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asian games

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Private sector in line for Kuwaitization



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right), receives Tuesday at Bayan Palace Judge Dr. Adel Majed Bourseli.

Crown Prince hosts supreme court head

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday at Bayan Palace Judge Dr. Adel Majed Bourseli who swore in as the new president of Kuwait's Supreme Judicial Council and the head of the Court of Cassation.

The meeting was attended by head of the Crown Prince Diwan Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Faleh Abdullah Eid Faleh Al-Roqba and Director of His Highness the Crown Prince Office (retired Lieutenant General) Jamal Mohammad Al-Theyab, Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and the Crown Prince's office undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Mazin Al-Essa.

Govt resolute on demographic fix

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Najat Al-Yousef, Acting Deputy Director General for National Employment Development at the Public Authority for Manpower, has disclosed an ongoing project aimed at revising and modernizing the proportions of national labor within the private sector.

In a statement, she outlined that the Authority is meticulously assessing proposals and insights presented by various stakeholders concerning labor market regulation, including suggested rates, fees, and Kuwaitization of job roles. Upon completing the evaluation and deliberation process, the Authority compiles the proposal and forwards it to the relevant minister for subsequent submission to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Kuwait deports 7,685 expats in two months for violations

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Continuing their systematic efforts to filter out violators, the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Deportation Department in correctional institutions, deported 7,685 individuals who violated labor and residency laws during the past two months.

Informed sources told Al-Seyassah that the number of deportees in September reached approximately 3,837 individuals, including 2,272 men and 1,565 women. All of them were referred to the department from various security sectors, including runaway laborers and others accused of indecent activities.

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tion to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Al-Yousef emphasized that the Kuwaitization program is applicable across the board, encompassing cooperatives, corporations, banks, and major institutions. The Authority, through its National Labor Development sector, plays an active role in this initiative. The Career Guidance Department, staffed by specialized professionals, conducts one-on-one interviews with job seekers interested in positions within the private, cooperative, or oil sectors. Furthermore, they organize guidance activities to aid individuals seeking employment in the private sector.

In a separate development, sources have disclosed a recent meeting convened at the Civil Service Commission, involving various government agencies, including the labor sector. During the meeting, there was a collective call for prioritizing the appointment of male and female citizens within the private sector, while ensuring they receive all necessary assurances and support.

Inquiries were also made regarding the labor support budget, its total cost, and the number of beneficiaries, with preparations underway for potential increases in this allocation. Citizens were encouraged to consider employment opportunities within the private sector.

On Monday, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, has reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to executing essential plans and procedures aimed at achieving the objectives of demographic modification and labor market development within the State of Kuwait.

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Opinion

O leadership ... Where is the Silk Road?

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHENEVER there is a signal from an official regarding the development of Kuwait, we rejoice and cheer.

When the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad visited Beijing in 2018 to sign agreements and memoranda of understanding with Chinese officials within the framework of the Silk Road project, the development of the Kuwaiti islands, and the Northern Economic Zone, we believed it represented a strong new beginning.

Likewise, when Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad announced, at the Belt and Road Forum in 2017, the start of concluded partnerships with Chinese companies, we were hopeful.

However, all this remained ink on paper, because the cause is not essentially the ideas, but rather the encroachment of one authority over another, and the undermining of projects if those who use everything for their own interests do not benefit from them.

In this regard, I remember what the late Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah said during a major conference about 40 years ago - "All of Kuwait will become a free trade zone."

So what happened? Nearly two decades later, the free trade zone became merely a square in an industrial corner of Shuwaikh, mired in corruption because those who drafted its law were stakeholders, not national specialists!

On the day the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad announced the Silk Road project, we believed that tens of thousands of Chinese workers would come to Kuwait to work in their country's companies, and that our country would become like Singapore, Malaysia, or even like China, of course with the difference in size and population.

But what happened was the opposite, because there were those who kept on deflating the wheels.

