He reiterated "Kuwait's categorical rejection of any claim of right by any other party in this field or the submerged area adjacent to the Divide Zone".

His Highness the Amir Representative also renewed Kuwait's call to the Islamic Republic of Iran to take serious confidence-building measures and to commence a dialogue based on respect for other countries, non-interference in their internal affairs and guaranteeing the freedom of maritime navigation.

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## MEDIA

## Business Plus



Chairman emeritus to stay involved

## Rupert Murdoch in surprise exit from Fox



The News Corporation building appears in New York on Oct. 12, 2011. The departure of Rupert Murdoch as the leader of both Fox's parent company and his News Corp. media holdings after decades at the helm is a seismic change in the conservative media landscape. Inset: Media magnate Rupert Murdoch says he will step down as the leader of Fox News' parent company and his News Corp. media holdings, with son Lachlan set to take his place. (AP)

have been enormous, helping to ensure a balanced and truly free media," Ruddy said.

Among those who believe Fox has pushed disinformation and is a singular force in worsening the country's partisan divisions, the reaction to the announcement was, essentially, good riddance.

"They changed how people think of politics in this country, and I think when historians look back on how they changed it, it won't be a positive look back," commentator Mike Barnicle said on MSNBC.

While Murdoch never ran for political office, politicians in the United States and Britain anxiously sought his approval. He had a complicated relationship with Donald Trump. Wolff reported in 2018 that Murdoch had called Trump an "idiot," adding an expletive for emphasis, but Fox News is built with an audience that largely admires Trump.

For decades, Murdoch was one of the most powerful media figures in Britain, a market he entered after buying the tabloid News of the World in 1969. He reinvigorated Britain's stodgy newspaper scene with sex, scandal and celebrity and helped shake up television with satellite broadcaster Sky.

His clout has waned since the revelation more than a decade ago that employees of the News of the World had eavesdropped on phones and used other underhanded methods to get scoops on celebrities, politicians and royals. News Corp. owns the Times, Sunday Times and Sun newspapers, but News of the World closed and Murdoch sold his 40% stake in Sky when he failed to get complete control of the company.

Fox News went through a series of sexual harassment scandals in the 2010s, which led to top executive Roger Ailes and prime-time personality Bill O'Reilly being pushed out. Murdoch dismissed them as isolated instances that were "largely political because we're conservative."

Shares of News Corp. and Fox closed higher Thursday.

For Lachlan Murdoch, this moment has been a long time coming. Assuming, of course, that his moment has actually arrived.

The changes make Rupert's eldest son the undisputed leader of the media empire his father built over decades. There's no real sign that his siblings and former rivals James and Elisabeth contested him for the top job; James in particular has distanced himself from the company and his father's politics for several years. But Rupert, now 92, has long had a penchant for building up his oldest children only to later undermine them - and sometimes to set them against one another - often flipping the table without notice.

Given Rupert Murdoch's advanced age, this might be his last power move. But there's a reason the HBO drama "Succession" was often interpreted as a thinly disguised and dark satire of his family business. In Murdoch World,

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I can guarantee you that I will be involved every day in the contest of ideas," he wrote. "Our companies are communities, and I will be an active member of our community. I will be watching our broadcasts with a critical eye, reading our newspapers and websites and books with much interest."

Magnate Rupert Murdoch's surprise announcement Thursday that he's stepping down as leader of his two companies leaves his son Lachlan firmly in line of succession at Fox and the rest of the media empire.

The 92-year-old Australian billionaire's creation of Fox News Channel has made him an enduring force in American politics. He inherited a newspaper in Adelaide, Australia, from his father in 1952 and eventually built a news and entertainment enterprise dominant in the United States and Britain.

Fox said Murdoch would become chairman emeritus of both the news network's parent company, Fox Corp., and the News Corp. media holdings, effective in November. Lachlan will become News Corp. chairman and continue as chief executive officer of Fox Corp.

Lachlan Murdoch said that "we are grateful that he will serve as chairman emeritus and know he will continue to provide valued counsel."

Fox News Channel has profoundly influenced television and national politics since its start in 1996, making Murdoch a hero to some and a pariah to others. The 24-hour network converted the power and energy of political talk radio to television. Within six years, it outrated CNN and MSNBC, and still does.

But it's been a rough year for

Fox, which was forced to pay \$787 million to settle a defamation lawsuit related to its coverage of false claims following the 2020 presidential election. Fox also fired its most popular personality, Tucker Carlson.

Stock in Fox Corp., while positive this year, began to decline early in 2022, due in part to lawsuits and investor anxiety.

Besides Fox News, Rupert Murdoch started the Fox broadcast network, the first to successfully challenge the Big Three of ABC, CBS and NBC, with shows like "The Simpsons." He owns The Wall Street Journal and the New York Post. He slimmed his corporate holdings with the 2019 sale of many entertainment assets to the Walt Disney Co.

Murdoch has also controlled the New York Post, which, like Fox, has promoted his conservative world view.

Despite Murdoch's advanced age, Thursday's announcement took some by surprise.

"I do find it shocking because I figured that Rupert would be around until he couldn't take a breath," said writer Claire Atkinson, who's working on a biography of Murdoch.

In a letter Thursday to staff, Murdoch thundered about elites who have "open contempt for those who are not members of their rarified class." Murdoch's letter made

it clear he doesn't consider himself one of them, despite his status as a media executive and his family's wealth, estimated by Forbes in 2020 at about \$19 billion.

He also indicated his retirement won't include much beach time.

"I can guarantee you that I will be involved every day in the contest of ideas," he wrote. "Our companies are communities, and I will be an active member of our community. I will be watching our broadcasts with a critical eye, reading our newspapers and websites and books with much interest."

Murdoch and his family, particularly children James, Lachlan, Elisabeth and Prudence, were said to be the model for the HBO drama "Succession."

"Rupert is certainly engineering a cleaner exit than Logan Roy's departure from WaystarRoyco," said former CNN president Jon Klein, who consulted on the series. "And he's leaving behind a lot less of a mess."

That may be the case - for now, said Murdoch biographer Michael Wolff, who next week is publishing a book, "The End of Fox News."

"He is 92, and that has taken a toll on him, of course, but the company, too," Wolff told The Associated Press. "He has remained up until today the singular decision-maker, and he can't communicate what he wants and people don't

understand what he wants" like they did in the past.

Major changes are unlikely right away under Lachlan Murdoch, who's largely been running things as CEO for a couple of years.

When Murdoch dies, control of the Fox empire will revert to his four adult children, each of whom has an equal say in the business, Wolff said. "That's when the real new chapter begins," he said.

Since Lachlan most closely shares his father's politically conservative views, Wolff predicted that James Murdoch - known as the more liberal sibling - would eventually take control of Fox News, or that it would be sold.

"It will certainly not exist as the Fox News Channel that we have known and loved, or hated, for the past 25 years," Wolff said.

Atkinson said that she has talked with people at the company, and they're saying Murdoch is "fine and as engaged as ever."

Thursday's announcement, she said, "is really just Lachlan taking the mantle and saying, 'now it's time.' It's his company. His company only."

One of Murdoch's chief television competitors, Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy, said that over many decades, no other individual has had as much impact on the media.

"His contributions to the news industry across several continents

People are turning more and more to smaller sites

## Conservative media landscape is increasingly fractured

There is real dissatisfaction with Fox News, certainly by some of the far right and a significant part of the Trump base that sees Fox as too establishment, as too corporate.

The departure of Rupert Murdoch as the leader of Fox's parent company and his News Corp. media holdings after decades at the helm is unlikely to have as much of an impact on conservative media overall as it would have a decade ago.

That's because the landscape in general is increasingly fractured, experts said. With a growing number of digital media sources available to them, right-leaning audiences have plenty of options for getting news, opinion and entertainment.

"I think if Rupert Murdoch had stepped down in 2000 it would have had a much greater impact," said Howard Polskin, whose website The Righting.com monitors conservative media. "The conservative media landscape is just much more diverse

now."

Fox News' website had nearly 74.8 million viewers in July 2023, while the No. 2 most visited site, The Washington Examiner, had just 7.5 million and No. 3, The Epoch Times, had 6.2 million, according to TheRighting.com.

But people are turning more and more to smaller sites, podcasts and other digital products to get news. Conservative media personalities such as Tucker Carlson, who was ousted by Fox in April, Daily Wire podcaster Ben Shapiro, and talk show host and podcaster Megyn Kelly, also a former Fox host, are increasingly influential as well.

"They cast a lot of influence over right-wing media and right-wing thought," Polskin said.

The change at the top of Fox and News Corp. comes months ahead of the 2024 presidential election where Donald Trump is favored to be the Republican nominee.

It's possible Murdoch's successor, son Lachlan Murdoch, will try to draw back pro-Trump viewers who left Fox Media after the 2020 election, particularly because the number of cable news viewers in general is shrinking and there are many more smaller competitors "that can eat away at Fox's viewership," said Nicole Hemmer, a political historian specializing in media, conservatism, and the presidency at Vanderbilt University.

While Rupert Murdoch had a complicated relationship with Trump, Fox News' audience largely admires him. But recently the

former president has feuded with the network over what he considers unfriendly coverage.

"There is real dissatisfaction with Fox News, certainly by some of the far right and a significant part of the Trump base that sees Fox as too establishment, as too corporate," she said. "And so I think that it is likely that Lachlan's play will be trying to at least stop the bleeding or to even build Fox's viewership by moving more to the right."

But Megan Duncan, a Virginia Tech communications professor who studies news audiences, said it's unlikely there will be big changes at Fox as long as Rupert Murdoch is still around as chairman emeritus, since he has long groomed Lachlan as his successor. "He's made sure that his son has

been involved in the company all along," she said. "And we know from his time in the company that (Lachlan's) views are very similar and probably he's not going to do a 180 with the company."

Still, with smaller outlets like Newsmax on its heels, one worry for Fox might be Trump's loyalty, said Claire Atkinson, media writer for The Anker.

"If Trump is the candidate and Trump decides to go somewhere else or swing his viewers behind other outlets, it has the potential to hurt Fox News," she said. But, she added, that isn't likely.

"The power of television really endures," she said. "And obviously, Fox News is the No. 1 cable news network for decades now." (AP)

editor's choice



## Prayer Timings

Fajr .....	04:17	Asr .....	15:07
Sunrise ..	05:37	Maghrib ..	17:44
Zohr .....	11:41	Isha .....	19:01

# Local

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

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over

open areas.

**By Night:** Rather hot to mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	45	34

## Weather

Kuwait Airport	46	29
Abdaly	46	27
Jahra	47	31
Salmiyah	42	33
Ahmadi	43	35
Nuwaisib	44	30
Wafra	46	26

## 'Khor Abdullah' tops panel talk

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday headed, via video-conference, a meeting of the borders committee.

In a press statement, the Foreign Ministry said the conferees discussed means and efforts to deal with the latest developments related to Khor Abdullah waterway to safeguard Kuwait's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

## Fox

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as in the fictional world of the Roy family, seemingly sure things can go sideways in an instant, particularly when unexpected opportunities arise.

Lachlan Murdoch has lived that first hand. Born in London, he grew up in New York City and attended Princeton, where he focused not on business, but philosophy. His bachelor's thesis, titled "A Study of Freedom and Morality in Kant's Practical Philosophy," addressed those weighty topics alongside passages of Hindu scripture. The thesis closed on a line from the Bhagavad Gita referencing "the infinite spirit" and "the pure calm of infinity," according to a 2019 article in *The Intercept*.

Béatrice Longuenesse, Lachlan's thesis advisor at Princeton, confirmed the accuracy of that report via email.

After graduation, though, Lachlan plunged headlong into his father's business, moving to Australia to work for the Murdoch newspapers that were once the core of News Corp.'s business. Many assumed he was being groomed for higher things at News Corp., and they were not wrong. Within just a few years, Lachlan was deputy CEO of the News Corp. holding company for its Australian properties; shortly thereafter, he took an executive position at News Corp. itself and was soon running the company's television stations and print publishing operations.

Lachlan's ascent came to an abrupt halt in 2005, when he resigned from News Corp. with no public explanation. According to Paddy Manning, an Australian journalist who last year published a biography of Lachlan Murdoch, the core problem involved two relatively minor issues on which Lachlan disagreed with Roger Ailes, who then ran Fox News.

"The real point was that Lachlan felt Rupert had backed his executives over his son," Manning said in an interview. "So Lachlan felt, 'If I'm not going to be supported, then what's the point?'" Manning did not have direct access to Lachlan for his book "The Successor," but said he spoke in depth with the people closest to his subject.

Lachlan returned to Australia, where he has often described feeling most at home, and founded an investment group that purchased a string of local radio stations among other properties.

While he was away, News Corp. entered choppy waters. The U.K. phone-hacking scandal, in which tabloid journalists at the News of the World and other Murdoch-owned publications had found a way to listen to voicemails of the British royal family, journalistic competitors and even a missing schoolgirl, had seriously damaged the company. The fracas led to resignations of several News Corp. officials, criminal charges against some, and the closure of News of the World as its finances went south.

Manning said that the damage the scandal inflicted on News Corp. - and on both Lachlan Murdoch's father and his brother James, chief executive of News' British newspaper group at the time - helped pull Lachlan back to the company.

"He was watching the family tear itself apart over the phone-hacking scandal," Manning said. Lachlan was "instrumental in trying to circle the wagons and turn the guns outwards, and stop Rupert from sacking James."

While it took more convincing, Lachlan eventually returned to the company in 2014 as co-chairman of News Corp. alongside James.

Not long afterward, Ailes was forced out of his job at Fox News following numerous credible allegations of sexual harassment.

Lachlan Murdoch has drawn criticism from media watchdogs for what many called Fox News' increasingly conspiratorial and misinformation-promoting broadcasts. The network hit a nadir following the 2020 election when voting machine company Dominion Voting Systems sued Fox News for \$1.6 billion, alleging that Fox knowingly promoted false conspiracy theories about the security of its voting machines.

Fox settled that suit for \$787.5 million in March of this year. A similar lawsuit filed by Smartmatic, another voting-machine maker, may go to trial in 2025, Fox has suggested.

In certain respects, though, Lachlan Murdoch's behavior suggests some ambivalence about his role at News Corp. In 2021 he moved back to Sydney and has been mixing commuting and remote work from Australia ever since. "I think there's a legitimate question about whether you can continue to do that and for how long" while running companies based in the U.S., Manning said. (AP)

## KD4.77 mln dues collected from travellers at ports

## Bid to prioritize state security, economy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Five Members of Parliament have presented a proposal for urgent legislation to establish the Kuwait Advanced Manufacturing Industries Holding Company. The proposal aligns with Article 21 of the Constitution, asserting state ownership of natural wealth and resources. The aim is to prioritize state security and the national economy, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The explanatory memo, submitted by Dr. Hassan Jowhar, Abdullah Al-Mudhaf, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi, Osama Al-Zaid, and Muhammad Al-Sayer, underscores Kuwait's potential for a comprehensive and sustainable development renaissance, leveraging its substantial oil reserves. It advocates for Kuwait to occupy an international position in advanced manufacturing industries, utilizing its advantageous geographical location.

The memo emphasizes the necessity to shift from reliance on traditional oil revenues to a diversified, sustainable economy. This transition requires a focus on expanding and localizing advanced manufacturing industries, turning the metaphorical "barrel of oil" into a source of sustainable security and economic growth.



Al-Zayed

To achieve these goals, the proposed law envisions the creation of a Kuwaiti holding company, fully state-owned, specializing in advanced manufacturing industries. This company would establish strategic partnerships and utilize advanced technologies to transform raw materials into market-ready goods, aiming to bolster state revenues, enhance the national economy, and generate meaningful employment opportunities for the Kuwaiti populace, reinforcing the foundations of the welfare state.

In another development, the Ministry of Interior said 4.77 million dinars have been collected at air and land ports outlets from GCC nationals and residents leaving the country for whatever reason, since the decision in this regard was issued two months ago by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled mandating those leaving the country to settle their outstanding dues to the state, reports Al-Qabas daily.

A security source told the daily the money collected include traffic violations estimated at 1.141 million Kuwaiti dinars over two months, while 2.936 million dinars were collected as electricity and water bills, during the from Sept 1, 2023 to Sept 23, 2023.

The source stated that the money collected is for traffic violations and electricity and water bills only, and does not include the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Communications bills.

## 'Angels of mercy' shun lowly-paid nursing jobs

'Only 1,004 Kuwaitis among 22,021 workforce'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The nursing profession, known as the "profession of angels of mercy", is still far from being a Kuwaiti profession due to lack of interest among Kuwaitis in it because of many considerations, including the hardship of the profession itself, its lack of incentives, and its poor basic salary, compared to other government jobs, not to mention the irregularity in increasing its allowances, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to official statistics, only 1,004 citizens work in the sector, constituting 4.6 percent of the workforce, out of a total of 22,021 nurses working in the Ministry of Health.

In this regard, the Kuwait Nursing Association stressed that the most prominent reason behind Kuwaitis' reluctance to work in the nursing field is the lack of allowances.

Head of the association Muhammad Saleh Assaf attributed the reluctance of Kuwaiti youth to work in the sector, to a number of reasons, the most important of which is the lack of incentives, cadres, and allowances prescribed for nursing, compared to other government jobs.

He revealed that five allowances have not yet been approved for nurses, which are hazard, pollution, noise, screen, infection, despite the many demands made by the association to encourage engagement in the profession.

Assaf affirmed that the association continues its efforts to achieve high rates of Kuwaitization in the profession, especially with the continuation of the reluctance of male and female citizens for years to join this field, despite the approval of some cadres and financial advantages for nurses after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Salaries

Regarding the salaries of nurses, he said they differ from one nurse to another and depends on the certificates obtained, but they usually range between KD 1,000 to KD 1,300 for a "first salary" citizen, and about KD 700 for an expatriate, adding that most resident nurses work on a pay-for-work system.

He explained that another reason for the reluctance of Kuwaiti youth to join the nursing field is also the fact that this profession is considered one among those involving hard work, as a nurse faces great challenges and difficulties which could affect their life, such as providing health care to patients suffering from dangerous and infectious diseases, enduring long periods of work and sentinels. There are other jobs that get occupational hazard allowances, which are not given to nurses. Expatriate nurses face additional suffering from the setting of a specific salary limit to obtain driving licenses, poor salaries, and the difficulty of residing in locations close to their places of work.

Furthermore, Kuwaiti nurses working in the field confirmed that the lack of incentives and the difficulty of the work are the reasons behind the reluctance of the country's youth to engage in the profession.

They affirmed that the reluctance of Kuwaitis to work in this lofty profession lies in the failure to ensure the availability of a work environment that guarantees the dignity and rights of workers, encourage the distinguished and creative among them, and provide them with opportunities to highlight their capabilities.

The nurses also highlighted the lack of incentives, allowances and financial cadres, as well as the continued exposure of nurses and doctors to verbal and physical assaults from time to time in health centers and hospitals.

They said the nursing bodies usually represent the first line of defense in the face of epidemics and dangerous infectious diseases, like the way it happened during the COVID-19 pandemic during which a number of male and female nurses lost their lives due to COVID-19.

The nurses stressed that the failure to allocate allowances to nurses is evidence of the lack of interest that is required in this important and vital profession.

Meanwhile, sources indicated that the health facilities in Kuwait have turned into "training stations for foreign nursing staff who obtain remunerative work contracts in other countries."

Also, the sources explained that the recent years witnessed a decline in the number of citizens working in nursing, as the percentage of Kuwaitis in the nursing staff at the Ministry of Health was seven percent in 2008, which rose to 11 percent in 2011, and then decreased to 6.2 percent in 2018. There are currently about 22,021 male and female nurses in the Ministry of Health, including 1,004 citizens (4.6 percent) and 21,017 expatriates (95.4 percent). These rates indicate that the profession is not attractive to male and female citizens.