As for the Silk Road project, the poor implementation of paving roads that produced potholes with every rainfall caused it to become the "burlap road". With the country being closed off with "padlock and key," investors refrained from it. In fact, none of the talented and creative people would accept to visit it anymore.

Indeed, there is a global conviction that Kuwait does not want to develop.

In China, there are about 50,000 American and European companies, with hundreds of thousands of investors, who employ local workers, without requiring them to hold university degrees, and without requiring a woman to bring a certificate to prove she is not pregnant if she wants to visit the country.

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Day by Day

WE nurtured his talent and watched it flourish under our care, refusing to grant him naturalization. Yet, he remained patient, for God promises good to those who endure. This gifted individual is Ahmed Al-Aoun, the talented artist.

The Emirates extended a welcoming hand, a nation adorned with a Ministry of Happiness and ministers championing progress and talent. It opened its elegant gates for him.

Addressing him, the Emiratis said, "Greetings, talented person. You are now one of us, an Emirati. Leave behind those who have shut the doors of naturalization for those with remarkable achievements and talents. Here with us, you belong, transcending the limitations set by laws and the ignorant."

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar



Photo shows a meeting with a number of representatives of Kuwaiti newspapers during an open media day organized by the Ali Al-Salem Air Base administration recently to highlight the partnership between the US Air Force, Kuwait, and coalition partners from various countries. US

Commander of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at the Ali Al-Salem Air Base Colonel Julie M. Gaulin revealed that the base's central command includes American, Kuwaiti, Canadian, Italian, British and Danish air forces. - See Page 2

MP Boushahri warns minister of Public Works

'Red flags' over road maintenance contracts

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: MP Jinan Boushahri has warned the Minister of Public Works Dr. Amani Buqamaz against signing any contracts concerning road maintenance before answering her questions about the nominated companies and whether they have local agents.

She referred to the statement made by Dr. Buqamaz on May 11, 2023, stating that she has an "out-of-the-box" plan to assign international companies without the need for local agents in Kuwait in order to maintain the roads.

The lawmaker said she had submitted parliamentary questions to Dr. Buqamaz, asking if the companies have local agents; but she has not yet received a response from the minister.

She explained that Dr. Buqamaz had invited 30 international companies to apply for the tenders on road maintenance but only six companies responded, which, according to MP Boushahri, represents the first failure of Dr. Buqamaz.

The second failure was that the companies presented price offers that were 200 percent more than the estimated amount.

The third failure, which according to MP Boushahri is a major disaster, is that five out of those six companies were discovered to already have local agents, and that the six companies have been present in the Kuwait market through contracts signed with different ministries and public institutions. In fact, some of those projects have been facing problems, while others have been reported by monitoring institutions to be dismissed from applying to the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT).

The first of the six companies is Turkey's Limak, which has already signed a contract with the Ministry of Public Works to establish T2 terminal at the Kuwait International

Airport, and its local agent is Al-Kharafi National.

The second is China's Gezhouba Group Company Limited, which is connected with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) by a contract worth KD 215 million to establish infrastructure projects in Mutlaa City, and its local agent is Universal Leaders Trading and Contracting Company.

The third company is China's First Way, which is connected with the Ministry of Public Works by a contract worth KD 88 million to maintain roads in South Surra, as well as Damascus Street and Fifth Ring Road. Its local agent is Combined Group Contracting Company.

The fourth company is China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited, which is connected with Kuwait University (KU) by a contract worth KD 139 million to carry out the construction work in Sabah Al-Salem University. Its local agent is Al-Kharafi National.

The fifth company is the Chinese company Sinohydro, which is connected with the Ministry of Public Works by a construction contract. Its local agent is Copri Corporation.

MP Boushahri insisted that she wants Dr. Buqamaz not to justify the matter by saying the local agents of the international companies are connected to them by limited projects, which have nothing to do with the new contracts. In case the minister uses that justification, it means she is admitting to violating her commitment to assign the contracts to companies that do not have local agents.

She addressed His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, asking if Dr. Buqamaz had informed him about the above mentioned details or if she hid the facts as she did with the people and National Assembly.

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Kuwait pavilion depicts oases

DOHA, Oct 3, (KUNA): The

Kuwaiti pavilion at the International Horticultural Exhibition EXPO 2023 sheds light on the national efforts for attaining sustainable development, the acting director general of Kuwait Environment Public Authority Samira Al-Kandari said on Tuesday.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Kandari said the Kuwaiti section is situated within the exhibition international zone at Bidda' park, indicating some of its basic themes derived from the oases in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti pavilion is distinguished with interactive displays about plants that grow in Kuwait,

Al-Kandari said.

Participants must meet some basic terms, such as manifesting much of their pavilion in green, she added, affirming that the event aims at exploring countries' efforts against desertification, agricultural expertise and technologies.

The 179-day exhibition that addresses gardening and is basically aimed at promoting solutions for desertification is the first of its kind to be held in the Middle East.

The exhibition kicked on Monday under the theme "a green desert and better environment", with sponsorship by the Qatari Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. It will proceed until March 2024.

Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani sponsored on Monday a local gardening expo aiming to highlight food self-sufficiency as a crucial component of national development strategies.

Doha is "honored" to play host to a gathering of "international significance," said Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, underlining his aspirations that the talks would yield tangible results on the ground.

Addressing the gathering, the minister called for innovative and novel methods as part of efforts to contribute towards national economic development, saying such endeavors entail a collective effort to bring such goals to fruition.



KUNA photo

Acting Director General of Kuwait Environment Public Authority Samira Al-Kandari briefs Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani about the Kuwaiti pavilion at the International Horticultural Exhibition EXPO 2023.

NewsWatch

CAIRO: Kuwait is intent on achieving full Arab economic and industrial integration through activating origin provision of cumulation in line with Greater Arab Free Trade Area, affirmed Industry Public Authority official, Dr. Abdullah Al-Hajeri on Tuesday.

Al-Hajeri spoke to KUNA following 12th meeting of Arab rules of origin technical committee meeting, highlighting the vast importance of the provision of cumulation.

Cumulation, he explained, allows for capitalizing on crude materials available in Arab countries within the Greater Free Trade Area instead of having to import commodities from non-Arab nonmember countries.

He further explained this could be achieved through implementing mechanisms corresponding to newly-risen economic directions on regional and international fronts, guided by related bilateral or multilateral agreements.

Discussions during the meeting handled completing and reviewing the rules of origin general provisions to ensure compatibility with international developments, Al-Hajery added. (KUNA)

BRUSSELS: With 578 votes to 24 and 19 abstentions, the European Parliament approved on Tuesday a new trade instrument to enable the EU to respond, should the EU or member states face economic blackmail from a foreign country.

The Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI) seeks to protect EU and member state sovereignty in a geopolitical context where trade and investment are increasingly weaponised by foreign powers, said an EP press release. (KUNA)

TUNIS: Tunisia on Monday announced it would reject an installment of funds sent by Europe to help the debt-ridden country patrol the Mediterranean Sea as migrant boat crossings spike to levels not seen in several years.

President Kais Saied on Monday accused the European Union of not following through on agreements made earlier this year to help Tunisia patrol its border, curb smuggling and balance its federal budget. (AP)



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:23 Asr ..... 15:00  
Sunrise .. 05:42 Maghrib .. 17:32  
Zohr ..... 11:37 Isha ..... 18:49

# Local

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

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate south-easterly wind with speeds of 06-24 km/h.  
**By Night:** Rather hot to mild

## Weather

with light variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind with speeds of 06-28 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	40	30
Kuwait Airport	42	25