## Patriot missile system help cost \$150 million

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Pentagon has confirmed that the State Department has granted approval for a potential agreement aimed at the restoration and revalidation of Patriot missiles and offering assistance to Kuwait at an estimated cost of about \$150 million, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to a report by army-technology.com, the arrangement entails the United States will provide Kuwait with missile repairs and testing, repair and return of classified and unclassified missile components and ground support equipment components, supply tools to improve the turnaround time for repair and re-certification efforts, and air transportation services for missile processing; technical and logistical support from the US government.

The report emphasized that this agreement is designed to bolster the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. It will contribute to enhancing the essential infrastructure of Kuwait, a significant non-NATO ally, that has played a crucial role in maintaining political stability and fostering economic progress within the Middle East.

**'New passports arrive':** Chargé d'Affairs of the Syrian Embassy, Tamim Madani, said the problem of delay in issuing and renewing passports has effectively ended, following the arrival of about 8,000 passports for members of the community in Kuwait, which will be soon distributed to the respective applicants, reports Al-Rai daily.

He explained 7,900 of these passports are biometric. He pointed out the Syrian passports are also currently issued at the Syrian embassy in the Sultanate of Oman or in the Syrian capital, Damascus, pointing out that the passport issuance center is currently being installed at the embassy headquarters in Kuwait.

He explained the fees for issuing a regular Syrian passport is \$300 and takes three weeks instead of the earlier three months while those applying for urgent passport have to pay \$800 and is issued within five days.

The sources indicated that the Ministry of Health currently has a national program for the development of Kuwaiti nurses, which aims to send 80 male and female students every year to obtain academic degrees in nursing profession from abroad, so that 800 Kuwaiti nurses will be made available within ten years.

They revealed that a number of expatriate nurses face difficulties in bringing their family members to the country due to some procedures, which increases their suffering in terms of difficulty in job stability due to their long years of separation from their families. This led to the resignation of a number of them and their departure from the country in search for better stability in other countries.

The sources said the Kuwait Institute for Nursing Studies accepts 300 to 350 nursing students annually, and the salaries for nurses after appointment vary according to degrees. They stressed the importance of approving cadres and allowances to support and develop the profession in order to attract a large number of citizens to engage in nursing, and to address the shortage of nursing cadres.

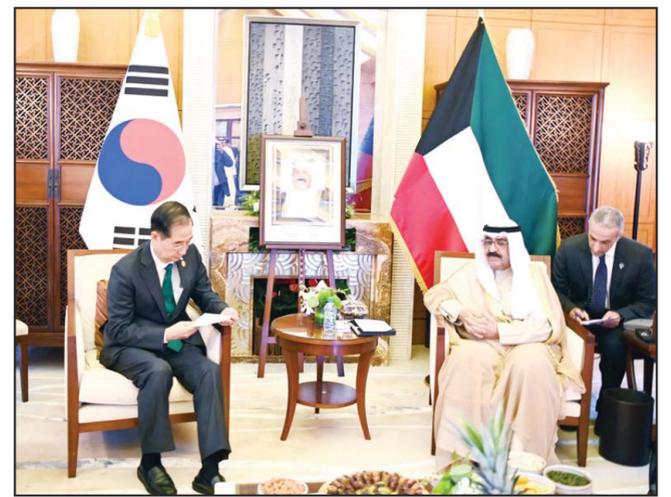
### Reluctance

In addition, the Director of the Nursing Services Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Iman Al-Awadhi stated that the reason behind the citizens' reluctance to engage in the nursing profession is the society's view of the profession, as it is one of the hard and difficult jobs.

She revealed that the first half of this year witnessed a noticeable increase in the demand for the profession and its study, following coordination between the Civil Service Commission and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, especially since nursing education is currently witnessing scientific expansion through the possibility of students obtaining diplomas, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Al-Awadhi indicated that the department is working on carrying out an inventory of the needs of all health facilities, including the new ones, from the nursing staff every three months to study the opening plans, which was done with the recent inaugurations of Jaber and Jahra hospitals and health centers in Sabah Al-Ahmad City and Khairan.

She revealed that there is a shortage of nursing staff in the country, but the shortage is considered global, adding that expatriate nurses have been resigning after getting job opportunities in neighboring countries with better incentives.



KUNA photo  
His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, at his residence in Hangzhou, China, Saturday, South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo.

## HH Crown Prince meets S. Korean PM

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, at his residence in Hangzhou, China, Saturday, South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo.

The two leaders discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, as well as latest regional and international developments.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Prime Minister good health and for the South Korean people further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Minister of State for Economic De-

velopment and Investment Dr. Saad Al-Barrak, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Rquba, Director of His Highness the Crown Princes office Jamal Al-Theyab, Crown Prince Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Mazen Al-Essa and Kuwait's Ambassador to China Jassem Al-Najem. (KUNA)

## State land occupation cases in limbo

## MP queries minister on status of delivery drivers & sponsors

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: MP Hassan Jowhar has submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah, asking him to provide him with the dates when the government sent to National Assembly annual reports concerning the cases of illegal occupation of state properties by individuals or companies, and elaborate on the procedures taken regarding these cases since the enforcement of law No. 116/2014 on the partnership projects till date.

The lawmaker asked if the Ministry of Finance informs the Council of Ministers about the public institutions that do not cooperate with the ministry and refrain from reporting the cases of illegal occupation of state properties including real estate, agriculture, industrial, commercial and vocational plots.

MP Jowhar sought the opinion of the Ministry of Finance on law No. 105/1980 concerning the revenues collected by renting out or distributing state properties to the beneficiaries.

He wanted a report on the revenues collected from renting state properties from the 2010/2011 fiscal year to 2022/2023 fiscal year.

MP Jowhar also asked about the progress of the bill adopted by the Ministry of Finance concerning amending the current law on state properties from the time it was published in Al-Qabas daily on November 24, 2019.

He requested for a copy of that bill, which was edited by the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

The MP asked why the government, represented by the Ministry of Finance, switched from adopting the aforementioned bill to pushing for the government to submit a bill to establish a public authority to run and invest public real estate based on the government's program for the term 2023/2027.

Meanwhile, MP Jenan Boushehri asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid

Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about the procedures taken by the ministry against the violators of the regulations stated by General Traffic Department, which requires delivery drivers holding residency types 18 and 20 to be registered under the same delivery company that they work for.

The lawmaker wanted to know the procedures taken against the violating delivery companies, drivers and their sponsors.

She wanted to know the number of registered violations from January 1, 2023 till date. If procedures were not taken against the violators, MP Boushehri wanted to know the reasons.

The MP also wanted to know the stated penalty for the violators of the third article of the relevant decision, which requires the drivers to be sponsored under the same delivery company that they work for, and the penalties stated against the violators of article 4 of the relevant decision, which bans the holders of residency type 20 from doing delivery jobs.

She also wanted to know the number of delivery companies with over 100 delivery vehicles including cars and motorcycles.

In addition, MP Abdullah Al-Mudhaf submitted questions to the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Jaseem Al Ostad, asking if there are automated interfaces between Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and the relevant institutions such as Kuwait Municipality, Municipal Council, Department of State Properties at the Ministry of Finance, banks, Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), Public Authority for Industry, and Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to help PAAAFR allocate the distributed plots, provide services like electricity and water, make sure the bank guarantees are paid, issue rent contracts, collect the defined fees, and issue the required building licenses.

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# Kuwaiti women advocates end landmark visit to EU institutions

BRUSSELS, Sept 23, (KUNA): A delegation of 12 Kuwaiti women's empowerment advocates concluded a five-day visit to the EU institutions in Brussels on Thursday.

During the visit they had the opportunity to exchange with European experts on learning and best practices to accelerate women's empowerment, said the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's foreign service, in a statement.

The visit aimed to enhance dialogue and networking opportunities between the EU and the visiting Kuwaiti delegation, foster closer people-to-people exchanges and enhance cooperation.

The Kuwaiti participants came from all walks of life, including government, business, media, civil society and academia, sharing a common passion and commitment to enhance women's empowerment in Kuwait, it noted.

In Brussels, the Kuwaiti delegation met with senior EU officials from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European External Action

Service, civil society organisations, as well as students and academics, exchanging best practices and identifying bilateral cooperation opportunities.

A dedicated panel discussion was also held at the College of Europe, the oldest postgraduate institute of European studies, on policies that are being introduced to accelerate women's empowerment and inclusion.

The participants also had the opportunity to enjoy aspects of Belgian culture including a visit to the picturesque city of Bruges.

Speaking on the importance of this visit, Irina Gusachenko, focal point for Gender Equality at the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Kuwait said: "Women's empowerment is a top priority for the EU."

"The European Union is delighted to exchange views and best practices with such an inspiring group of Kuwaiti women. The EU remains committed to promoting dialogue and bilateral cooperation on women empowerment, which is the basis for building strong, innovative, inclusive, and thriving societies," she said.

Commenting on the familiarisation visit, Dr. Lubna Al-Kazi, Professor at Kuwait University, founder and director of the Women's Research and Studies Center added: "The trip organized by the EU Kuwait was an excellent way to build bridges of friendship and mutual understanding."

"The women leaders were from different sectors in Kuwait and showed the progress made here in different professions. This visit has helped us to see the best practices of the European Union in women's empowerment and at the same time given us the opportunity to show the work we are doing here," said Al Kazi.

This visit comes in the context of the EU's Joint Communication on a Strategic Partnership with the Gulf, which aims at enhancing EU's cooperation with the Gulf.

This strategy presented concrete proposals to strengthen cooperation on energy, green transition, climate change, trade and economic diversification as well as facilitating people-to-people contacts. Women's empowerment cuts across all of these topics, noted the statement.

# 20-yr-old wife dies at hands of her drug addict husband

Police bust liquor factory; 3 sought for stealing sheep

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: On Friday, a heartbreaking incident unfolded in Al-Omariya, where a twenty-year-old woman lost her life at the hands of her husband, reports Al-Anba daily.**

The Public Prosecution has ordered the detention of the husband, on the charges of killing his Arab wife using an electric cord inside their home. Additionally, he was found to be in possession of narcotic and psychotropic substances with the intent of using them.

The Public Prosecution swiftly responded to the news by dispatching teams to the crime scene and engaging the Forensic Medicine Department. The accused has confessed to the accusations, and further investigative procedures are underway.

The husband attempted to escape but was apprehended after colliding with several police vehicles in an abnormal state within the Al-Omariya area.

According to reports the woman was rushed to the Farwaniya Hospital but the doctors' valiant attempts failed to revive her, she succumbed to her injuries.

□ □ □

**Police bust liquor factory:** The Farwaniya police raided a big illicit liquor manufacturing operation run by five expatriates inside a rented resi-

dence in the Rabieh area, reports Al-Anba daily.

A reliable security source revealed that detectives received crucial information from reliable sources, indicating the presence of an underground liquor factory operated by five expatriates inside a house.

Subsequent investigation confirmed the accuracy of the information, establishing that the expatriates were indeed involved in the production of alcohol.

Consequently, a specialized team was formed, and after obtaining the necessary authorization from the prosecution, and executing a targeted raid on the premises housing the illicit factory the suspects were arrested, and the tools and containers utilized for the production of alcohol were confiscated.

□ □ □

**Woman among 3 sought:** Personnel from the Criminal Investigation Department from Mina Abdullah have launched an investigation to arrest a gang comprising three young people – two men and a woman – for stealing sheep from various livestock farms in the mainland area of Mina Abdullah. The victims, farm owners, have promptly registered five cases against the thieves, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a reliable security source, five individuals have reported separate incidents where they were targeted by the gang.

The criminals were captured on solar-powered

surveillance cameras, appearing as two young men and a girl. They cunningly deceived the sheep herders by feigning familiarity with the owner, subsequently making off with a number of sheep.

□ □ □

**Refinery fire put out:** The Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) announced Friday that firefighting teams had extinguished the fire erupted earlier in the Unit 35 in Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery.

KNPC's Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Fuel Supply Operations and Spokesman Ghanim Al-Otaibi told KUNA that the blaze did not cause any human casualty or affect production or export operations.

He hailed firefighters and workers' success in controlling the fire in record time.

□ □ □

**Road maintenance:** Informed sources in the Ministry of Public Works revealed that "the neutral technical committee to study the offers of international companies for road maintenance submitted its recommendation last week to the purchasing committee in the ministry regarding two contracts out of a total of 10 contracts – for the maintenance of roads in the Hawalli and Jahra governorate," reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Ministry's Purchasing Committee, in turn, approved the recommendation in light of acceptable prices submitted by the companies regarding the two contracts.

## diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Passage of new law to solve the housing crisis'

"AFTER enduring years of hardship, what are the aspirations of Kuwaitis regarding the legislation establishing city companies? Finally, the law for creating city companies has been officially published, stipulating that these housing city firms and their development will operate under a residential care framework. These established companies will function as public joint-stock entities, with variations in ownership percentages and subscription dates based on the project's nature and economic feasibility study," columnist **Fajr Boudred** wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The newly enacted law specifies the capital for each company based on the project's nature and cost, determined through the economic feasibility study. Public housing care institutions are mandated to prepare this study before inviting public investment. Upon initiating a public offering, a summary of the project's study, alongside plans for residential areas and cities earmarked for implementation, will be published.



Boudred

"The law was passed with the approval and consensus of members or representatives of the National Assembly. It is anticipated that the implementation of this legislation will address and respond to over 120,000 housing requests. Notably, statistics indicate nearly half a million citizens are without housing, necessitating swift implementation of this new law.

"Over the past two decades and even in recent years, the housing crisis has caused severe repercussions, instilling anxiety among citizens and adversely affecting their daily lives. The crisis's effects compounded year after year, causing citizens to lose hope in obtaining the right to housing. Waiting times doubled, exceeding fifteen years for some, and housing costs soared, making housing attainment an arduous process.

"This burden became an unattainable dream, leaving citizens disillusioned. Responses to housing requests were agonizingly slow, and new housing projects did not materialize as intended, resulting in a mounting backlog of housing requests that successive governments failed to address. Attempts to resolve the crisis were slow, exacerbating the situation, making it a prevalent topic of discussion among Kuwaitis in recent years.

"The backlog of housing applications grew to more than 120,000, accumulating at an annual rate of 8,000 applications.

"The housing crisis intertwined with financial issues, severely impacting the state. The state provided rent allowances to housing applicants, costing over 260 million dinars annually, while the sponsoring institutions owned land capable of fulfilling double the housing applications.

"The state's incapacity to sustainably finance and implement large housing projects, with costs exceeding 32 billion dinars, rendered the existing system unsustainable, further worsening the crisis. Will the new law expedite project implementation?

"The passage of this law is anticipated to significantly accelerate the implementation of housing applications. This legislation can be seen as the starting point and core of numerous projects, particularly in terms of financial and administrative methodologies and operational mechanisms.

"There are expectations that the total number of housing applications may rise to 220,000 in the next two decades, accompanied by a concerning 19% surge in real estate prices. Simultaneously, approximately 15,000 plots of vacant land are held by a mere 146 individuals within the real estate market. Hence, the intervention of the National Assembly through this legislation was imperative to alleviate and resolve the crisis's ongoing repercussions. All that remains is to hope optimistically that the law will fulfill the expected outcomes."

**Also:**

"There has recently been a significant debate regarding the enforcement of the law prohibiting mingling at Kuwait University. This disagreement is not a new occurrence, but

rather an ongoing one with various intellectual, political, and social considerations interwoven within it. I am not here to delve into the matter as it has been a recurrent topic, thoroughly researched and discussed previously," columnist **Dr. Muhammad Hussein Al-Dallal** wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"The law regarding the regulation of joint education or mixing in public universities was established in 1996. However, what is disheartening and distressing are the negative behaviors and practices that accompany discussions about this issue. Some individuals resort to slander and employ the harshest words and expressions towards those with differing opinions.

"Those in favor of preventing mixing in education are unjustly labeled as obscurantist or Qandahari, while those supporting mixing are branded as degenerate or secular. These statements reveal a deficient perspective regarding how we handle our nation's issues and highlight a decline in civilization and values among some individuals. It's evident that claims of adhering to the ethics of secularism or liberalism, respecting opposing viewpoints, or upholding good morals are merely empty slogans when it comes to practical application and dealing with differing opinions.

"It is crucial that we avoid being drawn into political or social battles that disrupt our societal cohesion and national unity. We must strive to respect others, even when their opinions differ from ours. Our discussions and dialogues should remain far from slander, defamation, abuse, and betrayal. The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, wisely advised, "Do not envy one another, do not quarrel with one another, do not turn to one another, and do not sell to one another, and be servants of God as brothers." This emphasizes the importance of treating each other with respect and avoiding conflict.

"As I pen down this article, I ponder the potential achievements that could have been attained if all the energy and effort expended in the current dispute were collectively directed toward the common goal of advancing and enhancing education. The achievement would have been significant, benefiting all members of our nation, regardless of their differences.

"Over the past fifty to seventy years, human civilization has experienced immense technological, industrial, and societal advancements, surpassing developments witnessed over thousands of years. Scientists predict even greater progress in the next three decades, particularly in technology, offering numerous advantages to human life.

"However, this progress will bring about significant challenges and risks, potentially harming individuals and disrupting societal stability and security that countries and human societies have enjoyed for over a century.

"Recent electronic hacking incidents, including those in the ministries of Finance and Trade, highlight the potential negatives of technological advancement. These incidents could be minor compared to the potential damage if such electronic intrusions affect the state's critical interests, such as oil and energy production, communication systems, and state secrets. This necessitates a comprehensive national strategy focused on cybersecurity to effectively manage technological advancements and their potential negatives.

"I appreciate the attention some government officials and members of the National Assembly have shown toward cybersecurity. However, this interest should not be temporary or reactionary but evolve into a comprehensive national strategy encompassing the understanding and management of technology, its progress, and mechanisms ensuring national superiority in this field.

"Addressing the negatives of technological progress and cybersecurity breaches should be an integral part of this strategy. It's vital that strategic attention to cybersecurity isn't limited to the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) but also extends to the proposed crisis and risk management apparatus."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



# September

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HH Crown Prince and PM send greetings

# HH the Amir congratulates Saudi King on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the Kingdom's National Day.

In his message, His Highness the Amir affirmed depth of the solid, brotherly and historic relations between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, underscoring Riyadh's unwavering and honorable stances toward causes of the Arab and Muslim nations as well as its brotherly stands in support of the State of Kuwait.

His Highness the Amir boasted of the achievements made in the Kingdom during era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman, noting that these accomplishments elevated the Kingdom's status among states of the globe.

Moreover, His Highness the Amir wished the Saudi Monarch lasting good health so he may continue to lead the development process in the Kingdom, wishing the country further progress and prosperity under the sagacious and well-enlightened leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, with backing of His Royal Highness, Prince Mohammad bin Salman al-Saud, the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the Kingdom's National Day.

In his message, His Highness the Crown Prince lauded the achievements that have been made in the Kingdom at various levels, wishing the Monarch good health and the Kingdom further progress and prosperity under the enlightened leadership of King Salman, with backing of His Royal Highness, Prince Mohammad bin Salman al-Saud, the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the Kingdom's National Day.

Also, National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun addressed on Friday a cable of congratulations to the Saudi Shura Council chairperson, Dr. Abdullah Al-Sheikh, on his country's National Day.

The Parliament Speaker Al-Saadoun, in the cable, underscored depth of the brotherly relations between the two countries, recalled the Kingdom's historic stance on the side of the Kuwait and in support of causes of the Arab and Muslim nations.

Moreover, Al-Saadoun lauded Riyadh's achievements that have been made during era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Al-Saud, wishing the Kingdom lasting security and safety and the brotherly Saudi people more progress and prosperity.