Abdaly	41	23
Jahra	42	26
Salmiyah	36	29
Ahmadi	35	31
Nuwaisib	39	25
Wafra	42	24

# US forces here to protect Kuwait, partners: Col. Gaulin

Media persons visit Ali Al-Salem Air Base

By Enas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The US Commander of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing at the Ali Al-Salem Air Base Colonel Julie M. Gaulin praised the efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti side to support the air military operations of the coalition forces at the base.**

In a meeting with a number of representatives of Kuwaiti newspapers during an open media day organized by the base administration recently to highlight the partnership between the US Air Force, Kuwait, and coalition partners from various countries, Colonel Gaulin revealed that the base's central command includes American, Kuwaiti, Canadian, Italian, British and Danish air forces.

She explained that the mission of the coalition forces at the base is not limited to combat, and the military framework, but includes logistical also. They also provide shipping and transportation services for equipment, machinery, and materials for all its employees. It holds joint meetings on a daily and monthly basis, and periodic air training for forces of all levels to develop their combat capabilities.

The international coalition forces at the base are focused on achieving regional stability by enhancing cooperation and permanent investment among the members of the forces at the base, and cultivating a comprehensive and innovative culture for organizing work to be better.

The priorities of these forces are to protect Kuwait and partners from any imminent danger.

She affirmed that the US Air Force is a good partner for Kuwait.

## Infrastructure

Regarding the infrastructure projects at the base, Colonel Gaulin said, "We have 42 ongoing projects worth USD 35 million, equivalent to KD 10.32 million. The number of projects planned for the next five years is 77 projects worth \$135 million.

Four projects were completed in agreement with Kuwait's Ministry of Defense and were delivered to it. There are some ongoing projects with purely Kuwaiti funding, and some being executed through cooperation between the US Air Force and the US Department of Defense, as well as projects funded by the US Air Force only.

We have many daily challenges, but our main concern is always to focus on ensuring that each camp at the base receives the necessary equipment and support in a timely manner to successfully complete its mission."

Regarding the cooperation with other military air bases inside and outside Kuwait, specifically in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Colonel Gaulin affirmed that all American military bases that include forces of international coalitions in Kuwait and the region operate according to the same rules and mechanism.

She highlighted the existence of permanent and ongoing cooperation between Ali Al-Salem Air Base and other bases inside and outside Kuwait in terms of training, meetings and other aspects.

Colonel Gaulin revealed that the base,

in the coming period, will participate in an international air show in the Emirate of Dubai, as well as in an air force combat display.

She explained that the number of Americans working at the base exceeds 1,500. This number is constantly changing due to rotation and transportation movements. About 20 percent of the workers at the base are women.

Colonel Gaulin said, "Every pilot at the base is an important and valued member of ours. We are committed to supporting them throughout their time with us." She stressed that teamwork based on enhancing cooperation and investing in lasting relationships enhances the development of skills and innovation among all coalition forces working at the base.

Colonel Gaulin said, "The United States neither fights alone, nor does it carry out deterrence alone. It instead works with allies and partners to achieve common strategic interests."

She highlighted the deep and lasting relationships with allies and partners, which allow for success.

## Security

Colonel Gaulin stressed that the American military presence in the region constitutes a force to enhance security and stability, indicating that the dominant air force of the international coalition present at the base supports the responsibility of the US Central Command and ensures its stability.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the Southwest Asia - Canadian Mission Camp at the base Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Mattis said the mission is to work with the coalition forces at the base as per the same mechanism and the same rules to reach the highest levels of effective partnership.

He expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to Kuwait for hosting Canadian forces at the base, indicating that the Canadian camp is proud to accomplish at the base is supervising the infrastructure of the camping and accommodation sites for soldiers from the coalition forces, and working to transform them from temporary to permanent residence sites. Currently, the number of members of the Canadian mission at the base is approximately 100.

In addition, the Public Relations Officer at Ali Al-Salem Air Base Heather Bashour highlighted the activities and events that are organized to enhance cooperation and participation between the coalition forces at the base, which are not limited to military and combat training, but rather personal in nature, as well as organizing many cultural activities and sports competitions, and organizing visits to archaeological and cultural sites in Kuwait. They also provide moral support to Kuwaiti institutions such as the House of Abdullah.

In her entire speech, she emphasized the great interest that the base administration pays to Kuwaiti culture and to learn about it in order to communicate better with society and individuals, which reflects positively on the tasks performed by the coalition forces at the base.

At the end of their presentation to the Kuwaiti press, the leaders representing the coalition forces at Ali Al-Salem Air Base agreed that the number of aircraft at the base cannot be accurately counted and determined due to the permanent and continuous changes in the coalition forces' crews.

They concluded by emphasizing that the combat forces in all the operations rooms of the base are alert and prepared for any emergency or natural disaster, and are ready to provide whatever is necessary to confront such a situation.

## 'Expedite tourism projects'

# Failaka Isle, Jleeb on agenda

By Enas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The Technical Committee of the Municipal Council, headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal, yesterday referred to the executive body of Kuwait Municipality a letter by the Acting Mayor of Failaka Abdul Wahab Ali Al-Naqi regarding Failaka Island and the expropriation of Jleeb, as it is absolutely necessary to prepare a study on the matter.**

The committee also referred for further study the proposal submitted by member Abdullah Al-Anazi regarding the Tourism Enterprises Company (a state-owned company) to address and expedite tourism projects, as well as a proposal submitted by the Head of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri regarding the requirements and specifications for labor housing complexes.

In addition, the committee referred to the item related to reallocating the Ministry of Communication's sites.

It also returned to the executive branch the proposal submitted by member Munira Al-Amir regarding establishing a mechanism to resolve disputes between citizens and construction companies, in order to

update its response regarding the matter. It referred for discussion a letter submitted by Lawyer Khawla Al-Hassawi regarding increasing the use of the mezzanine floor in a building owned by the Hawally Governorate Committee.

The committee reserved the allocation of three sites to the Ministry of Communication, and the item related to following up the development plan projects of 2023/2024, and the waterfront project Corniche in Jahra, for the Kuwait Municipality.

Meanwhile, the Technical Committee of the Municipal Council agreed during its meeting yesterday to respond to the proposal of member Munira Al-Amir regarding setting a time limit for handing over the allocation sites to government agencies.

It responded to the proposal of the Municipal Council Head Abdullah Al-Mahri and member Farah Al-Roumi regarding adding the activity of selling flowers and plants to the activity of sweets in commercial areas and buildings for commercial use, in addition to approving the proposal submitted by member Abdullatif Al-Daei regarding providing buses for visitors to cemeteries.



Media persons pose for a picture with the US Air Force personnel.



Some photos from the event.

Photos by Mohammad Morsi

## 'Smoking harms women'

# Diabetes main cause of Gulf heart disease

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Professor of Cardiology at Kuwait University and a member of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Heart Association Dr. Muhammad Zubaid announced that the association conducted a two-month study on 4,000 male and female heart patients at a ratio of 3:1 with the aim of following up on cases of acute seizures and clots, which require hospitalization, and special care and treatment methods.**

In a press statement issued during the celebration of the women's health awareness campaign titled "Because You Are Different", Dr. Zubaid highlighted the importance of the campaign in raising the level of awareness about the symptoms of atypical heart attacks that affect women, and bridging the existing knowledge gap about their heart health by discussing the health risks facing women's hearts in different age stages.

He said the results of the study will provide great information in terms of ages, risks, and types of diseases found in women, and will help in knowing how to deal with them.

Dr. Zubaid thanked all the participants and workers of the event and the organizing company.