# Bouqmaz highlights HH Amir's keenness in supporting youth

Meeting held between MPW leaders and new employees

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Bouqmaz says that the ministry's role is prominent in its tasks, which include infrastructure and many government buildings in Kuwait. However, the country's streets in all governorates are suffering today from problems due to the negligence of some people in the past and their abandonment of their role.**

She said this during the first annual meeting titled "Recent graduates" for the ministry's new employees who were appointed as of January 1, 2023. The meeting was held yesterday in the theater hall of the Government Center for Inspection, Quality Control and Research.

Dr. Bouqmaz explained that the state has invested billions in infrastructure. The ministry continues to work day and night "until we catch up with those around us in development" in order to build a correct system based on governance.

The political leadership is keen about developing youth. Neighboring countries have advanced their youth,

and that opportunity is available to everyone for the desired development.

She highlighted the keenness and directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Al-Nawaf to support youth because they are an important element in society.

Dr. Bouqmaz reviewed her work experience from the beginning of her appointment until the time she was put in charge of the Ministry of Public Works portfolio.

She affirmed that the ministry needs new engineers and administrators, adding that it is providing the existing employees with the necessary support to develop their performance during the next stage, through training courses and other matters that will help them develop their productivity at work.

The minister stressed that the aim of the meeting is to familiarize new employees with the role, importance and history of the ministry, the projects it has established, and the infra-

structure, whether during the current or previous period.

She listened to the viewpoints of the new engineers and the obstacles they faced, assuring them that the doors of all ministry officials are open for them to listen to them and know their opinions and ideas that contribute to the development of the ministry.

The minister called on them to work hard and diligently, be keen to acquire experiences that will distinguish them during the coming period, and be part of the ministry in completing the development projects that will be implemented during the coming period through institutional work through the presence of governance.

Also, Acting Undersecretary Eid Al-Rashidi stressed that technical competence is what is required, not quantity, indicating that the many years of work for employees is not a criterion as much as excellence in performance.

**Expertise**

Al-Rashidi explained that the ministry's role is to employ expertise in the right and appropriate place, and to help new employees develop their performance and capabilities at work. An employee or engineer should not look for a workplace close to his home but rather for a sector that is compatible with his capabilities. Whoever has excellent competence is the one who deserves to be a leader.

Meanwhile, the ministry spokes-

man Ahmed Al-Saleh said the Ministry of Public Works referred a company's bid to undertake the maintenance of governorates and highways to the State Audit Bureau in order to obtain the necessary approvals in preparation for signing two contracts for the Jahra and Hawalli governorates.

**Signed**

He explained that they will be signed after receiving a recommendation from the neutral committee formed by several state agencies.

The ministry is currently in the stage of obtaining approvals from the State Audit Bureau. It is doing its part in signing these contracts to prove that the project is good, and the practice is working to solve the road problem in Kuwait. The presence of international expertise is something that would add to the ministry.

The enlightenment meeting that brought together the leaders and the new employees of the Ministry of Public Works is a translation of the instructions of the country's political leadership to invest in youth, and for them to be an important part in working to solve such problems.

It is noteworthy that during the meeting, a visual presentation was presented about the history of the ministry and its achievements. The new employees were introduced to their rights and duties, and some of the instructions that the employee needs upon his appointment.

Bid to submit recommendations to minister

# Committee to amend controls for private health facilities' licensing

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Chairman of the Kuwait Medical Association Dr. Ibrahim Al-Tawala announced the formation of a committee with a number of specialized doctors from the private medical sector to develop proposed amendments to the new regulations for the requirements and controls that must be in place for licensing private health facilities in preparation for submitting recommendations to the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr Al-Tawala

ing private health facilities.

Dr. Al-Tawala highlighted the coordination and cooperation between the association and the Ministry of Health to discuss the necessary amendments to the regulations to make it easier for doctors working in the private medical sector.

He stated that the discussion panel touched on many important points and obstacles facing doctors in the new regulations. It was agreed to write down all claims and amendments and discuss them in the committee that will be formed at the beginning of next week to submit recommendations as soon as possible to the minister of health.

Dr. Al-Tawala stressed that the Kuwait Medical Association confirms its full commitment to defending the interests of doctors working in the private medical sector, and its support to enhance the spirit of fair competition between them and the major medical companies.

# CAPT rejects MPW's request for the second time

By Mohammed Ghanem  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) rejected for the second time the Ministry of Public Works' request for a direct contract to prepare a study, design and supervise the implementation of repair and rehabilitation work on Abdul Razzaq Gate with an engineering office, deducting from the main contractor's dues for the contract at a value of KD 135,000 for a period of two months.

According to informed sources, the ministry, represented by the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation, had stopped work on the gate based on reports from the Government Per-

formance Monitoring Agency and the directives of the Council of Ministers regarding the change order through which the contractor was working. Necessary procedures were taken to ensure the structural safety of the tunnel in implementation of these directives.

Those concerned with PART have been warned to adhere to the pre-control requirements and ensure they are met before starting the fourth change order.

The State Audit Bureau asked the ministry to oblige PART to request submitting a declaration before issuing the change order and starting work to address the deficiencies in the tunnel.

The ministry bears responsibility for all the tests and necessary assessments for the safety of

the work to address the defects in the tunnel, in addition to implementing the work that results from these tests, requirements, inspections, treatments and recommendations within the duration and value of the express orders to achieve the root solution to the problem.

This also include implementing all the required radical reforms in a way that guarantees and achieves the safety and sustainability of the business, the safety of passersby above and below the tunnel, and not charging public funds any additional amounts for the value and duration of the change order as a result of the tests, provided that the approval is an integral part of the change order documents.

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 7A's/A*	 7 IGS	 6A's/A*	 6A's/A*	 6A's/A*	 6A's	 2A's at AS level	 2A's and 1B at AS level	 3 AS high passes	 2A's at AS Level	 2A's high passes
 5A's/A*	 5A's/A*	 4A's/A*	 4A's/A*	 4A's	 4A's/A*	 4 AS High Passes	 4 AS Level	 3 AS high passes	 3 AS high passes	
 4A's	 2A's	 3A's/A*	 3A's/A*	 2A's/A*	 1A					

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# 'Kuwait keen to work with partners to promote sustainability'

## New initiatives aim to achieve carbon neutrality

**BRUSSELS, Sept 23, (KUNA):** Kuwait believes that energy transition is inevitable, and is keen to work with its partners on new initiatives that aim to achieve carbon neutrality and promote sustainability, Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and head of missions to the EU and NATO, Nawaf Alenezi, told a business forum in Brussels.

"In its continuous efforts to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and measure its progress, Kuwait has recently presented its 2nd voluntary national review of SDGs," he told the annual Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Business Forum held on Thursday evening.

Kuwait has made significant achievements in clean water and sanitation, affordable clean energy, industry innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, he noted.

In terms of clean water and sanitation, he said that access to safe and clean drinking water and access to proper and hygienic wastewater networks have been near universal in Kuwait.

"In terms of clean and affordable energy, Kuwait has been successful



KUNA photo  
Nawaf Alenezi, Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and head of missions to the EU and NATO.

ly pursuing its new energy strategy, combined with a plan to foster economic diversification, reduce fossil fuel dependency and CO2 emissions" said Alenezi.

Around 30 projects are currently being implemented in Kuwait including the development and construction of new roads and railway systems, ports, and airports.

Kuwait has made a commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and is unveiling its comprehensive strategy to realize this goal, he said.

Turning to Q8, the international

arm of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, he said that it operates over 1,000 retail gas stations in Europe, has the most advanced blending plant in the Belgian port city of Antwerp and is the largest jet-fuel provider to over 170 airlines in over 70 airports worldwide.

Qaisar Hijazin, Secretary General Arab-Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in his introductory remarks said this years Forum will focus on sustainable development.

He said Arab countries represent together 7th biggest trading partner of Belgium and trade relations between Belgium and the Arab world increased from 20 billion euro (USD 21 billion) in 2001 to 30 billion euros (USD 32 billion) in 2022.

### Engaged

He noted that the ABLCC is engaged since over four decades in promoting trade and economic relations between Belgium and the Arab world.

Jeroen Cooreman, Director-General for Bilateral Affairs in the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said "we need to tackle the challenges of climate change and sustainable development together." He called for closer cooperation between Belgium and the Arab world on renewable energy such as offshore wind and green hydrogen.

"A lot of your countries are coastal states just like us and I believe there is also a cultural and mental proximity between our people that makes us understand each other fairly easily," he told the gathering of Arab and Belgian diplomats and entrepreneurs and representatives of Arab and European companies.

Dr. Khaled Hanafi, Secretary General of Union of Arab Chambers, said that Arab shareholders and investors hold over 51 percent of shares in over 2,800 Belgian companies.

He called for a strategic alliance to re-shape the trade relations between Belgium and the Arab world. "We need to think a different way to handle our businesses together. Instead of just relying on our classical traditional model. We need to think of a strategic alliance in order to be able to penetrate into different markets around the globe," he said.

A number of other Arab ambassadors addressed the Forum expressing their views and opinions on ways to boost trade cooperation between Belgium and the Arab world.

### Talks lay

Continued from Page 1

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad signed an MoU with the national energy department, which was represented by Zheng regarding the power systems and renewable energy.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and investment Dr. Saad Al-Barrak signed an MoU with Minister of Transport Li Xiaopeng regarding Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

The Foreign Minister represented the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) and signed an MoU with Chinese Minister of Trade Wang Wentao regarding economic and free zones.

Minister of State for Housing Affairs signed an MoU between the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and Chinese ministry of trade regarding housing development. China was represented by Minister Wang.

Memoranda of understanding signed by Kuwait and China during His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visit will have positive impact on development in Kuwait, Kuwait's top diplomat said Saturday.

State of Kuwait and China signed yesterday seven MoUs in a ceremony attended by His Highness the Crown Prince and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"We witnessed the signing of seven MoUs dealing with huge construction projects that include Chinese companies in Kuwait, among them are housing cities and renewable energy," Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said in a statement to KUNA and Kuwait TV.

He elaborated that MoUs also dealt with water treatment and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

"These are development projects and will contribute to the development of the State of Kuwait," added Sheikh Salem while talking about outcome of the visit so far.

The projects, he added, "will have huge impact on the State of Kuwait and I believe they are projects that will indeed have direct and positive impact on our people."

Speaking about the meeting between His Highness the Crown Prince and President Xi, Sheikh Salem said the talks were very "positive and productive," describing the atmosphere of the summit talks as "very amicable."

He said the two leaders discussed the history of the bilateral relations and how to develop them further.

"President Xi talked a lot about the history of China-Kuwait relations and highly appreciated the fact Kuwait was the first Gulf country to establish relations with Beijing in 1971, as well as the role of Kuwait Fund in offering loans to China in 1980s which contributed to projects in China," he said.

The two leaders agreed to further cement relations and cooperation to higher levels, said the foreign minister, who noted this was the second meeting between His Highness the Crown Prince and President Xi since last December in Saudi Arabia.

Yesterday, the two countries signed a joint statement regarding a cooperation plan for years 2024-28. It was signed by Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Wang Yi, member of the Communist Party politburo, Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Communist Party's Central Committee and Foreign Minister.

Sheikh Salem signed an MoU with the National Development and Reform Commission Chairman Zheng Shanjie regarding a low-carbon recycling green system.

Sheikh Salem and Zheng also signed an MoU between Ministry of Public Works and the National Development and Reform Commission regarding infrastructure of water treatment stations.

Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad signed an MoU with the national energy department, which was represented by Zheng regarding the power systems and renewable energy.

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Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Rquba signed an MoU between the Public Authority for Housing Welfare and Chinese ministry of trade regarding housing development. China was represented by Minister Wang.

His Highness the Crown Prince held summit talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and "we should make very good use of this important meeting to develop the foundation of Kuwait vision 2035 to be 2024-40," Saad Al-Barrak, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investments, said in a statement to KUNA after the talks and singing of cooperation agreements.

The vision, he explained, "would be an extension of the same spirit in order to overcome the political and economic developments that took place in the past three years like the coronavirus pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine."

Al-Barrak said he signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese side, part of seven MoUs, regarding the completion of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port.

"Around 50 percent of the first

phase of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port is completed and we seek to finalize the first phase in order to launch and operate the port as swift as possible," he said.

"China excels in construction and other domains like management and operation of the port, so we have signed the MoU and will continue the talks on execution," he said.

Al-Barrak also said Minister of Justice and Minister of Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Rquba signed an MoU over construction of housing cities, while Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad signed an MoU to establish a solar power station.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed MoUs in many vital domains, noted Al-Barrak.

Al-Barrak said meanwhile Kuwait and China shared "wonderful history," which began when Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah visited China when he was a Finance Minister in 1965, to the establishment of relations in 1971, when Kuwait was the first Gulf country to have relations with the People's Republic.

Al-Barrak also commended China's support to Kuwait's just causes, especially during the Iraqi invasion and occupation in 1990-91.

### Housing

Kuwait's Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Rquba said Saturday a memorandum of understanding signed with China would contribute to development of housing cities.

Al-Rquba, also Minister of Justice, said in a statement Kuwait would benefit from the Chinese expertise through the MoU that he signed yesterday during a ceremony attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Al-Rquba signed the housing development MoU with Minister of Trade Wang Wentao. "The MoU will boost cooperation through work teams, exchange of visits and exchange of technical details," he said, with the objective of creating strategic cooperation to develop housing projects.

The MoU would pave way for development of advanced housing cities as part of the government plans to provide housing care for citizens.

The MoU that Al-Rquba signed was part of seven MoUs inked between the State of Kuwait and China.

On Saturday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended a luncheon held by Chinese President Xi Jinping, honoring the heads of State and other prominent leaders and figures invited to the inauguration ceremony of the 19th Asian Olympic Games in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's attendance of 19th Asian Games opening ceremony at invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping reflects solid bilateral relations, a sport official said.

The invitation extended to His Highness the Crown Prince "is an excellent initiative," Chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al-Sabah said in a statement to KUNA Saturday, as His Highness the Crown Prince was the only Gulf leader to attend the opening ceremony.

He said His Highness the Crown Prince meeting with the Kuwaiti athletes taking part in the competitions was a great motivation, as well as making sure that they represent their country in the best way possible.

Participation of His Highness the Crown Prince "gives a boost to relations and cooperation between China and State of Kuwait" and constitutes a source of pride for Kuwait Olympic Committee and the athletes.

Regarding preparations of the athletes, Sheikh Fahad noted that the Asian Games were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic and the Olympic committee made sure to prepare the athletes through sending them to training camps abroad.

He said Kuwait would be participating in football and handball games, as well as individual competitions. He also voiced confidence the athletes would accomplish good results.

### Khor Abdullah

Continued from Page 1

On the Palestine issue, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf renewed Kuwait's full support to the Palestinian people and their rights.

"For 75 years, the Palestinian people are suffering due to the international community's failure to enforce the UN resolutions and the Israeli occupation's practices which violate all international norms and laws."

He asserted that the centrality of the Palestinian cause in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

His Highness the Premier noted that Kuwait has submitted a written plea to the International Court of Justice to give its opinion on the consequences of the Israeli occupation's ongoing violations of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

He stressed Kuwait's firm and principled stance in support of the Palestinian right to establish an independent state on the 4th June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf stated on Thursday that the "New Kuwait" vision aims to transform the country into a financial, commercial and cultural hub.

Addressing the 78th UN General Assembly in New York, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf said the development vision seeks to keep pace with

all international economic and financial indicators to achieve this goal.

He noted that foreign policy is present in this expanded development process through a diplomacy that takes initiatives stemming from the country's relief and humanitarian legacy.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad renewed his country's commitment to cut carbon emissions.

"In light of the deterioration of the environment worldwide, my country has voluntarily and thoughtfully made clear progress to fulfill obligations and according to available capabilities, especially in the field of rehabilitation of the oil, industry and transportation sectors with the aim of reducing emissions, diversifying energy sources, improving their efficiency, and using alternative and renewable energy," he said, recommitting to Kuwait's previous pledge to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 in the oil sectors.

His Highness the Premier said that the Gulf Cooperation Council States have been and continue to be pioneers in supporting the multilateral international community due to their belief in its centrality in addressing common challenges.

He wished the success of the climate change conference "COP28" which will be held in the Emirate of Dubai in the sisterly United Arab Emirates.

He welcomed the announcement by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the establishment of a global water organization based in Riyadh in order to develop and integrate the efforts of countries and organizations to address water challenges in a comprehensive manner in to ensure the sustainability of water resources.

He welcomed Qatar's hosting of the upcoming the Horticultural Expo entitled "Green Desert, Better Environment" in an effort to encourage innovative solutions towards the sustainability of desert areas.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf also called on UN members states to vote for Kuwait's bid to join the UN Human Rights Council.

"We are looking forward to the UN member states voting for the State of Kuwait to obtain the Human Rights Council membership for the period from 2024 to 2026 in the elections planned next October," His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf said.

### Membership

His Highness pointed out that Kuwait, through its membership bid, seeks to meet the aspirations of the developing world by extending bridges of cooperation and working in a way that helps reach comprehensive and just solutions to human rights issues in accordance with the provisions of international law, international humanitarian law and UN resolutions.

He renewed adherence to the multilateral international order and to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter to maintain international peace and security and serving all of humanity.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf urged international synergy to confront hate speech and media misinformation targeting Muslims.

"As we look forward to boosting global dialogue and spreading the culture of coexistence, tolerance and peace at all levels, Muslims are still facing irresponsible provocative attacks by a number of extremists."

He criticized the burning of copies of the Holy Quran in a number of capitals and cities under "flimsy justifications" of freedom of expression.

He underlined the need for concerted international efforts to deal with hate speech and media misinformation targeting Muslims.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf also called for peaceful solutions to the conflicts in Yemen, Sudan and Syria.

"We renew our support for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations through the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen in order to resume the political process and reach a comprehensive settlement in accordance with the three agreed-upon terms of reference: the Gulf Initiative and its executive mechanism, the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference, and the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially the UNSCR 2216 in a way that preserves the security and stability of Yemen and its territorial integrity."

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf said in his speech at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

On the fighting in Sudan, His Highness the Premier expressed Kuwait concerns about the situation there and called on all parties to immediately stop fighting, resort to dialogue and return to the peaceful political path to preserve the security and stability of Sudan and its territorial integrity.

He also voiced support for all ongoing regional and international initiatives in this regard, including the Saudi-American initiative.

On Syria, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf stressed the need to intensify efforts to reach a political solution in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 2254.

His Highness the Amir's Representative extended condolences to Morocco and Libya over the victims of the recent earthquake and floods.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah departed the New York City after heading Kuwait's delegation to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad and his accompanying delegation were seen off by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Tariq Al-Banna.

## DGCA's projects management division earns ISO certification

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23, (KUNA): The Directorate General of Civil Aviation declared on Saturday that the division of projects management earned the ISO certification for the section's successful administration.

Saad Al-Otaibi, the deputy director general for planning and projects, said in a statement to KUNA on Saturday that the ISO 9001 quality management division assess the level of quality and operations' management.

The DGCA projects management division's earning of the ISO certificate affirms the department keenness on overhauling operations in the various sections, attaining top administrative procedures, backing innovation and providing solutions to challenges that face the various work divisions.



KUNA photo  
Saad Al-Otaibi, the deputy director general for planning and projects.

It has earned the certificate from the US Global Inter after executing a project for a period of eight months and concluding all the required phases, namely training, documenting, applying and internal auditing.

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## Kuwait Finance House launches Digital Academy

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) launched a digital academy specialized in the field of environment and sustainability, in strategic partnership with (SEEDS), as part of KFH's sustainability strategy and the "Keep it Green" campaign launched by KFH to care for and preserve the environment. As an umbrella under which many initiatives and projects fall that will contribute to disseminating the awareness of environment and sustainability concepts in Kuwait and the world.

KFH Assistant Sponsorships and

CSR Manager, Abdulaziz Deyab, confirmed that environmentalism is a pillar in KFH's sustainability strategy, noting that KFH supports similar initiatives that help in spreading societal awareness on the necessity of environment protection and utilize all available resources for the recycling process in line with KFH strategy.

pointing out that cooperation with SEEDS Academy represents a success story and a model, and that joint cooperation through the launch of An integrated

platform that brings together specialists and those interested in the field of sustainability to exchange ideas and experiences and unite efforts towards a sustainable environment, and the platform presents various topics and solutions in sustainability, for example, the concept of green buildings, which highlights the KFH AUTO exhibition as a model that holds GSAS Gold certification as an environmentally friendly building, according to the standards of the global sustainability assessment system.



KFH Assistant Sponsorships and CSR Manager, Abdulaziz Deyab at the launch of the Digital Academy.

## Market Movements

23-09-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+0.28	46,436.41	UAE - DFM	-0.27	4,168.55
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+0.79	6,142.79	JAPAN - Nikkei	-0.52	32,402.41
EGYPT - EGX 30	+1.43	20,080.57	SAUDI - Tadawul	-1.01	10,949.42

# Business

## No new signals provided by the cbank regarding its interest rate trajectory

# US Fed decision on interest rate shifts focus to CBK

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Following the US Federal Reserve's recent decision to set interest rates within the range of 5.25-5.5 percent, attention has now shifted to the Central Bank of Kuwait since the Kuwaiti central bank has adopted a gradual approach in determining local interest rate trends, diverging from its historical practice of aligning closely with the Fed's path, reports from Al-Rai daily.

As of now, the local monetary policy maker has not provided any new signals regarding its interest rate trajectory, whether in the immediate future or until the year's end. Speculation is growing about the Federal Reserve potentially raising interest rates once or twice by the end of the year.

Various scenarios prompt the recurring question: What will be the impact of interest rate trends on banks, the stock market, companies, and individual consumers? Generally, there exists an inverse relationship between interest rates and stock markets. When interest rates increase, stocks tend to decline, and deposits and bonds become

more attractive.

Higher interest rates also elevate the cost of borrowing for investors. If investors opt to reduce their borrowing despite their needs, both their liquidity levels and investment volumes decrease, applying pressure on stock prices. Conversely, when interest rates decrease, the opposite occurs.

In the banking sector, financial institutions seek to increase the discount rate. For local banks in Kuwait, every quarter-point rise in the interest rate translates to an accounting-based increase of approximately 60 million dinars in their quarterly profits, in comparison to unofficial expectations.

Thus, bank officials typically prefer to align with Kuwait's approach of globally increasing interest rates. This strategy reduces their cost of funds compared to the operating returns they receive from the continuous rise in interest rates. It's a move away from fixing the discount rate and instead directing efforts towards raising interest on deposits while increasing the Central Bank of Ku-

## Govt deposits surge by KD 914m in local banks in first 8 mths

By Ahmad Fathi  
Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: During the initial eight months of this year, government deposits in local banks saw a notable upswing, surging by 914 million dinars. As of August's conclusion, these deposits reached a total of 4.35 billion dinars, a substantial rise from the 3.354 billion dinars reported in December 2022. Concurrently, the Central Bank's monthly data indicated

a decrease in overall bank deposits.

In August, local revenues amounted to approximately 46 million dinars, bringing the total to 47.553 billion dinars. This figure, while slightly lower than the 47.599 billion dinars reported in July, reflects the financial landscape.

Kuwait's official reserve assets, as per statistics, witnessed an impressive increase of 557 million dinars, constituting a 3.93% growth, culminating in a total of 14.73 billion dinars by the end of August 2023. This is in contrast to the 14.182

billion dinars recorded during the same month the previous year.

It's noteworthy that the aggregate assets of local banks swelled to 84.5 billion dinars, a notable uptick from the 81.9 billion dinars reported at the close of August 2022. Meanwhile, the amount owed by the government to these banks dwindled from 613 million dinars in August 2022 to 419 million dinars, and the banks' obligations to institutions also decreased from 3.75 billion dinars to 3.6 billion dinars.

As for credit facilities extended by local banks to residents and non-residents, they stood at approximately 1.2 billion dinars on an annual basis by the end of last August, reaching a total of 52.10 billion dinars. This marks a slight increase compared to the 51.43 billion dinars recorded in the same month in 2022. Moreover, personal facilities grew by 10 million dinars, reaching 18.64 billion dinars at the close of the previous month, up from 18.54 billion dinars in July.

## Fears of supply tightness; price 'surpasses' 95 dollars a barrel!

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

With oil prices reaching the \$90 level, consumers' prices are heading towards a higher level in almost every sector. These are either based on speculations and anticipation, or aimed for protection against future higher oil prices. Irrespective of whether such an increase happens or not, the higher price will remain. Meanwhile, consumers will put the blame on OPEC+, making it the main culprit.



Al-Harami

OPEC+ had to act to preserve its annual income of oil, and expenditure, and protect its capital project. While oil prices were static and with more oil coming from non-OPEC+ resulting in weakening of oil value globally, it had to act fast by calling for reduction in oil production from all its members.

However, such an action did not move the oil prices upward as much as expected. Hence, the biggest members Saudi Arabia and Russia took it upon themselves to make a combined voluntary cut of 1.5 million barrels per day, which later reduced to 1.3 million because of Russia's need for more sale of its oil to balance and increase its intake of foreign currency, something that it desperately needs due to its war against Ukraine.

The current voluntary cuts will remain in place until the end of this year. OPEC+ might extend the reduction depending on whether

the level of oil prices will reach \$100 a barrel by the end of the year.

On the other hand, the USA and the West were advocating and encouraging all industries to move away from shale oil and to invest in alternatives. Now a new outlook is emerging that is delaying such actions for a few more years. There is a new turn towards investing in finding new oils, due to the challenges facing alternative sources of energy for being more expensive and not giving the anticipated results.

Fortunately for global oil consumers, OPEC+ did not stop and continued to invest more and more in shale energy, which actually cost more money and expenses. Even though it eventually turned out to be a more expensive oil price, it is being invested on due to the tightness and shortage in oil supply. Through this, OPEC+ aims to avoid causing panic in the oil markets.

Demand is still looking rosy, with the current rate being 101.5 million barrels per day, and this is expected to grow further by a small amount next year. In any case, Iran can pump and produce more oils despite sanctions, delighting oil consumers globally.

Oil supply is tight with restrictions and voluntary cuts, but OPEC+ is aware that a price level of \$100 may hurt its consumers, due to which it can relax supply, as long as oil prices give them the proper return on new oil investments, and cover annual budgets with a breakeven balance sheet.



Email: nafitkuwait@yahoo.com

# Significant local factors contribute to 'inflation' rise in Kuwait in 2022

Inflation growth rates between 2.6 and 3.2 forecasted

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: According to a government report, multiple significant local factors have contributed to the State of Kuwait's inflation rate rise to approximately 4% in 2022. These factors include heavy reliance on imports of goods and services, accounting for 90% of the reliance. Moreover, the rise in purchasing power due to government-approved financial distributions, such as buying earned leave for government employees and others, has played a role. Additionally, a shortage of professional workers has impacted this increase, as reported by Al-Qabas daily.

The report, issued by the Economic Development Department of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, highlighted key sectors experiencing the highest inflation rates in the past year -- education 12.1%, food and beverages 7.4%, clothing and apparel 5.6%, and transportation 4%.

Moreover, the report emphasized certain economic, commercial, and monetary policies and decisions made by the government that have helped mitigate the rise in inflation. Diversifying income sources, maximizing non-oil revenues, ensuring self-sufficiency for the population regardless of future global uncertainties, and making optimal use of rising oil prices through strategic investment projects were among the recommended strategies. Encouraging local talent and embracing their skills within Kuwait, enhancing the role of the private sector, and reducing obstacles to foreign investment were also seen as vital steps.

Looking ahead to the years 2023 to 2026, the report outlined various scenarios regarding oil prices and their potential impact on inflation rates. The most optimistic outlook assumed global crude oil prices at \$80 per barrel, projecting gradual annual increases of about \$10.

These scenarios anticipate inflation growth rates between 2.6% to 3.2% during 2023-2026, indicating a slowdown in inflation's growth rate in the medium term. This projection is influenced by expectations of gradual interest rate hikes by the Central Bank of Kuwait and governmental measures aimed at curbing future inflation through a strategic plan, strengthening essential security systems for food, medicine, and water.

Conclusively, the study emphasized the imperative of robust reform measures to diversify income sources across all sectors, reducing dependence on oil as the primary income source. Activation of development plan policies and their successful implementation

## BPG's CX focus pays off with mandates for iconic brands and new 'business wins' across the GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Award-winning agency BPG (Bates PanGulf, part of WPP) is entering Q4 2023 with incredible growth numbers and several high-profile strategic wins for its specialist MarCom services in UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman. BPG's 'digital first, integrated by intent' positioning has paid off handsomely -- with over 50% revenue growth, amounting to annualized revenues of \$13m to \$15m.

Avi Bhojani, Group CEO, BPG said: "More than four decades in business have shown us that innovation, agility and customer-centricity determine the survival of the fittest. Today, the brands that are loved are the ones prioritizing customer experience (CX), through a blend of culture, processes and data. BPG 3.0 is here to support the shift in thinking around customer journeys and focusing on their needs. It is an exciting time at BPG as we bring together our incredibly talented and motivated integrated team to serve some of the region's most iconic brands."

This year, BPG has bagged some of the most coveted regional pitches, winning brands such as Trojena - The Mountains of NEOM, Wasl, Darna Rewards by Aldar, Uber, Talabat Kuwait, and more.

Building on its exceptional experience in finance and banking, BPG won strategic branding projects for First Abu Dhabi Bank. Other new business wins include Bank Dhofar, RAK-BANK and Sohar International Bank, who just acquired HSBC in Oman. The multi-practice mandates encompass integrated marketing, communications, influencer marketing, creative advertising, PR, branding, media services, digital and performance marketing, social media, and content management.

The exciting pipeline of new business wins has been supplemented by expanding mandates from long-time clients such as Ooredoo, Central Bank of Kuwait and Diraya with Kuwait Banking Association, Wooden Bak-



(Left-Right): Souheil Arabi, Darius LaBelle, Avi Bhojani of BPG

ery, and Domino's Pizza. BPG's social media practice has steadily expanded, bagging new clients such as Porsche UAE (Al Nabooda), Titan Watches, and DMCC.

The agency's CX practice, integral to BPG 3.0, has also been one of its fastest growing, having extended and delivered CX strategies and assets to clients across Dubai, Kuwait and Oman. BPG has secured over \$2m worth of annualised revenue, for CX projects varying in scope from designing and refreshing websites and building sales enablement apps to UX/UI optimization.

BPG 3.0 was born after a significant, game-changing creative win in Saudi Arabia. BPG is working on a unified customer experience through its full-service hubs in UAE and Kuwait, supported by BPG Cloudworks -- a borderless remote team that stretches from North America and Europe to Egypt, Lebanon, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. This strategic transformation is inspired by culture, powered by insights, human by design and integrated by intent. In 1995, BPG 1.0 was born after winning an integrated mandate from the Dubai Government. BPG 2.0 emerged in 2003 after win-

ning mandates for public advocacy and creating centres of excellence and offices around the world.

Souheil Arabi, Group Chief Operating Officer, BPG and CEO, BPG Kuwait said: "BPG 3.0 is coming to life as our business is growing in every dimension: teams, services, revenues, and clients. This has been a year of tremendous activity and achievement with some notable wins for our team -- which we look forward to celebrating next month at our 27th Annual Offsite, one of BPG's most cherished traditions. We are doubling down on embracing relevant and appropriate AI tools into our day to day lives, and excited about the role of CX in brand building."

BPG has continued an expansion trajectory, with 35% growth in its talent pool across UX, content, creative, PR and media. The agency continues with its landmark BPG NXT graduate training program and has just hired four NXTers in Dubai and two in Kuwait from over 800 qualified applicants. Running since 2006, BPG NXT identifies and nurtures young talent, giving them opportunities to shine. With this program, BPG has given the regional MarCom industry over 100 outstanding professionals.

## Wall Street closes its worst wk in six months with more losses

NEW YORK, Sept 23, (AP): Wall Street wheezed to more losses Friday as it limped to the finish of its worst week in six months.

The S&P 500 slipped 9.94 points, or 0.2%, to 4,320.06 after a late-day swoon erased a modest gain it had held for most of the day. It capped an ugly slide caused by Wall Street's growing understanding that interest rates likely won't come down much anytime soon.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 106.58 points, or 0.3%, to 33,963.84, and the Nasdaq composite dipped 12.18, or 0.1%, to 13,211.81.

Pressure has built on Wall Street as yields in the bond market climbed to their highest levels in more than a decade. They'd been rising for months and accelerated this week after the Federal Reserve indicated it's unlikely to cut its main interest rate by as much in 2024 as investors had hoped. The federal funds rate is at its highest level since 2001, which grinds down on investment prices as it undercuts high inflation.

Yields eased a bit Friday, which helped the S&P 500 stabilize somewhat following its 1.6% drop a day before, which was its worst since

March. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.44% from 4.50% late Thursday. It's still near its highest level since 2007.

The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more closely with expectations for the Fed, dipped to 5.10% from 5.15%.

When bonds are paying more in interest, investors are less willing to pay high prices for stocks. High rates hit particularly hard on stocks seen as the most expensive or forcing investors to wait the longest for big growth in the future.

Recently, that's meant particular pain for big technology stocks. Nvidia trimmed its loss for the week to 5.2% after rising 1.4% Friday. The Nasdaq composite, which is full of tech and other high-growth stocks, slumped 3.6% for its worst week since March.

A couple tech-oriented companies got better news Friday after U.K. regulators gave a preliminary approval to Microsoft's restructured \$69 billion deal to buy video game maker Activision Blizzard. It would be one of the largest tech deals in history, and shares of Activision Blizzard rose 1.7%.

companies.

Supporting and promoting foreign direct investment by facilitating entry into the national economy.

Developing innovative products and services by developing an integrated environment for technology, innovation and knowledge.

Increasing the impact of projects and small and medium-sized companies through financing, sponsoring and expanding their scope.

Education  
Aligning the outcomes of the educational system with the needs of the labor market to provide students with the required skills.

Improving the national education system, including the curriculum, teachers' skills, and teaching methods.

Encouraging learning science, technology, engineering and mathematics to lead towards a knowledge

5 - Transportation

Improving the efficiency of land, air and port transport infrastructure, strengthening current transport systems using smart technologies and facilitating import and export procedures.

6 - Entertainment and culture  
Developing cultural and historical sites, enabling access to them and managing them sustainably.

Increasing the attractiveness of Kuwaiti arts and culture to enhance media production.

Increase hosting and participation in international events and conferences.

7 - Cigarettes and tobacco  
Implementing a tax system on selective goods and value added tax.

# KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

Outstanding results achieved in the IGCSE, GCSE, AS and A level examinations 2022-2023

It is with great pride that we announce the continued success of our Secondary School. This summer has brought outstanding results for the school for IGCSE, GCSE, AS and A Level. This is a great tribute to the hard work of the students and dedication of the teachers and the support and encouragement provided from home.

Congratulations to all the staff, parents and students of the secondary school on a successful year for Kuwait English School.

Chris Hansen  
Head of School



تهانينا  
CONGRATULATIONS

تعلن عن النتائج الرائعة التي تحققت في امتحانات IGCSE, GCSE, AS, A level - يونيو 2023  
إنه لمن دواعي فخرنا أن نعلن استمرار نجاح طلاب المرحلة الثانوية حيث حققوا هذا الصيف نتائج قياسية للمدرسة مع أفضل النتائج على الإطلاق في امتحانات IGCSE, GCSE, AS, A Level، وقد كانت هذه النتائج تقديراً للجهد الكبير الذي قام به الطلاب، إضافة إلى تفاني المعلمين والدعم والتسجيع المقدم من أولياء الأمور.

تهانينا لجميع موظفي وطلاب المرحلة الثانوية لتلك النتائج خلال العام الناجح لمدرسة الكويت الإنجليزية 2022/2023.

كريس هانسن  
مدير المدرسة

## YEAR 13 A2 AND AS RESULTS JUNE 2023

<b>VASILIKI STERGIU</b> A2 Chemistry A2 Further Mathematics AS Further Mathematics AS Computer Science	<b>SALEH ALSIEDRAH</b> A2 Chemistry A2 Mathematics AS Computer Science	<b>NEHA JOSEPH</b> A2 Computer Science A2 Chemistry A2 Physics A2 Mathematics	<b>SNEHIKA SRIVASTAVA</b> A2 Business Studies A2 Economics A2 Mathematics A2 History	<b>LJANA AL RAMMAL</b> A2 Chemistry A2 Mathematics AS Biology	<b>ABDULWAHAB ESMAIL</b> A2 Biology A2 Chemistry A2 Mathematics	<b>YOUSSEF MIKHAEL</b> A2 Chemistry A2 Accounting A2 Mathematics A2 Physics	<b>ATIQA HUSSAIN</b> A2 Biology A2 Chemistry A2 Mathematics
<b>HAYA NAJEM</b> A2 Biology A2 Chemistry	<b>HALA ABU HILWA</b> A2 Geography A2 Business Studies A2 Mathematics AS Arabic	<b>TAHA KAZI</b> A2 Business Studies A2 Economics A2 Mathematics	<b>JUDY ABO ALSHAMLAT</b> A2 English Literature A2 Physics A2 Mathematics	<b>WARD ABU HILWA</b> A2 Art and Design A2 Arabic AS Arabic	<b>MARIAMA JALLOW</b> A2 Business Studies A2 English Literature	<b>MENZIES CAMPBELL</b> A2 English Literature A2 History	<b>FARHEEN ZAMAN</b> A2 Chemistry A2 Physics
<b>BADER ALHOMOOD</b> A2 Physics							

## YEAR 12 AS AND A2 RESULTS JUNE 2023

<b>ALY IBRAHIM</b> A2 Arabic A2 Mathematics AS Chemistry AS Physics AS Computer Science	<b>MOHAMMAD ALKHATRAH</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>OMAR ALAMIRI</b> AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>MARYAM KHAN</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Economics AS Mathematics	<b>MAYA KOBESSI</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>ALMA NAJEM</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>HUSSAIN SALEM</b> AS Mathematics	<b>HASHMI ALMUHANNA</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics
<b>ADRAIN DZIDO</b> A2 Mathematics AS Chemistry AS Computer Science AS Physics	<b>ISSA HADDAD</b> AS Biology AS Computer Science AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>FAYZAN ARIF</b> AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>SHEHAB SALEM</b> AS Biology AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>DANA DABBAH</b> AS Biology AS Mathematics AS Physics	<b>ASER ALOBAID</b> AS Mathematics AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>OMAR ALOMANI</b> AS Mathematics AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>LAYAN BARQAWI</b> AS Mathematics AS Biology AS Chemistry
<b>HEND NAJEM</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>GHINA BADER</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>ABDULLAH HUMOOD</b> AS Biology AS Business Studies	<b>HADI BASSAL</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry	<b>HAIRAA ABBAS</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>GHALA ALASFOUR</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	<b>CHLOE BOU DIAB</b> AS Business Studies AS Computer Science AS Mathematics	<b>CHRISTELLE SOLENTALER</b> AS Biology AS Economics AS Mathematics
<b>MALAK MOHAMED</b> AS Economics AS History	<b>MAEVE LOOBY</b> A2 Mathematics AS Physics	<b>FARAH EL SHIMY</b> AS Biology AS Chemistry	<b>FATIMAH ALMUSA</b> AS Economics AS Geography	<b>NAJD ALSHEHAB</b> AS Mathematics AS Chemistry	<b>JACK MARCHANT</b> AS Economics AS History AS Physical Education	<b>KAREN MATHEW</b> AS Economics AS History	<b>ALA MOUSAVI</b> AS Art and Design AS Business Studies AS Mathematics
<b>SAOUD ALHAMDAN</b> AS Mathematics AS Chemistry	<b>LAILA ELKHALIFA</b> AS Biology AS Mathematics	<b>MENAL BATHWATE ARACHOBE</b> AS Economics AS Physical Education	<b>ABDULLAH EL HALAQ</b> AS Biology	<b>ALICE BASS</b> AS Geography			