## Women

Meanwhile, the Endocrinology and Diabetes Consultant and Head of the Kuwait Diabetes Association Dr. Walid Al-Dhahi said, "Heart disease is one of the most common diseases around the world. Although men are more susceptible to heart disease than women, women who smoke and suffer from obesity have a higher chance of heart disease than men.

Diabetes is the first cause of heart disease in the Gulf region. Any person who suffers from diabetes has a four times higher risk of heart disease than a normal person.

Furthermore, Director of the Professional Diploma Program in General Medical Practice and Head of the General Practitioner Program Committee at the Ministry of Health Dr. Hanan Al-Fadala said, "The committee aims to professionally develop primary health care doctors.

The committee is focusing on two goals. The first is to train newly appointed doctors and follow up on them for 12 months to qualify them to work in primary health care centers. The second is to organize lectures and workshops for doctors on various topics, with the aim of professional development and for them to learn about the latest developments in the field of primary care."

Also, Head of the Internal Medicine team at Ahmadi Hospital and a member of the Kuwait Heart Association Dr. Rashid Al-Hamdan highlighted the dangers of cardiovascular diseases in women due to a lack of awareness and information about the symptoms and side effects of the disease, which may differ when compared to men.

He said women in the Middle East are at high risk of heart disease due to high rates of obesity, with 30 percent of them suffering from this chronic medical condition, compared to 16 percent of men.

In addition, Director of Organon in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar Ahmed Lashin said, "We always strive to improve the medical sector and conduct more research on heart diseases in women. We are committed to providing a platform to listen to women's problems and medical needs, and raise their voices to bring about a positive and radical change."

## Other Voices

# It is distinguished...that is why it is under attack

By Ahmad alsarraf

**S**ome intellectuals and semi-intellectuals, particularly from Gulf countries, have voiced criticism against Kuwait's democracy and the impact this experience has had on Kuwait and its people, asserting that the Kuwaiti democratic experience has placed them in dissatisfying situations.

The adoption of democracy by a small Arab Gulf country was met with disapproval from many nations for various reasons.

Those criticizing Kuwait's democracy overlook the fact that democracy and the legitimacy of the Al Sabah Family were the foundation on which 34 countries based their decision to assist Kuwait in repelling the Iraqi invasion in 1991.

Conversely, when a major global power, with financial and logistical Gulf support, decided to overthrow the dictatorial regime of Muammar Gaddafi, there was little sympathy for his fate worldwide.

The same sentiment was echoed during the US invasion of Iraq when a greater number of people celebrated the overthrow of Iraq's foolish dictator Saddam Hussein than those mourning him.

The subsequent chaos in Libya and Iraq could have been avoided if regimes had respected their people and prioritized their prosperity. The present turmoil in both countries stems from the misguided actions of Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi, who failed to learn from historical lessons.

It is essential to repeatedly emphasize that the current political disputes, arguments, developmental slowdown, and increased problems in Kuwait have no direct connection to democracy.

Criticizing democracy for these issues is akin to blaming a high-class car manufacturer because one car is not functioning properly. The problem lies in the misuse and lack of proper maintenance by the car owner. Democracy, which is disliked by some, has consist-

ently been the driving force behind Kuwait's innovation in various fields such as theater, art, sports, and science because innovation thrives on freedom.

Some argue that unless democracy leads to development, progress, equality, and justice, it is ineffectual and unnecessary. This viewpoint is similar to discarding a broken car without considering that its breakdown is due to the lack of regular maintenance and improper usage. Without maintenance and care, democracy can also deteriorate.

The opinion held by some individuals, including Saudi journalist Muhammad Alrotayyan, to forsake justice, free speech, and action for the sake of enjoying the impressive advancements in some Gulf cities concerning services, infrastructure, and superstructures is naive and illogical.

They contend that Kuwait's democracy failed to achieve development, overlooking its numerous accomplishments in various domains. Their repeated criticism of democracy only underscores its influence and righteousness. However, the root issue lies in the deliberate mishandling and improper utilization of democracy.