## YEAR 11 IGCSE/GCSE AND AS RESULTS JUNE 2023

<b>SARAH AOOFI</b> Arabic 1st Language Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature French ICT AS Mathematics Physics	<b>ARIADNI TRIGKAKI</b> Business Studies Economics English 1st Language Geography History Mathematics Physics	<b>JUDY KHALIL</b> Arabic 1st Language Accounting Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature ICT Mathematics Physics	<b>MIRA ARMANYOUSS</b> Accounting Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature ICT Mathematics Physics	<b>ZEYAD AL AJEEL</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Economics English 1st Language Mathematics Physics Physical Education	<b>JAD ABO ALSHAMLAT</b> Biology Chemistry Economics English 1st Language Mathematics Physics Physical Education	<b>NORAIN ALRUWAYEH</b> Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>MALAK BAHZAD</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Geography Mathematics Physics
<b>LAILA BARAKAT</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language French Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>WALID EL HALLAK</b> Arabic 1st Language Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>MENTALLA MOSTAFA</b> Arabic 1st Language Accounting Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Geography Mathematics Spanish	<b>MARWAN ZAROURA</b> Arabic 1st Language Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Mathematics Spanish	<b>MARK ALLAM</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language English Literature AS Mathematics Physics	<b>YASMIN BEHBEHANI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>RANEEM GAD</b> Arabic 1st Language Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Geography ICT Mathematics Physics	<b>FARAH HARDIE</b> Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language French Geography Mathematics Physics
<b>ALI USMANI</b> Biology Chemistry Computer Science Drama English 1st Language Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>KHALED ALBASTAKI</b> Accounting GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English 2nd Language Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>LUJANE ALMASAAD</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Geography Mathematics Spanish	<b>DHARI ALKANDARI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>TULIN TURJUMAN</b> Accounting GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>RAMI EL TURK</b> GCSE Arabic Business Studies Computer Science Economics English 2nd Language ICT Mathematics Physics	<b>MAZEN EIISA</b> O Level Arabic Biology Chemistry English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>MARIA KAZEMI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics
<b>YOUSEF EIISA</b> Accounting GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Physics	<b>AMANI MATHEEN</b> Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Geography Music	<b>YUSUF MATAR</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language ICT Mathematics Physics	<b>MESHAYEKH ALEBEED</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language French Mathematics Physics	<b>SARA ELMASRY</b> Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Physics Mathematics	<b>AHMED ELSAYED</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	<b>TAIBA MARAFIE</b> Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>OMAR SERHAN</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry Mathematics Physics
<b>MOHAMMED ALOTAIBI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry Economics English 1st Language History Mathematics Physics	<b>RAYAN GHABA</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language French Mathematics Physics	<b>ABDULWAHAB ALABDULLAH</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>NAYA SONJI</b> Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Geography Physics	<b>ANA ILIC</b> Biology Chemistry Computer Science English 2nd Language AS Mathematics Physics	<b>REMAS SALEM</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language History Mathematics Physics	<b>HAJER MOHAMMAD</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>MARIAM MURAD</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Drama Chemistry English 1st Language History ICT Mathematics Physics
<b>ELISAVET STERGIU</b> Biology Chemistry Computer Science Economics English 1st Language History AS Mathematics Physics	<b>DAVID WHITE</b> Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Geography History Mathematics Physics	<b>NADEEN ALKARAM</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>SALAH ALZEYADI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 2nd Language Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>JOSEPH ELKHOURY</b> Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Spanish	<b>NATASHA BUTING</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry Computer Science Economics English 1st Language Geography Physics	<b>SHAHED EL CHAMI</b> GCSE Arabic Business Studies English 1st Language English Literature ICT Mathematics Physics	<b>LANA KREIK</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics
<b>IBRAHIM ALAWADHI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 2nd Language Physics	<b>JANA MRAISH</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Computer Science English 1st Language Geography	<b>SAMUEL BASS</b> Biology Chemistry English 1st Language French Mathematics Music Physics	<b>SANAA ABUGHAZALEH</b> Accounting Computer Science English 1st Language French Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>ABDURAHMAN ALAWADHI</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Geography Mathematics Physics	<b>MARVIN ZAKI</b> Arabic 1st Language Business Studies Economics English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	<b>CLAUDIA DELICADO</b> Business Studies Design Technology English 1st Language French History Mathematics	<b>SAYED ALSALEH</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry Computer Science English 2nd Language History Mathematics Physics
<b>RODAINA NAGIB</b> Biology Chemistry Design Technology English Literature Mathematics	<b>ABDULAZIZ ALSAFFAR</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 2nd Language Mathematics Physics	<b>YOUSEF IBRAHIM</b> Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science Mathematics Physics	<b>CHAD BOU DIAB</b> Business Studies Biology English 1st Language French Mathematics Physical Education	<b>MOHAMMAD ALBALAYYES</b> GCSE Arabic Biology English 2nd Language History Mathematics	<b>HAMAD MAHMOUD</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Physics Physical Education	<b>FOUAD ABDEL MONEM</b> GCSE Arabic Biology Computer Science English 2nd Language History Mathematics Physics	<b>IFRA HACHEMI</b> Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Geography Mathematics Physics

## SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



KES



The Conversation

Many participate stunts for amusement and curiosity

# Four reasons teenagers take part in social media challenges

By Kapil Chahil Madathil and Heidi Zinzow  
Clemson University

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

Social media challenges are wide-ranging - both in the stunts they involve and the reasons why people do them.

But why do young people take up challenges that pose a threat to health, well-being and, occasionally, their very lives?

We are an engineering professor who specializes in understanding how humans interact with computers and a psychology professor with expertise in mental health, specifically traumatic stress and suicide.

Together with our research team, we conducted a series of studies to try to understand what motivates teens and young adults to participate in different challenges.

For these studies, from January 2019 to January 2020, we interviewed dozens of high school and college students in both the United States and south India who had participated in social media challenges. We also analyzed 150 news reports, 60 public YouTube videos, over a thousand comments on those YouTube videos, and 150 Twitter posts - all of which were specifically about the blue whale challenge. This challenge, popularized in 2015 and 2016, was reported to involve progressively risky acts of self-harm that culminate in suicide.

We identified four key factors that motivate young people to participate in a challenge: social pressure, the desire for attention, entertainment value and a phenomenon called the contagion effect.

1. Social pressure

Social pressure typically comes when a friend encourages another friend to do something, and the person believes they will achieve acceptance within a particular social group if they do it.

We found that participation in challenges that promote a good cause, such as the ice bucket challenge, often resulted from direct encouragement. Ice bucket challenge participants, for example, would complete the challenge and then publicly nominate others to do the same.

Meanwhile, young adults who engaged in riskier challenges primarily wanted to feel included in a group that had already participated in such a challenge. This was true for the cinnamon challenge, where participants rapidly consumed cinnamon and sometimes experienced lung damage and infection. For example, 38% of research participants who engaged in the cinnamon challenge acknowledged that they were seeking peer acceptance, rather than being directly encouraged to participate.

"I think I did it because everyone I was going to school with did it at the time," said one student who saw the challenge as popular among their peers. "And I figured there has to be something about it if everyone was doing it."

2. Seeking attention

A form of attention-seeking behavior exclusive to participants of the ice bucket challenge was a wish to be recognized for supporting a commendable cause.

However, the attention-seeking behavior we observed among teens and

young adults often led to participants innovating a more hazardous version of a challenge. This included enduring the associated risks longer than others.

For example, one participant in the cinnamon challenge swallowed powdered cinnamon for a period longer than their peers. "It was definitely peers, and like I said, you know, the attention," they said. "Seeing other friends posting videos and who could do the challenge longer."

3. Entertainment

Many young adults participated in these challenges for amusement and curiosity. Some were intrigued by the potential reactions from people who witnessed their performance.

"It seemed like fun, and I personally liked the artist who sings the song," said one participant about the Kiki challenge. The challenge involves dancing next to a moving car after stepping out of it to Drake's song "In My Feelings."

Others were interested in experiencing the sensations associated with executing the challenge. They wondered if their responses would mirror the other individuals they had observed doing it.

One participant said it was "mostly curiosity" that motivated them to do the cinnamon challenge: "Just because, seeing other people's reactions, I kind of wanted to see if I would have the same reaction."

4. Contagion effect

Challenges, even those that are seemingly benign, can spread quickly across social media. This is due to the contagion effect, where behaviors, attitudes and ideas spread from person to person. How content creators depict these challenges on digital media platforms also contributes to the contagion effect by encouraging others to participate.

After analyzing digital media content related to the blue whale challenge, we found YouTube videos about this challenge often violated the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's nine messaging guidelines. This means the posts exhibited risk factors for promoting contagion of harmful behaviors.

Specifically, of the 60 YouTube videos we analyzed regarding the blue whale challenge, 37% adhered to fewer than three guidelines, categorizing them as primarily unsafe. The most commonly violated guidelines involved failure to avoid detailed or glorified portrayals of suicide and its victims, to describe help-seeking resources, and to emphasize effective mental health treatments.

Our research also explored how participants viewed challenges after doing them. Half of those who engaged in a risky challenge indicated that if they had understood the physical danger or potential risk to their social image, they might have opted not to do the challenge.

"I would not have done the cinnamon challenge if [I had known that] someone ended up in a hospital performing it," one respondent told us.

Based on our research, we believe that if more information about the potential risks of social media challenges was offered to students in schools, communicated to parents and shared on social media, it could help teens and young adults reflect and make informed decisions - and deter them from participating. (AP)

Study offers new standard of care for mUC

# Enfortumab plus Pembrolizumab improves OS in urothelial cancer

More efficient operating room

## De La Vina 1st in S. Calif to adopt new wireless tech for arthroscopy

BOTHELL, Wash, Sept 23: Seagen Inc. (Nasdaq: SGEN) and Astellas Pharma Inc. (TSE:4503) have announced positive topline results from the Phase 3 EV-302 clinical trial (also known as KEYNOTE-A39) for PADCEV® (enfortumab vedotin-ejfv) in combination with KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab) versus chemotherapy in patients with previously untreated locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (la/mUC), a form of bladder cancer that has spread to surrounding organs or muscles, or other parts of the body. The EV-302 trial enrolled patients with previously untreated la/mUC who were eligible for cisplatin- or carboplatin-containing chemotherapy regardless of PD-L1 status.

The EV-302 study met its dual primary endpoints of overall survival (OS) and progression-free survival (PFS), compared to chemotherapy. An Independent Data Monitoring Committee determined that OS crossed the pre-specified efficacy boundary at interim analysis. The safety results of the combination are consistent with those of enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab previously reported in cisplatin-ineligible patients with la/mUC.

"This study has the potential to be practice changing and offer a new standard of care for first-line metastatic bladder cancer. We look forward to presenting the results at an upcoming medical conference and discussing with regulators in order to get this medicine to patients as soon as possible," says Roger Dansey, M.D., President, Research and Development, Seagen.

Treatment

"We are thrilled that the topline results of the EV-302 study demonstrated that the combination of enfortumab vedotin and pembrolizumab improved the dual primary endpoints of OS and PFS. Patients living with metastatic urothelial cancer are in dire need of additional treatment options and this combination has the potential to advance the standard of care. We are extremely grateful to all of the patients who participated in this trial," says Ahsan Arozullah, M.D., M.P.H., Senior Vice President, Head of Oncology Development, Astellas.

"Over two hundred thousand deaths from urothelial cancer are reported worldwide annually, making it a major cause of morbidity and mortality. The topline results from EV-302 are encouraging for patients with advanced-stage urothelial cancer, which is aggressive and associated with devastating outcomes," says Thomas Powles, M.R.C.P., M.D., Professor of Genitourinary Oncology at Queen Mary University of London; Director, Barts Cancer Center, London; EV-302 Primary Investigator.

The EV-302 trial is an open-label, randomized, controlled Phase 3 study, evaluating enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab versus chemotherapy in patients with previously untreated la/mUC. In this study, patients

CLEVELAND, Sept 23: De La Vina Surgicenter in Santa Barbara, CA, and medical device and technology company Lazurite® announced that De La Vina is the first healthcare center in Southern California to adopt Lazurite's new ArthroFree® Wireless Surgical Camera System. De La Vina has used it for a variety of knee, shoulder, and other arthroscopic procedures.

"Our facility was designed to give each patient the ultimate experience in same-day surgical procedures with unrivaled quality of care and state-of-the-art technology," said De La Vina Surgicenter physician Christopher S. Proctor, M.D. "We've been impressed by the ArthroFree System. Not having wires around makes for a safer and more efficient operating room. The staff loves it because it's quicker to set up and take down. I think wireless is the future."

"We are proud to have De La Vina Surgicenter embrace the use of the ArthroFree system," Lazurite CEO and cofounder Eugene Malinskiy said. "The simplicity and ease of use of the system are demonstrated by the quick adoption of wireless arthroscopy by De La Vina."

Dr. Proctor specializes in sports medicine, shoulder, knee and arthroscopic surgery. He is the team physician for the University of California, Santa Barbara Baseball team and the Santa Barbara Foresters baseball team of the California Collegiate League. He is also a staff physician for University of California, Santa Barbara, and provides sports medicine care for numerous high school, collegiate and professional athletes.

Lazurite helps surgeons stay fo-

cus under pressure when it is most critical. With the new wireless ArthroFree system, there are no cords to distract a surgeon's attention so they can maintain their full concentration on the patient's procedure. ArthroFree has been used in centers of excellence with outstanding results.

Focus

Lazurite designs medtech devices. Its ArthroFree® System is the first wireless camera with FDA clearance for arthroscopy and general endoscopy. The ArthroFree System is designed to enhance the surgeon's focus during the critical moments of surgery by enabling unethered movement and dexterity. It promises to increase the safety and efficiency of minimally invasive surgical procedures while decreasing the cost. Lazurite's IP portfolio includes the high-efficiency Meridien® light technology, wireless communication technology, and products in development.

Kestra Medical Technologies launched the ASSURE Clinician Experience (ACE), a program that lets electrophysiology and cardiology professionals wear and simulate use of the ASSURE® Wearable Cardioverter Defibrillator (WCD) system at The Heart Rhythm Society #HRX2023 global health and technology conference, September 21-23, 2023 in Seattle, WA. Clinicians that participate will be measured, fit, and trained in the use of a demonstration ASSURE WCD System and experience everyday usage of the ASSURE system while participating in conference activities. Par-

ticipants will be able to review their personal usage and rhythm data in the Kestra CareStation™ remote patient data platform.

"Wearable defibrillators (WCDs) work when patients wear them," said Laura Gustavson, Vice President of Clinical Marketing. "There's no better way of seeing how the ASSURE system has been designed for comfort and wearability than having WCD prescribers experience it for themselves. The latest updates to the ASSURE WCD system include an enhanced suite of capabilities, including heart rate histograms and trends, reporting on supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) episodes, and the ability for patient-triggered recording of heart rhythm episodes, so cardiology care teams can identify additional presenting arrhythmias and further optimize patient care."

The ASSURE WCD system represents the next generation of monitoring and therapy to protect patients at risk of sudden cardiac arrest. The system includes a wearable monitoring and defibrillation device that provides autonomous detection and defibrillation for ventricular arrhythmias, when needed. It is the first WCD designed and developed with specific options for female cardiac patients. The complete Cardiac Recovery System® platform includes the ASSURE WCD, the ASSURE patient app, the ASSURE Assist® service, and Kestra CareStation™ remote patient data platform, all working together to provide comfortable protection for patients and clear insights for their healthcare providers. The ASSURE WCD system has protected thousands of patients since being launched in 2021.

were randomized to receive either enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab or chemotherapy. The dual primary endpoints of this trial are OS and PFS per RECIST v1.1 by blinded independent central review (BICR).

The EV-302 trial is intended to serve as the basis for global submissions and as the confirmatory trial for the US accelerated approval of this combination. In April 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted an accelerated approval to PADCEV in combination with KEYTRUDA for the treatment of adult patients with la/mUC who are not eligible to receive cisplatin-containing chemotherapy based on the results from the EV-103 trial. The trial is part of an extensive program evaluating this combination in multiple stages of urothelial cancer.

The EV-302 trial (NCT04223856) is an open-label, randomized, controlled

Phase 3 study, evaluating the impact of treatment with enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab versus chemotherapy in patients with previously untreated locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (la/mUC) who were eligible for cisplatin- or carboplatin-containing chemotherapy regardless of PD-L1 status.

The EV-103 trial (NCT03288545) is an ongoing, multi-cohort, open-label, multicenter Phase 1b/2 study investigating enfortumab vedotin alone or in combination with pembrolizumab and/or chemotherapy in first- or second-line settings in patients with la/mUC and in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC).

Enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab is being investigated in an extensive program in multiple stages of urothelial cancer, including two Phase 3 clinical trials

in MIBC in EV-304 (NCT04700124, also known as KEYNOTE-B15) and EV-303 (NCT03924895, also known as KEYNOTE-905). The use of enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab in second-line urothelial cancer and in MIBC has not been proven safe or effective.

PADCEV (enfortumab vedotin-ejfv) is a first-in-class antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) that is directed against Nectin-4, a protein located on the surface of cells and highly expressed in bladder cancer. Nonclinical data suggest the anticancer activity of PADCEV is due to its binding to Nectin-4-expressing cells, followed by the internalization and release of the anti-tumor agent monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE) into the cell, which result in the cell not reproducing (cell cycle arrest) and in programmed cell death (apoptosis).

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Behbehani Motors Company, Porsche Centre Kuwait representatives, with the representative of Porsche Middle East and the ambassador of the Czech Republic to the state of Kuwait.

**A fusion of timeless show at Grand Hyatt Hotel**

**Porsche Centre Kuwait unveils the new Cayenne ... the epitome of luxury, performance and elegance**

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company, the leading automotive brand, proudly unveiled the much-anticipated Cayenne 2024. Hosted at the opulent Grand Hyatt Hotel, a location befitting the grandeur of the occasion, this showcase was a melting pot of Porsche owners, automotive enthusiasts, and media outlet representatives. All were gathered under the reminiscent theme "Further Together," which captures the spirit of passion for automotive excellence.

The festivities of the evening were nothing short of extraordinary, mirroring the level of luxury and distinction that the new Porsche model encapsulates. With a performance show hosted by Daniel Stryjecki, there were customised Porsche giveaways in collaboration with Kuwait's renowned perfume brand -Gissah, to commemorate the guests' experience and dazzling entertainment segments, ensuring a memorable evening for every guest in attendance.

Hany Marie, General Manager, Porsche Centre Kuwait, expressed his enthusiasm for the newly launched model vehicle by saying: "The unveiling of the Cayenne 2024 marks a moment of triumph for Porsche Centre Kuwait and Behbehani Motors Company. With an impeccable blend of timeless design, cutting-edge technology, and exhilarating driving capabilities, this latest iteration is a testament to Porsche's unwavering commitment to automotive excellence".

**Changes**

Highlighting the remarkable changes of the new Cayenne, he then added: "With comprehensive changes to the power train, chassis, design, and equipment, this new model has not only extended the on-road and off-road performance but also enhanced the luxury and comfort of everyday driving."

During the event, customers were treated to an exclusive opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of the Cayenne, exploring its five distinct variants adorned with captivating exterior colours and individualized interior colour combinations. First in line was the race-inspired Cayenne Turbo GT that took centre stage with its bold Algarve Blue Metallic exterior, as an embodiment of power and prestige. The adaptive sports seats in the front, along with the meticulously crafted smooth-finish interior in Black and Bordeaux Red, seamlessly merged luxury with athleticism.

The stage was also adorned by the Cayenne Coupe and Cayenne S with their exuberating colours in the fiery Carmine Red and graceful Chromite Black Metallic, respectively. Characterised by their personalised interior colour combinations and smooth finish leather, the Cayenne S stood out with its Club leather interior in authentic Basalt Black and Barrique Red tones. Intricate cross-stitching adorned the upper dashboard and both front and rear door waists, adding an exquisite touch to the overall aesthetic.

Stepping into the realm of sleek design, the Montego Blue Metallic Cayenne caught the eye in its two-tone leather interior combining the elegance of smooth-finish black leather with the allure of Bordeaux Red. Displayed along with the Arctic Grey Cayenne Coupe, both vehicles are an embodiment of power and prestige, igniting a sense of passion and comfort.

This diverse array of choices left prospective buyers and enthusiasts with a delightful predicament of abundance, showcasing the Cayenne's ability to cater to individual preferences, creating a truly unique and captivating experience for all in attendance.



Behbehani Motors Company – Porsche Centre Kuwait President, Mr. Ali Morad Behbehani with the ambassador of Germany and the ambassador of Czech Republic to the state of Kuwait.



Porsche Centre Kuwait team



The new Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT in Algarve Blue Metallic color.



A photo of the entertainment show.



The new Porsche Cayenne Coupe in Carmine Red color



Cayenne Turbo GT modified 22-inch wheels.



Cayenne Turbo GT interior



Some photos from the event.

Refined design, increased performance, and better comfort:

The 2024 Cayenne represents more than just a facelift; it embodies a well-considered evolution. With this new

model, Porsche has gone beyond a surface-level update, fundamentally revamping the third generation of the Cayenne, with a highly digitalized display and control concept, new chassis

technology, and innovative high-tech features. The revised interior is characterised by a fully redesigned cockpit including a 12.6-inch instrument cluster with a free-standing design

and variable display options. The New Cayenne enriches the front passenger's driving experience with a highly improved Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM), optimizing

performance in all driving situations. In particular, comfort at slow speeds, control during dynamic cornering, and pitch and roll support have been noticeably improved in this new model.

Warba launches package of three services for its employees



Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed

Warba Bank launched a package of three new services for employees, which include flexible working hours starting at 8:30 am to allow employees to take their children to schools, and adding a special permission period that allows employees to attend school activities for their children, in addition to flexible working hours for parents who have children in kindergarten for the first two weeks of work, to allow them to be with their children on the first day of the school year.

These new services came after the bank launched a questionnaire for employees to survey their needs and requirements. This coincides with the back to school and is an extension of Warba Bank's slogan, "We are distinguished by solutions," to go beyond digital and innovative banking solutions to provide comprehensive solutions to employees in the belief that what distinguishes the bank are its employees. On this occasion, the Chief Human Resources and General Services Of-

ficer at Warba Bank, Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, said: "We are distinguished by our employees, who are partners in success and towards excellence in finding solutions, as our vision extended to pay attention to the personal aspects of the employee's life, starting with the Care program and more recently with the solutions provided to employees coinciding with back to school, out of our aim to create a balance between personal life and work, and this approach comes to enhance

the benefits package offered by Warba Bank to its employees, emphasizing that the Bank's management is keen to provide all employees' requirements to improve their productivity and develop their performance. Al-Rasheed explained that the Bank conducted a questionnaire in this regard, like other questionnaires that are launched to employees to get their opinions as they are part of decision-making in a way that serves the interests of the Bank and its employees.

Event to be held under the patronage of His Excellency Al Shuala

CAIT is the strategic Government partner for the 10th eGovernment Forum

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: In a press release today, the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) announced its strategic partnership and support for the 10th eGovernment Forum. The Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consulting Houses (KFEOCH) and Razen Events organize the event under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Fahad Ali Zayed Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs. EGOV10 convenes from 22 to 24 October at the Al-Baraka Ballroom at the Crown Plaza Hotel. EGOV10 addresses Cloud computing, which takes data centers to new heights, provides new possibilities, and constitutes a strong lever for digital transformation initiatives in government and private institutions. CAIT has already started implementing its Transition Strategy toward the Cloud. Commenting on the participation of CAIT, Dr. Ammar Al-Hussaini, Acting Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology, said, "To begin with, I would like to

thank His Excellency Mr. Fahad Ali Zayed Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, for sponsoring the forum. We highly appreciate His Excellency's constant support to CAIT in particular and to the technology sector in Kuwait in general." Al-Hussaini added, "EGOV10 is held this year under the motto "The Future of Cloud Computing in Kuwait" in line with the direction of the Central Agency for Information Technology to implement the transition strategy for cloud computing in government agencies according to the Kuwaiti government's cloud computing policy issued by the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA). We extend our thanks to KFEOCH and Razen Events for their timely event to support our efforts and the efforts of government agencies in the transformation process towards Cloud computing." Cloud Computing requires Exceptional Efforts to meet Challenges. Dr. Al-Hussaini commented on the challenges ahead, "We at CAIT real-



Eng Badar Salman

ize that the transition towards Cloud computing requires much hard work and perseverance. While we know all these challenges, shifting towards Cloud computing is inevitable. It is the global trend for the future of the technology devices, equipment, systems, and software industry. In addition, it brings us as institutions, societies and countries great benefits in terms of financial savings and the ability to obtain operational and technological



Fahad Ali Al Shuala

capabilities very quickly, possibly increasing or decreasing those capabilities as needed. Cloud computing also allows us to improve human resources capabilities and direct these towards developing the solutions that our businesses and services need. Finally, many technical support, maintenance, operation, backup systems, high reliability and cybersecurity services that we do today come bundled with Cloud computing offerings, let alone the ef-



Ammar Al Hussaini

fort and cost required to purchase these services separately and allocate human resources to handle them." EGOV10 keeps pace with global trends and Kuwait Government programs. In turn, Eng. Badar Al-Salman, Chairman of KFEOCH, said, "We highly value the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Fahad Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Com-

munications Affairs, of EGOV10 and extend our sincere thanks for sponsoring its activities. We also thank His Excellency Dr. Ammar Al-Hussaini, Acting Director General of CAIT, for his constant support for the eGovernment Forum. We are always keen that the EGOV keeps pace with global technological trends and presents them to the Kuwaiti market at the right time. Cloud computing will have a major role during the work program implementation for 2023-2027 that the government recently submitted to the Kuwaiti people and their representatives. Digital transformation and the development of government services constituted an important part of the program. We realize that cloud computing will shape the future of data centers from now on. Therefore, we were keen to invite the global, regional and local Cloud computing vendors so we benefit from their products and expertise. Finally, we believe that Kuwait's development and progress are the responsibility of all of us and will benefit us all."

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing grabs world title after landslide victory at 6 Hours of Fuji



Toyota @ WEC – 6 Hours of Fuji.

TGR's victory on home ground marks its ninth win at Fuji Speedway

FUJI, Sept 23: TOYOTA GAZOO Racing earned a thrilling one-two victory on home ground in the 6 Hours of Fuji to clinch Toyota's fifth manufacturers' title in the penultimate race of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season. In front of a record 54,700 crowd, Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and José María López took victory in their No.7 GR010 Hybrid Electric Hypercar after an epic battle against WEC's biggest lineup of top-class competitors. Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley and Ryo Hirakawa completed a perfect result by taking second place in their No.8 GR010 Hybrid

Electric Hypercar, finishing just 39.119secs behind. Koji Sato, President of Toyota Motor Corporation and TOYOTA GAZOO Racing Europe Chairman, commented: "Together with our Japanese fans and partners who support our challenge in WEC, at the 6 Hours of Fuji, the sixth round of the season, the #7 car won from pole position and the #8 car completed a one-two victory. I was watching the race from the pit, and it was very reassuring to see the enthusiastic support and smiling faces of everyone in the grandstand. I think it was a great source of encouragement for the team to take on the challenges of this race, so I really appreciate all our fans here." Sato added: "We want to improve our vehicles through motorsport and make our customers happy. We will continue to take on the challenge of creating more smiles through WEC and fight with all our might as one

team in the next round in Bahrain, the final race of the season." Right at the race's outset, Conway and Buemi faced fierce competition from some of the World Championship's biggest contenders. Pressure at the front continued to mount after the first driver changes, which came around the two-hour mark. López immediately set the fastest lap, with Hirakawa battling to advance through the ranks. López relentlessly looked for a way past the leader and soon the top three were separated by barely a second after a string of fast laps from Hirakawa, who eventually passed López before making a bold overtake for the lead. The final driver changes saw Hartley in the lead, with Kobayashi a close second. He was the fastest vehicle on track and overtook his teammate. Kobayashi took the chequered flag in the No.7 GR010 Hybrid Electric Hypercar after 229 laps to earn TGR's 9th win in 10 races at Fuji Speedway and extend the team's unbeaten streak which stretches back to 2016.



Toyota @ WEC – 6 Hours of Fuji.

KIB offers 'tailored' financing solutions for Mutlaa residents

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of a special campaign, "KIB Supports You", which offers tailor-designed financing options for the residents of Mutlaa, adding a layer of ease and convenience to every step of their home building process, from construction to finishing, furnishing, and moving into their new homes. This campaign stems from the Bank's comprehensive strategy for contributing to social and sustainable development, as well as offering the best banking solutions to its customers across all market segments. In light of the campaign's launch, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, Head of Central Sales at KIB, stated: "We are happy to announce that all residents of Mutlaa, whether they are existing KIB customers or not, are welcome to benefit from the "KIB Supports You" campaign and its various financing options. Designed in adherence to the Shari'ah Islamic law, the Bank offers financing up to KD 95,000, which includes housing finance, consumer finance, and home insurance services delivered through KIB Takaful Insurance Company." It serves to note that the housing finance requires a minimum income of KD 500 in order for the applicant to receive a KD 70,000 Murabaha, which they can repay over comfortable periods of up to 15 years, with a yearlong grace period for the first installment. These terms are designed to enable the people of Mutlaa to buy the necessary materials for building and finishing



Abdulaziz Al-Shammari – Head of Central Sales at KIB

their private housing projects with ultimate convenience. To add more ease to the process, KIB offers its Mutlaa-based customers the opportunity to apply for consumer financing using PayTally to benefit from a wide range of services and products provided by the Bank's retail and service partners, including True Value Kuwait, Midas, IKEA®, Marina Home, Alarabiya Electrical, Almanzil, Aquasan, Banta Furniture, and many more notable brands. To apply for consumer finance of up to KD 25,000, applicants are required to secure a monthly income starting at KD 300, with a repayment period of up to five years, including a three-month grace period.

Burgan facilitates SME payment experience with 'Tijarati Pay'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: In line with its continued efforts to remain at the forefront of the digital transformation of Kuwait's banking sector, Burgan Bank announced the launch of Tijarati Pay, a new and unique enhancement to its Tijarati platform, designed and built to facilitate seamless payment transaction execution and management for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Burgan Bank's one-of-a-kind offering to local SMEs through the enhanced Tijarati solution integrates multiple aspects of payment collection and monitoring, thereby transforming how merchants manage their finances. This solution – the first of its kind in the region – allows merchants to effortlessly perform numerous payment operations, offering unmatched ease and speed in a platform that is visually appealing alongside an intuitive dashboard where merchants can get a comprehensive overview of their business and its financial operations in one, quick glance – anywhere, anytime. Merchants subscribed to Tijarati can now explore a whole new range of benefits and advanced services that come



Naser Al-Qaisi, General Manager of Retail Banking at Burgan Bank.

with Tijarati Pay, such as the ability to create and share invoices with customers, accept and collect payments, as well as create payment links for individuals or grouped customers. Tijarati Pay also allows merchants to monitor their business in real-time and track the status of payment requests and transactions made to their accounts.

Gulf Bank launches the all-new version of its mobile application

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: As part of its rapid steps towards digital leadership, Gulf Bank has launched the all-new version of its mobile application, with new technology that provides an innovative banking experience that exceeds the customers' expectations. The updated Gulf Bank mobile app includes many features and services, available through a smart user interface, which are designed to suit the requirements of each customer, and meet their aspirations. On this occasion, Gulf Bank's Deputy General Manager of Consumer Banking, Mr. Bader Al-Ali, said: "The development of Gulf Bank's retail



Bader Al-Ali

banking services has witnessed quantum and unprecedented leaps – as part of the Bank's ambitious digital transformation plans – leading to the launch of the new version of the mobile application." He added: "Now, customers are able

to open an account without any paper transactions, check all their accounts at all times, and get their account statements with ease. Moreover, customers can also send a payment link within a few seconds, in addition to managing and tracking expenses with complete precision." Regarding the other features of the application, Al-Ali said: "The updated mobile app enables customers to manage their accounts, check their balance, view the account statement, and to freely transfer between their accounts at all times. Users can also update their data, request permanent transfers in advance, and securely make local and

international transfers." Moreover, customers can also pay mobile bills, pay their installments, purchase e-vouchers, and manage their debit and credit cards. Additionally, customers are able to request a prepaid card, activate new credit cards, and block them if lost or stolen. Additionally, the new version allows customers to view the PIN number of their debit or credit card, and exchange their Gulf Rewards points for free flight reservations. Users also have the option to update their profile data, and protect their account using the biometric registration feature (face and fingerprint).



Tijarati Pay – Integrated and Innovative Solution for SMEs



Photos from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Kuwait chapter event.

### CPE event draws finance, IT and tech experts

## KCICAI hosts seminar on Int'l Financial Reporting Standards

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: The Kuwait Chapter of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (KCICAI) successfully hosted an insightful Continuing Professional Education (CPE) event focused on the impact of International Financial Reporting Standard 17 (IFRS 17) and the latest updates and disclosures. The event brought together various finance, IT and Technical professionals from the Kuwait Insurance Industry, other special invitees and members of the Chapter.

IFRS 17, the new global accounting standard for insurance contracts, has been a significant development in the accounting field. Its implementation has far-reaching implications, and understanding its nuances is crucial for finance and insurance professionals, including chartered accountants. The KCICAI CPE event served as a platform for at-

tendees to gain valuable insights into IFRS 17 and its practical implications.

#### Highlights

Key highlights of the event included comprehensive overview of IFRS 17 by Mr. Haytham Zreiqi, Chief Financial Officer at GIG Kuwait and subject matter expert. The speaker featured in-depth presentations and discussions on IFRS 17, including its background, key principles, and the challenges and opportunities it presents to the insurance industry. Mr. Haytham also shared insights from his personal experience and how he had overcome those challenges. The event also explored the disclosure requirements under IFRS, emphasizing the importance of transparency and clear financial reporting.

Mr. Salman Bin Khalid, Director – Audit department KPMG Kuwait, shed light on the new IFRS updates and disclosures. Participants were updated on the latest developments in IFRS, including recent changes and amendments. These updates are critical for professionals to stay compliant and informed about evolving accounting standards.

An engaging Question and Answer session followed. The event received overwhelming positive feedback from attendees, who expressed their appreciation for the informative sessions and the high calibre of speakers.

Mr. Venkata Ramana Badida, executive committee member of KCICAI, was the host for the evening and efficiently brought the various phases of the event together. Mr. Rabin Gonsalves, Chairperson of KCICAI, in his welcome address, thanked all the attendees for their presence and updated the

audience about the recent and upcoming events of the chapter. He also informed its members about other ongoing affairs of the chapter and the various initiatives undertaken by the chapter.

The event also facilitated networking among participants, enabling them to connect with fellow professionals, share experiences, and build valuable relationships within the industry.

KCICAI took the opportunity to distribute the awards to its winners of the online chess tournament which was held during the summer. The event was concluded with Vote of Thanks from. Ms. Andaleeb Girkar, committee member of KCICAI, followed by dinner.

For more information about upcoming ICAI events and resources, please visit [www.icaikw.org](http://www.icaikw.org).

### Grade XII toppers and teachers honored

## FAIPS DPS celebrates its founder's legacy



Photos from the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23: Looking back with pride and looking forward with hope, FAIPS-DPS honoured its pioneering spirits by celebrating its 29th Founder's Day with great pomp and gaiety on Monday, 11th September, 2023 in the school auditorium. Since its inception in 1995, every year this day has truly served as a testament to the institution's outstanding achievements and its continuous pursuit of excellence in the field of academics, sports, art and other multifarious areas with cultural programmes and recognizing exemplary students.

The elegance of the day became more profound by the presence of Her Excellency Ms. Claire Le Flécher, the Ambassador of France to Kuwait and the revered Chief Guest. The Guest of Honor for the event was Mr. Benoit Cathala, the Director of the French Institute of Kuwait and the Attaché of Cultural Activities Cooperation to the French Embassy in Kuwait. Mrs. Lana Othman Al-Ayyar, the Chief Executive Officer of Al Rayan Holding Co., Arun Choudhary, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Strategy of Al Rayan Holding Co. also were present as the mentors of FAIPS, and Mrs. Natalie, Course Director in the Institute of France in Kuwait.

#### Rendition

The program commenced with the Tahe-Al-Kuwait followed by the rendition of the National Anthems of India and Kuwait and the recital of a verse from the Holy Quran by the school choir. The Vice Head Boy Joshua Jomilal and Vice Head Girl, Kritika Agrawal, introduced respected dignitaries to the audience. The lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the luminaries ignited the vibrancy and serenity of the special day. The Principal Ravi Ayanoli, welcomed the guests and honoured them with bouquets. Remembering the great legacy of FAIPS DPS, here iterated the importance of time management and consistency in his address, particularly to the students. The tone was set with a melodious welcome song, 'Swagat Geet' by the choir students.

The festivities continued with a medley of cultural extravaganza featuring a range of performances by the school's talented students, each one more enthralling than the previous one. The first item was the orchestra performance by 28 performers playing two masterpieces, Jambalaya and Iko Iko, with unmatched exuberance and rhythm, which set the tone for the rest of the events. The tiny tots of kindergarten showcased their capabilities and stole the hearts of the audience through a delightful musical performance against the backdrop of popular Australian, French and Indian rhymes. The audience got a glimpse of the five basic elements of the Universe viz. Earth, Air, Fire, Water and Ether and their importance through a scintillating dance performance by the Primary students, left the spectators spellbound which reinforced the school's reputation for nurturing creativity and artistic expression.

Similarly, the students of IGCSE and British Curriculum (BC) captivated the audience with their sensational dance performance of Arabic and Bollywood fusion. Sufi dance titled 'Dance for Peace' in fusion with Arabic music performed by the senior students conveyed an important message of peace. Another noteworthy performance by middle school students portrayed the struggles of women calling for their empowerment in society, which enthralled the audience. The sentimental song on 'Mothers' which goes by the title 'Soleil de Ma Vie' literally translated to, 'O Mom, you are the sunshine of my life', was a tribute to the guests from France.

The Chief Guest Ms. Claire Le Flécher took the opportunity to release the 4th edition of the coveted FAIPS Panorama magazine.



Photos from the event.

### Indian Arts Federation celebrates Onam festival

The Indian Arts Federation Kuwait (IAF) celebrated Onam in a colorful and festive manner this year. The festivities took place at the Mehbullah Calicut Live Auditorium.

The program commenced with the grand entrance of Maveli Mannan, dressed in full traditional attire. Dr. Amir Ahmad, a prominent social activist in Kuwait, inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

President Sherine Mathew presided over the function, while Shemej Kumar, Chairman of Future Eye Theater, delivered the Onam message. General Secretary Leo extended an honor to Dr. Amir.

The celebration featured children's dances, captivating

art performances, various entertaining competitions, and a sumptuous Onam Sadya, evoking a sense of nostalgia for the festival. In her presidential address, Sherine Mathew emphasized that the primary objective of the Indian Arts Federation is to safeguard the vibrant tapestry of language and culture within the Kuwaiti diaspora, and to pass it down to the forthcoming generations.

Patron of the organization, Preman Illath, Loka Kerala Sabha member Unnimaya, Vice President Muzaffar, and Joint Secretary Murali conveyed their warm greetings. Treasurer Lijo expressed his gratitude. Convenors Jijo and GB orchestrated the Onam celebration arrangements.



A combo photo from the event.

### STECI Kuwait celebrates 58th anniversary

St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India, Kuwait Parish celebrated its 58th anniversary on Sept 8, at South Tent in NECK. Parish Vicar Rev. N. M. James presided over the function. The meeting started with the opening prayer of Jacob P. J. Parish Secretary, Rexy Cherian welcomed the gathering and Vicar Rev. N. M. James led the worship service. Thomas K. Thomas (Parish Lay Leader) presented the history of the parish. Rinil T. Mathew led the intercessory prayer. Br. Ganta Devananda Babu (Bible Society)

delivered the blessed message.

The meeting was concluded with a prayer by P. S. John. George Cherian prayed for the special offering that was taken. Ms. Kezia Sara Abey and Rufus P. Linu read the bible portions of the week. The choir led the singing session under the leadership of Linu P. Manikunju (Choir Master). Kuruvila Cherian (Treasurer), Abey Eapen (Accountant), Ashish T. Mathews (Joint Secretary) worked behind the success of the program.

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2023 ഒക്ടോബർ 4, 5, 6 തീയതികളിൽ

**KTMCC  
Convention  
2023**

4 October  
Wednesday  
at 07.00pm to 09.00pm

5 October  
Thursday  
at 07.00pm to 09.00pm

6 October  
Friday  
at 07.00pm to 09.00pm

NECK CHURCH & PARISH HALL

Speaker:  
Evangelist  
Biju Chuvannamannu

The Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation  
Transportation: Aju Abraham: 55001867 | Jino Areekat: 66500982 | Jeese George Cherian: 65860004

A flyer of the KTMCC Annual Convention 2023.

### KTMCC announces annual convention 2023

Annual Convention-2023 of Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation will be held on October 4, 5, 6 (Wednesday-Friday) 7.00 PM to 9:00 PM at the NECK Church and Parish Hall.

Renowned Biblical Speaker Bro. Biju Chuvannamannu will preach from the word of God.

KTMCC choir will lead the singing session.

The Kuwaiti Town Malayalee Christian Congregation (KTMCC) is a unique congregation started before 70 years in the land of Kuwait and represents more than 28 churches from Mar Thoma, CSI, Evangelical, Brethren, and Pentecostal denominations. KTMCC also handling administrative responsibilities of National Evangelical Church Kuwait (NECK), which has more than 85 churches from 100 countries.

The convention arrangements are being made by Roy K. Yohannan (NECK Secretary), Saju V. Thomas (KTMCC President), Reju Daniel John (KTMCC Secretary) and Vinod Kurien (KTMCC Treasurer) for the success of the convention.



New York Yankees third baseman Oswald Peraza throws out Arizona Diamondbacks' Christian Walker at first base during the sixth inning of a baseball game in New York. (AP)

## Boise State edges San Diego State

# Badgers' ground game overwhelms Purdue

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind., Sept. 23, (AP) — Tanner Mordecai ran for two scores and Braealon Allen rushed for 116 yards and two more scores Friday to lead Wisconsin to a 38-17 victory at Purdue.

The Badgers' second straight victory extended their winning streak in this series to 17. Wisconsin (3-1, 1-0 Big Ten) also has 10 straight wins at Ross-Ade Stadium since losing last in 1997. But the celebration was marred by a potentially devastating left leg injury to running back Chez Melusi, who was carted off the field with 6:37 to go.

First-time coach Ryan Walters has now lost his first three home games with Purdue (1-3, 0-1).

Wisconsin quickly built a 14-0 lead thanks to Mordecai's TD runs of 14 and 6 yards on the Badgers first two possessions. Allen made it 21-3 with a 14-yard run in the second quarter.

But after Wisconsin settled for a 38-yard field goal to open the second half, the Boilermakers made it interesting.

## FOOTBALL

Boilermakers quarterback Hunter Card sped up the offense and Tyrone Tracy Jr. took advantage by scampering 20 yards to make it 24-10.

Allen's 52-yard run set up another field goal and then Card found an opening as he sprinted from the harsh mark closest to Purdue's sideline across the field for a 6-yard TD to cut the deficit to 27-17.

Wisconsin sealed it, though, with another field goal, two late turnovers, a turnover on downs and Allen's second score in the waning minutes.

## Boise State 34, San Diego State 31

In San Diego, Ashton Jeanty rushed for a career-high 205 yards and two touchdowns and Boise State defeated San Diego State in a Mountain West Conference opening game.

Jeanty also recovered the on-side kick after San Diego State scored in the final minute.

Taylen Green threw for a touchdown and ran for another as the Broncos (2-2) won its 24th-straight conference opener, 13 in the MWC.

Jalen Mayden threw for 241 yards and a touchdown and ran for 85 yards and a score for the Aztecs (2-3), who have lost three-straight, the previous two against now-ranked Pac-12 teams.

Jeanty's second touchdown came with two minutes left but the Aztecs responded quickly with Mayden scoring on a 10-yard run with 42 seconds to go. That's when Jeanty got his final touch on the kickoff.

Jeanty finished his freshman year with a 178-yard game against North Texas in last season's Frisco Bowl.

## N.C. State 24, Virginia 21

In Charlottesville, Brennan Armstrong said "it was pretty surreal, pretty weird" playing as a visitor at Scott Stadium, where he'd emerged from the Virginia locker room for five seasons.

It wasn't as weird as the ending in his lone visit as an opponent. Armstrong hit KC Concepcion

with a pair of touchdown passes and Brayden Narveson kicked a second-chance 33-yard field goal as time expired and North Carolina State beat Virginia 24-21.

The Cavaliers made a dramatic comeback to tie it with 36 seconds left, but penalties - two they survived and one they didn't - were their undoing.

"Penalties won us the game," Armstrong said.

Narveson's first attempt from 48 yards was blocked by James Jackson, but he was called for a personal foul, moving the ball 15 yards closer. His second try was true.

The drive was necessary after freshman Anthony Colandrea led Virginia on an 11-play, 66-yard drive and hit Malik Washington from 3 yards out to make it 21-19. The Cavaliers, however, were called for unsportsmanlike conduct after the play, and on their 2-point attempt from the 18, Colandrea hit Malachi Fields to tie it up.

Another 15-yard unsportsmanlike call - this one on the freshman quarterback -- forced Virginia to back up 15 yards on the kickoff, and a nice return by Julian Gray set the Wolfpack up at the Virginia 48. Three runs by Armstrong moved the ball to the 30.



North Carolina State running back Michael Allen (2) is brought down by Virginia linebacker Kamren Robinson (5) during the first half of an NCAA college football game. (AP)

## Justin ruled out against Dolphins

ENGLEWOOD, Colo., Sept. 23, (AP) — The Denver Broncos will have to face Tua Tagovailoa and the Miami Dolphins' high-powered passing attack Sunday without star safety Justin Simmons, who was ruled out Friday with a hip injury that sidelined him all week.

The Broncos will also be without off-sidelined outside linebacker Randy Gregory for the second straight game. He suffered a hip injury last week. Defensive tackle Mike Purcell (ankle) returned to practice Friday and is listed as questionable.

Simmons missed practice all week but did work on the side fields. He missed four games last year with a thigh injury but still tied for the league lead with six interceptions.

## Change Name

**I, SYED MOHAMMED (Old name) S/O SHAIK ABDUL RASOOL R/o. 15-885, S K Road, Renigunta, Tirupati Dist., A.P-517520., India, have changed my name as SHAIK MOHAMMED (New Name)**

## Max returns to dominant form by claiming pole in Japan

SUZUKA, Japan, Sept. 23, (AP) — Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen stormed to pole position for the Japanese Grand Prix on Saturday, shrugging off a challenging weekend in Singapore a week ago with a dominant performance in qualifying at the Suzuka Circuit.

Looking to return to the top of the podium after missing out in Singapore, the Red Bull driver clocked a blazing lap of 1 minute, 28.877 seconds to finish .581 seconds ahead of McLaren rookie Oscar Piastri, whose teammate Lando Norris was third.

It was Verstappen's ninth pole of the season but first since the Dutch Grand Prix a month ago.

"An incredible weekend so far and especially in qualifying when you can really push it to the limit, it felt really, really nice," Verstappen said. "We had a bad weekend in Singapore but from our preparation we felt this was going to be a good track for us."

Verstappen, who has led every session since arriving in Japan, can't secure the drivers' championship in Sunday's race but could wrap up his third consecutive title on Oct. 8 in Qatar.

The Dutchman saw his record streak of 10 consecutive wins end at Marina Bay - where Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz won - but looks to be back in winning form at the Suzuka circuit where he clinched his second consecutive drivers' championship last year.

Australian rookie Piastri will start from the front row for the first time in his F1 career.

"It will be cool, there is only one car ahead to overtake so I will try to make it happen," said the 22-year-old

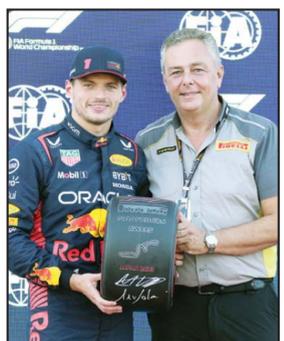
## McLaren rookie Piastri qualifies 2nd

Piastri, who just signed a contract extension with McLaren until the end of the 2026.

Norris completed an impressive day for McLaren.

"A great job by Oscar and Max today, but a good day for us in P2 and P3," Norris said. "It is tricky to put everything together around the lap and the smallest mistake can cost a lot of lap time. It is still a good day and I am happy."

Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc edged the other Red Bull of Sergio Perez to fourth position with teammate Carlos Sainz rounding out the top six positions.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands (left), receives the pole position award from Pirelli F1 boss Mario Isola after qualifying session for the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix at the Suzuka Circuit, Suzuka, central Japan. (AP)

One penalty was for retaliation, Virginia coach Tony Elliott said, the officials told him, and another was for a player taking his helmet off before leaving the field of play. The third was called because Jackson ran into the snapper.

## Harvard 34, Brown 31

In Boston, Charles DePrima threw for three touchdowns and ran for another and Harvard defeated Brown for the 12th straight time in an Ivy League opener.

Shane McLaughlin ran for a career-high 152 yards and a touchdown on the Crimson (2-0). DePrima was 15 for 26 for a career-best 203 yards and added 98 yards on the ground. Cooper Barkate had career-highs of 10 catches and 132 yards with a touchdown.

After Brown punted to open the second half the teams combined for six straight touchdowns. The Bears scored last on Owen Stockton's third touchdown with 6:41 to play. However, DePrima converted two third-down passes and McLaughlin busted off a couple big runs, the last a 21-yard burst to the Brown one, where he stopped and the Crimson ran out the clock.

Jake Wilcox completed 36 of 52 passes for a career-high 354 yards and a touchdown for Brown. Wes Rockett had nine catches for 147 yards, both career highs.

Harvard finished with 464 yards, 261 on the ground while Brown had 447 yards, just 83 rushing. The Crimson now lead the series 90-30-2 with 12-straight wins at home.

DePrima had a 14-yard touchdown pass to McLaughlin early in the second quarter and added a three-yard scoring run in the final minute to rally the Crimson to a 14-10 halftime lead.

Owen scored one a one-yard plunge after an interception on the game-opening possession as Brown took a 10-0 lead in the first quarter.

# Minnesota wins AL Central 'title'

## Milwaukee clinches playoff spot

**MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 23, (AP) — The Minnesota Twins clinched the AL Central title Friday night with an 8-6 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.**

Alex Kirilloff homered and drove in three runs, and Minnesota held on late to win the division crown for the third time in five seasons under manager Rocco Baldelli.

Pablo López (11-8) pitched six innings for the Twins, allowing three runs and five hits with seven strikeouts. Joao Duran gave up a run in the ninth but got the final out with the bases loaded to secure his 27th save of the season.

After the Twins squandered an early 3-0 lead, Kirilloff's 10th homer snapped a 3-all tie in the sixth and Minnesota won for the sixth time in eight games. Kirilloff became the 12th Twins player with double-digit home runs this season, setting a club record.

With lines from a recent college football game played at Target Field still visible, the crowd was eager to celebrate another extended fall for the Twins. It's their 15th trip to the postseason since the Washington Senators moved to Minnesota in 1961 and became the Twins.

Of course, the playoffs haven't been kind to Minnesota. The Twins have lost 18 straight postseason games, mostly to their postseason nemesis, the New York Yankees.

## Brewers 16, Marlins 1

In Miami, postseason appearances have become a regular accomplishment for the Milwaukee Brewers lately.

Christian Yelich and Josh Donaldson homered during a 12-run second inning and the Brewers clinched their latest playoff berth with a rout of the Miami Marlins.

Milwaukee, assured at least a National League wild card, trimmed its magic number to one for wrapping up the NL Central title. The Brewers, who have won four straight, can secure the crown with another victory Saturday over Miami or a loss by the Chicago Cubs to Colorado.

It's the fifth postseason trip in six years for the Brewers - by far the best stretch in franchise history.

## Phillies 5, Mets 4

In Philadelphia, Alec Bohm is used to teams intentionally walking Phillies slugger Bryce Harper in big spots to get him. Even Bohm concedes the move makes sense, teams simply don't want to get beat by the two-time NL MVP.

So it looks like teams such as the Mets are going to get beat by Bohm instead.

Bohm followed an intentional walk to Harper with an RBI single in the 10th. J.T. Realmuto hit a three-run homer in the sixth and the Philadelphia Phillies moved closer to their second straight playoff appearance with a 5-4 win over the New York Mets.

## Guardians to 9, Orioles 8

In Cleveland, David Fry delivered a two-run double with one out in the ninth inning as the Cleveland Guardians recovered from closer Emmanuel Clase blowing another save and rallied to beat the AL-East leading Baltimore Orioles.

After Clase (3-9) allowed the Orioles to take the lead on Aaron Hicks' two-run, two-out double in the top of the inning, his teammates bailed him out.

Andrés Giménez, who made two dazzling defensive plays in the eighth and ninth, opened the inning with a double off Yennier Cano (1-4). One out later, the Orioles intentionally walked Will Brennan to face Fry.

Cleveland's catcher jumped on Cano's first pitch, hitting it off the wall in left-center to score both runners as the Guardians spoiled what would have been a memorable comeback by the Orioles.

The loss kept Baltimore 1 1/2 games ahead of second-place Tampa Bay. The Rays lost 6-2 to Toronto.

## Braves 9, Nationals 6

In Washington, Ronald Acuna Jr. joined the exclusive 40-40 club, pitcher Charlie Morton left the game in the first inning and the Atlanta Braves beat the Washington Nationals.

With the win, Atlanta moves four games ahead of the Dodgers for the top seed in the National League. The Braves hold the tie-breaker over Los Angeles based on a 4-3 season series.

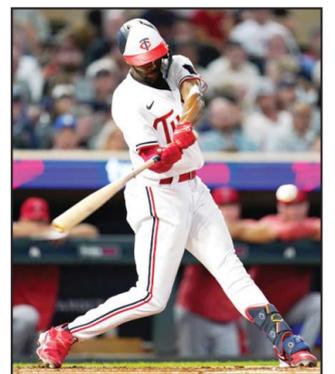
Acuna's 40th homer led off the game against Nats left-hander Patrick Corbin. The blast was Acuna's 34th leadoff home run in his career and eighth this season. He is the first player to have 40 homers and at least 60 stolen bases in one season.

## MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, (AP) — Results and standings from MLB games on Friday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Yankees	7	Arizona	1		Chicago Cubs	6	Colorado	0	
Toronto	6	Tampa Bay	2		Milwaukee	16	Miami	1	
Boston	3	Chicago W. Sox	2		Atlanta	9	Washington	6	
Cleveland	9	Baltimore	8		Philadelphia	5	NY Mets 10m	4	
Texas	8	Seattle	5		Pittsburgh	7	Cincinnati	5	
Kansas City	7	Houston	5		San Diego	4	St Louis	2	
Minnesota	8	LA Angels	6		San Francisco	5	LA Dodgers	1	
Oakland	8	Detroit	2						

American League					National League				
East Division					East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
z-Baltimore	95	59	.617	—	x-Atlanta	99	55	.643	—
z-Tampa Bay	94	61	.606	1-1/2	Philadelphia	85	69	.552	14
Toronto	86	68	.558	9	Miami	79	75	.513	20
New York	78	76	.506	17	New York	71	83	.461	28
Boston	76	78	.494	19	Washington	68	87	.439	31-1/2
Central Division					Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
x-Minnesota	82	72	.532	—	z-Milwaukee	88	66	.571	—
Cleveland	74	81	.477	8-1/2	Chicago	80	74	.519	8
Detroit	72	82	.468	10	Cincinnati	79	76	.510	9-1/2
Chicago	58	96	.377	24	Pittsburgh	73	81	.474	15
Kansas City	52	102	.338	30	St Louis	67	87	.435	21
West Division					West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Texas	85	68	.556	—	x-Los Angeles	94	60	.610	—
Houston	85	69	.552	-1/2	Arizona	81	73	.526	13
Seattle	84	69	.549	1	San Francisco	77	77	.500	17
Los Angeles	69	85	.448	16-1/2	San Diego	76	78	.494	18
Oakland	47	107	.305	38-1/2	Colorado	56	97	.366	37-1/2



Minnesota Twins' Michael A. Taylor hits an RBI single against the Los Angeles Angels during the second inning of a baseball game in Minneapolis. (AP)

# Kuwait resolute in pursuit of victory

Blues face must-win encounter against Thailand at Asian Games



Hamad Al-Tuwail

**HANGZHOU, China, Sept 23:** Kuwait Olympic team stand resolute in pursuit of victory as they face Thailand in the final round of Group 5 matches at the 2023 Asian Games hosted in Hangzhou, China. Simultaneously, South Korea will clash with Bahrain in another pivotal match.

South Korea leads the group with 6 points, while Bahrain holds the second position with 2 points. Both Thailand and the "Blue" Team have accumulated a single point each. For the "Blue" Team, there is no alternative but to secure a win today to keep their hopes of qualification alive. This hinges on Bahrain suffering defeat at the hands of South Korea, which would position the "Blue" Team in second place behind Korea.

## ASIAN GAMES

In the event that both the "Blue" Team and Bahrain emerge victorious, they must patiently await the outcomes of other matches to determine the fate of the best third-placed team.

Should the Blues secure a win while Bahrain settles for a draw, both teams will advance with 4 points apiece. In such a scenario, Bahrain would enter calculations as the best third-placed team with 2 points, leading to Thailand's exit from the tournament. In the case of a draw and Bahrain's loss to South Korea, all three teams - Kuwait, Bahrain, and Thailand - would each possess 2 points. Goal difference across all matches and adherence to fair play principles would come into play, potentially resulting in the "Blue" Team's elimination from the competition.

Tournament regulations stipulate that the top two teams from each of the six groups, along with the four best third-placed teams, proceed to the second round. The results of the team finishing last in determining the best third-placed teams in four groups will be disregarded.

Kuwait, under the guidance of their



Bayern's Harry Kane celebrates after scoring his side's third goal from a penalty kick during the Champions League Group A soccer match between Bayern Munich and Manchester United at the Allianz Arena stadium in Munich, Germany. (AP)



Al-Qurain players pose with officials after the awarding ceremony.

## Al-Qurain emerge as U-17 3x3 Champions

The Al-Qurain club's basketball team claimed victory in the U-17 3x3 basketball tournament by defeating Kuwait's team with a final score of 17-16. The championship match took place at Al-Nasr Club's court. In addition to this, the Al-Qadsia club's team secured the third-place position by triumphing over the Al-Tadamon team

with a score of 19-10 in the match held prior to the final to determine the third and fourth positions.

Ten clubs actively participated in this tournament, including Al-Qurain, Kuwait, Al-Qadsia, Al-Tadamon, Al-Nasr, Al-Arabi, Al-Sahel, Al-Jahra, Yarmouk, and Kazma. To conclude

the event, Dari Burjas, the federation's president, together with Awaid Al-Anzi, the assistant secretary-general and head of the 3x3 committee, and federation board members Mishal Mohammed and Fahad Al-Bous, officially crowned the top three teams in this thrilling championship.

Portuguese coach, Emilio Pexi, fully comprehend that their qualification hinges on the level of performance they deliver. They recognize that achieving this goal is solely within their control, emphasizing the importance of not relying on the outcomes of other matches, particularly considering South Korea's strong likelihood

of defeating Bahrain, given their formidable performance in the initial two rounds.

The Blues showcased a markedly improved performance against Bahrain, surmounting the lingering impact of the "heavy" defeat they suffered against Korea in the first round. They exhibited a compelling display against

the Bahraini national team, affirming their self-assuredness and their preparedness to offer more in this championship.

The Olympic team will be without their leading scorer, Salman Al-Awadi, due to accumulated yellow cards, as well as Abdulaziz Najji, sidelined due to injury. Nonetheless, the coach-

ing staff has other standout players capable of clinching victory. Prominent among them are Bandar Al-Salama, Badr Al-Mutairi, Talal Al-Qaisi, Faisal Al-Shatti, Hamad Al-Tuwail, Mohsen Fallah, Fahad Al-Fadhli, Fahad Al-Azmi, Abdulrahman Al-Dehani, Yousef Al-Haqan, Mohammad Al-Rashid, and Sultan Al-Faraj.

## Dortmund, Leipzig win as Union lose again

# Kane scores first hat trick in Germany as Bayern demolish Bochum

**MUNICH, Sept 23, (AP):** Harry Kane scored his first Bundesliga hat trick to move to seven goals from five games in the German league as Bayern Munich surged to a 7-0 win over Bochum on Saturday.

Kane netted his third off a pass from Noussair Mazraoui in the 88th minute - but had to wait for a video review to check for a possible offside - to finish off Bayern's biggest win since another 7-0 victory against the same opponent in August 2022.

Bayern's rivals Borussia Dortmund and Leipzig both won their games 1-0 after struggling to break down stubborn opposition defenses.

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting got Bayern started when he scored in the fourth minute and it was all Bayern from then on. Kane got his first goal in the 13th when the ball took a deflection off defender Ivan Ordets and landed at his feet.

After goals from Matthijs de Ligt

## SOCCER

and Leroy Sane extended Bayern's lead to 4-0. Kane scored again from the penalty spot in the 54th after Ordets handled the ball. Kane set up 18-year-old substitute Mathys Tel for Bayern's sixth goal in the 81st and finished off his hat trick seven minutes later off Mazraoui's pass. The win sent Bayern back to the

top of the Bundesliga table a point ahead of three teams, including Stuttgart, which beat Darmstadt 3-1 on Friday. Bayer Leverkusen can move level with Bayern on 13 points with a win over promoted Heidenheim on Sunday.

A much-changed Dortmund squad, with six new players in the starting lineup compared to Wednesday's 2-0 loss to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League, eked out a 1-0 win over Wolfsburg which may not relieve much of the pressure on Dortmund coach Edin Terzic.

Substitute Donyell Malen unlocked the determined Wolfsburg defense when he found Julian Brandt in space on the left and Brandt crossed low for Marco Reus to knock the ball past the goalkeeper.

American midfielder Gio Reyna was on the bench in the Bundesliga for the first time this season but didn't play - he was also an unused substitute in the loss to PSG on Tuesday - after sustaining a hairline fracture in his right leg during the CONCACAF Nations League semifinal against Canada on June 18.

Leipzig was held at bay by Borussia Moenchengladbach until Timo Werner showed off the skills which once made him one of the Bundesliga's top talents. Werner scored the only goal of the game in the 75th minute off a pass from Xavi Simons,



Hoffenheim's Grisca Prömel fights Berlin's Jerome Roussillon (right), during the German Bundesliga soccer match between FC Union Berlin and TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, in Berlin. (AP)

sprinting onto the ball, rounding the goalkeeper and scoring with a high shot from a tight angle.

Leipzig has won its last five games in all competitions and conceded just twice in that span.

Union Berlin's losing run hit four games in all competitions after a 2-0 defeat to Hoffenheim. Leonardo Bonucci gave away a penalty for Andrej Kramaric to score Hoffenheim's opening goal in another setback for Union after losing its first-ever Champions League game to Real Madrid in stoppage time on Wednesday.

Union's last win came against

Darmstadt in the Bundesliga on Aug. 26. It's a far cry from the scorching opening form Union showed last season, when it was unbeaten and top of the Bundesliga table after seven games.

Augsburg held on for a 2-1 win over Mainz despite playing the last half-hour with 10 men following a red card. Werder Bremen was hosting Cologne later Saturday.

Serhou Guirassy continued his red-hot scoring form with two goals and an assist as Stuttgart beat Darmstadt 3-1.

Guirassy took his tally to 10 league goals in five games as Stuttgart staged a comeback after falling behind to an own goal by defender Dan Zagadou in the 17th minute.

The striker first set up Enzo Milot for the equalizer in the 22nd and then gave his team the lead when he swiveled in the area and smashed a hard shot into the net 10 minutes later.

Guirassy added a cheeky lob over goalkeeper Marcel Schuhen to seal the win in the second minute of added time. He is the first player in Europe's top five leagues to reach double figures in scoring this season.

The win gives Stuttgart 12 points from five games, two points ahead of Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich ahead of the rest of the weekend games.

Darmstadt is in last place with one point.

## 400 athletes set to compete at Bowling World Championships

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 23:** Mohammed Al-Farsi, the Deputy Chairman of Kuwaiti Sports Bowling Club, has revealed that the upcoming Men's and Women's Bowling World Championships, scheduled to take place in Kuwait in October, will see the participation of approximately 400 athletes, representing 24 men's teams and 12 women's teams.

As the tournament director, Al-Farsi emphasized that the presence of the world's top-ranked players, both male and female, at the Bowling World Championships highlights the event's significance as the most prestigious and highest-ranked competition in the sport. It also offers substantial prize money to the winners.

He went on to explain that Kuwait's successful bid to host the championship can be attributed to its possession of all the necessary elements for successful organization. The Bowling Club Complex, a

remarkable facility considered one of the finest in the Middle East, has the capacity to accommodate a large number of distinguished players. The championship is expected to feature top-tier technical performances.

Al-Farsi also pointed out that all the organizing committees are diligently working to ensure the event's preparation and equipment meet international standards. They aim to present the championship in a man-

## BOWLING

ner that befits Kuwait's sporting reputation and its proven ability to host major international sports events.

He affirmed that the club's board of directors, led by Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, has worked tirelessly to overcome the challenges involved in organizing this global sports event. They have provided ample assurances to the international federation to guarantee the hosting's success. Additionally, the organizing committee plans to stage a special opening ceremony for the championship that celebrates the diverse cultures of the world.



Al-Farsi



Verona's Cyril Ngonge (right), and AC Milan's Fikayo Tomori jump for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Hellas Verona at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy. (AP)

# Leão back to devastating best as Milan pip Verona

**MILAN, Sept 23, (AP):** Rafael Leão appears back to his devastating best and the AC Milan forward helped the Rossoneri bounce back from a disappointing week with a 1-0 win over Hellas Verona in Serie A on Saturday.

Leão scored the only goal of the delayed match in the eighth minute to help his team get back to winning ways. Milan was humiliated 5-1 by Inter Milan in the city derby last weekend before being held 0-0 by Newcastle in their Champions League opener on Tuesday.

It was the third straight league match in which Leão

## SOCCER

scored. The 24-year-old had a mixed campaign last season as he appeared distracted by off-the-field issues with his contract, which he renewed in June.

The match almost didn't go ahead, however, as the San Siro pitch was waterlogged following heavy rain and hail in the hour before kickoff. It eased off and the water drained quickly so the match was able to get underway 25 minutes late.

Milan got off to the best possible start when a mistake by the Verona defense allowed Olivier Giroud to win the ball back in midfield and he sent the ball through to Leão, who

used his impressive pace to surge between two opposition players and slot into the bottom right corner.

Verona almost leveled in the 21st minute but Marco Sportiello - standing in for the injured Mike Maignan - pulled off a fantastic save to keep out Michael Folornisho's close-range header.

Christian Pulisic went close to doubling Milan's lead in the 72nd when he raced into the right side of the area and left Verona defender Pawel Dawidowicz scrambling as the United States international turned and curled in a shot, which Lorenzo Montipò did brilliantly do palm out from under the bar.

Girona routed Mallorca 5-3. Under coach Míchel Sánchez, Girona is the revelation of the season so far. The modest team from Spain's northeastern Catalonia region has won five straight games since a season-opening draw with Real Sociedad.

After beating Granada 4-2 last round, it has now scored nine goals in its past two games.

"(Being leader) is anecdotal, we are happy for the victory. Winning five in a row in the first division is not an easy task," Míchel said. "Even more important than the results is the sensation we have, knowing that we are competing well and have a clear idea of how we want to play."



Manchester City's Erling Haaland attempts a shot on goal which goes wide during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Nottingham Forest at Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Fulham, Crystal Palace maintain identical EPL records

## Rodri sent off, Man City extend unbeaten start to title defense

## 'Presence' of HH Crown Prince at Asian Games great pride for Kuwaiti sports: Sheikh Al-Nasser



Team Kuwait enters the arena during the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)

Lots of dignitaries but no real fireworks only electronic flash as Asian Games open

**HANGZHOU, China, Sept 23, (Agencies):** Sheikh Fahd Al-Nasser, President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, affirmed that the attendance of His Highness the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, at the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games, upon the invitation of the Chinese President, underscores the strong bilateral relations between the two nations.

Sheikh Al-Nasser regarded this invitation as a "highly commendable initiative," particularly given that the Crown Prince is the sole leader from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to attend the opening ceremony, signifying China's keen interest in its ties with Kuwait.

He emphasized the significance of the Crown Prince's meeting with Kuwaiti athletes, which provided them with substantial motivation and moral support ahead of the commencement of the competitions.

Sheikh Al-Nasser relayed that during his meeting with the athletes, the Crown Prince underscored their role as "ambassadors of Kuwait in the sporting arena" and stressed the importance of representing Kuwait in the best possible manner.

He also highlighted that the Crown Prince's presence at the opening ceremony is a source of pride for the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee and the athletes, who proudly carry the flags of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee.

Regarding the preparations of the Kuwaiti sports delegation, Sheikh Fahd Al-Nasser mentioned that the Asian Games were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, they diligently prepared the athletes through external training camps in anticipation of the tournament, wishing them success.

He further added that Kuwait is participating in team sports such as foot-

ball and handball, as well as numerous individual sports, expressing his confidence in the athletes' abilities to achieve significant accomplishments.

On a separate note, Sheikh Fahd Al-Nasser, President of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, along with the committee's board members, Sheikh Jaber Thamer Al-Sabah, Assistant Secretary-General Ali Al-Murri, Mission Director Fatima Hayat, and the administrative, technical, and player delegation, paid a visit to the sports village in Hangzhou City.

During the visit, Al-Nasser inspected the preparations of the national teams before the competitions began, offering support to the athletes and motivating them to deliver their best performances at the Asian Games. He also closely monitored the administrative and technical preparations of the Kuwaiti delegation.

Abdul Kareem Al-Shamlan, President of the Kuwait Fencing Federation, shared that the fencing team had the privilege of meeting with the Crown Prince, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad. He described this meeting as a historic moment at the 19th Asian Games, as it boosted the morale of the Kuwaiti delegation significantly, alleviating their pre-competition nervousness and pressure.

Al-Shamlan detailed that the official training of the fencing team commenced at the Hangzhou Dianzi University Sports Hall in Hangzhou,

China. The coaching staff, including Luigi Taratello, Saud Al-Zamil, Baba Khsoum Thouri, and the players, namely Ali Abbas, Mohammed Abdul Kareem, Ali Al-Nukhas, Abdul Rahman Al-Mani, Ali Rustom, Youssef Al-Shamlan, Abdul Aziz Al-Shatii, and Ali Nassar, have been preparing diligently. Notably, the fencing competitions will begin at 4 AM, featuring Ali Abbas and Ali Nassar competing in the individual foil category.

### ASIAN GAMES

Faisal Saywan, the Director of National Teams at the Kuwait Handball Association, emphasized that the meeting with the Crown Prince had a positive impact on the players' morale. It significantly boosted their psychological readiness for the tournament, and Saywan expressed optimism about the players achieving positive results during their participation in the Asian Games.

Saywan explained that daily training sessions were conducted in the morning and evening, focusing on strength and technical exercises in the sports hall. He underscored the dedication of all players to their training, as they are determined to achieve positive results and qualify for the next round.

The opening ceremony of the Asian Games on Saturday in China offered all the staples of a major international sports event.

Dignitaries greeted General Secretary Xi Jinping, fans packed the 80,000-seat Olympic Sports Center Stadium in Hangzhou to capacity, and many of the 12,417 participants from 45 nations and territories paraded to officially open the two-week show.

By comparison, next year's Paris Olympics will field about 10,500 competitors.

One big thing, however, was missing: real fireworks, the exploding kind that smell of power and burnt fuses. Instead, the high-tech games - billed of course as "green games" - offered electronic flash, three-D animations, and a virtual torchbearer.

Xi was greeted by wild cheers when he appeared, and fans were handed LED star lights, adding sparkle to the stands when the lights dimmed and eight well-polished soldiers arrived carrying the national flag above their heads.

The loudest cheers were for the Chinese delegation, but Taiwan, North Korea and Hong Kong were also welcomed warmly. There were no audible jeers for any delegation.

Delayed for a year by the pandemic, the Asian Games are China's largest sports event since the country scrapped its zero-COVID policy early in the year.

Among the dignitaries on hand were Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who left behind his war-torn country, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, and King Norodom Si-

hamoni of Cambodia.

Bach is in a political tussle over the governance of the Olympic Council of Asia and is also believed to be lobbying Xi against supporting any breakaway multi-sport games sought by Russian President Vladimir Putin with Russia likely being banned next year in Paris.

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics were held in a COVID bubble. The 2008 Summer Olympics marked China's rise as a world power. These games serve as a promotional event for Hangzhou, the eastern metropolis of 8 million that seeks a larger stage, partly lost in the shadow of nearby Shanghai.

"Through the window of Hangzhou Asian Games, people around the world will see a trustable, loveable, and respectable China in its new era," Xinhua, the official news agency, said in an editorial, echoing Xi's call to tell China's story.

The sluggish economy and high youth unemployment have some residents grumbling that the money could be better spent, prompting city officials to reassure the public that it would be a "frugal" event.

Revenues from donations and the private sector were estimated to reach hundreds of millions of dollars by March, while the expenditures were estimated to have exceeded \$30 billion as the city built 56 sports facilities, 30 training sites, five villages for athletes as well as major infrastructure investments.

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 23, (AP): Manchester City midfielder Rodri was sent off for grabbing an opponent around the neck in a 2-0 win over Nottingham Forest on Saturday that extended the defending champions' perfect start to their Premier League title defense.

Phil Foden and Erling Haaland scored in the opening 14 minutes but the second half was more of a defensive effort from City after Rodri was sent off inside a minute of the restart.

The Spain international responded to getting shoved by Morgan Gibbs-White near the corner flag by going chest to chest with the Forest playmaker and then placing both of his hands around his neck on two occasions. Gibbs-White went down after the second time and the referee showed a straight red card for violent conduct.

Rodri - the scorer of City's winner in last season's Champions League final and arguably the team's most important player - will miss City's next three games, including a trip to likely title rival Arsenal on Oct. 8.

City, which has now won its first six games of the campaign, had few problems holding on to the lead despite Forest enjoying more possession in the second half, with Haaland only having one chance after the break to score his second and add to his eight league goals this season. The Norway striker volleyed over from close range from substitute Nathan Ake's cross on a counterattack.

### SOCCER

Haaland had to settle for scoring a powerful header into the top corner from Matheus Nunes' right-wing cross in the 14th minute, which built on Foden's seventh-minute opener from a 46-pass move - the second longest passing sequence leading to a Premier League goal since figures were collated from 2006-07, according to stats company Opta.

It finished with Kyle Walker laying off Rodri's incisive pass to the right wing and Foden providing a left-foot finish into the bottom corner.

City goalkeeper Ederson Moraes preserved the host's clean sheet with a fine diving save to deny Anthony Elanga's volley in stoppage time.

Crystal Palace and Fulham stayed level on points in the Premier League after playing out a 0-0 draw at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

Palace manager Roy Hodgson was back in the dugout after missing last weekend's game with an illness but watched Eberechi Eze miss his team's best chance in the first half when he shot just wide after swerving his way through a cluster of defenders.

Eze had another effort saved in the second half, while Fulham had its best chance for a winner when Bobby De Cordova-Reid dispossessed Will Hughes in midfield and launched a counterattack before passing to Raul Jimenez. But the striker overcooked his pass to the awaiting Andreas Pereira and the chance skipped past his foot.

Fulham winger William forced Sam Johnstone into a good save with a sharp effort, while Palace had a late chance through substitute Jean-Philippe Mateta, who saw his weak left-footed shot saved.

Both teams have eight points from six games with identical records of two wins, two draws and two losses, although Palace is ahead on goal difference.

Luton secured its first point of the season but could only manage a 1-1 draw with 10-man Wolverhampton on Saturday in the Premier League.

Carlton Morris converted a penalty in the 65th minute after Pedro Neto had put the visitors ahead shortly after halftime at Kenilworth Road.

Wolves played a man down from the 39th minute when Jean-Ricner Bellegarde received a red card. The French midfielder was tangled up with Tom Lockyer and kicked out at the Luton center back while they were on the ground.

In the 50th, Neto beat Lockyer in a foot race to a free ball, cut in on his left and shot it past Thomas Kaminski.

Morris equalized from the spot after Joao Gomes' handball.

Luton had lost its first four games of the season - its first-ever in the Premier League. It last played in England's top division in 1991-92 - the year before it was rebranded as the Premier League.

Erik ten Hag's second season at Manchester United is not going to plan.

Three defeats in the Premier League already have left his team a long way off the pace at the top of the standings, while United's return to the Champions League ended in a 4-3 loss at Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Ten Hag has had to deal with reports of unrest among some players and on Friday faced questions about the influence of agent Kees Vos in terms of the club's transfer dealings.

Vos is Ten Hag's agent, and his Sports Entertainment Group also represents Rasmus Hojlund, who was an \$82 million signing from Atalanta in the offseason, and negotiated Sofyan Amrabat's deadline day loan move from Fiorentina.



Kuwaiti athletes wave the national flags during the opening ceremony of the Asian Games.



Chinese athletes wave their flags during the parade of athletes at the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. (AP)