As long as Kuwait remains committed to its ruling Dynasty, Constitution, and democracy, the right course can be regained. A decision is all that is needed to steer in the right direction. It is a simplistic way of thinking to suggest abandoning democracy for the sake of better roads. Achieving better roads merely requires a decision and has no bearing on democracy.

Both Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi possessed the capabilities to satisfy their people and create respected and distinguished nations. However, they squandered the opportunity for any progress. The question arises: what guarantees that Kuwait will not follow in the footsteps of Iraq or Libya if democracy is abandoned?

"Late Egyptian President Anwar Al Sadat once admitted in a moment of candor, "I have always believed in dictatorship. Now I dare say that the mistakes of democracy committed over centuries are much less than the mistakes of dictatorship in one hour because of the devastating effect of the latter."

□ □ □

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# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Development is institutional and not an individual's work'

"ONE of the key reasons behind the lack of progress in the Third World can be attributed to its reliance on individuals rather than institutions," columnist **Ahmed Abdel Mohsen Al-Mulaifi** wrote for **Annahar** daily.

"Development is often tied to the age of the leader rather than the age of the country and its people. Progress and development thrive under the guidance of an honest, proactive leader with a clear vision.

"However, a significant challenge arises when development is associated with a particular individual. The leader's name is often tied to the initiatives, resulting in various factions trying to gain influence and credit, leading to a focus on the leader's ideas rather than their practical implementation. This tends to occur regardless of the feasibility of these ideas.



Al-Mulaifi

"Sadly, when such a leader either passes away or steps down, the progress they initiated tends to crumble. Forward momentum is reversed, bureaucracy flourishes, and corruption spreads.

"Numerous examples illustrate this, including Malaysia's experience during the time of Mahathir Mohamad and subsequent leaders. Similarly, President Carlos Menem's economic revival in Argentina faced a downturn after his tenure, and the nation is currently heavily indebted.

"Linking development solely to a leader and their ideologies, actions, and legacy may foster short-term growth but not sustainable development. Furthermore, a leader's lifespan is finite, while the life of a state is enduring. Therefore, sustainable development necessitates an approach that transcends individual leadership.

"Sustainable development hinges on two critical components: firstly, individuals must serve as the driving force, the protective shield, and the implementers of development.

"Secondly, a robust institutional framework characterized by a just judiciary, good governance, absolute transparency, and protective mechanisms is vital. This system safeguards the development agenda, ensuring that subsequent leaders are compelled to carry forward the progress initiated by their predecessors."

### Also:

"What's the narrative behind the government's silence concerning both genuine and fraudulent social media accounts whose owners have compromised their principles for financial gain? Why hasn't the government taken action against these unscrupulous media and individual accounts that consistently spread slander, doubt, and poison through platforms like X, Snapchat, Instagram, WhatsApp, and numerous others?" columnist **Walid Ibrahim Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"These accounts often malign the names of political figures in the country—ranging from sheikhs, ministers, merchants, to representatives -- by creating and circulating unreal composite clips using photo shop. These fabricated content pieces find their way into homes, fueling rumors and spreading baseless accusations, which can even extend to sharing clips of immoral behavior and derogatory insults, tarnishing one's honor and lineage.

"In the latest episode of these malicious accounts, Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was attacked following his delivery of Kuwait's speech at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The attack followed his firm articulation of Kuwait's stance on various issues, particularly concerning Iraq and Iran.

"The Department of Combating Cybercrimes bears a significant responsibility today to curb these virtual pests that thrive on indecency. It's essential to expose these accounts and differentiate between genuine and fake ones, deliberately generating rumors and discord.

"This would help free ourselves from being entangled in debates between supporters and opponents and redirect our focus towards the nation's interests.

"What's alarming is that some of these accounts openly attack the country under known aliases, continuously poisoning the environment without facing consequences. Consequently, we find ourselves amidst influential groups engaged in internal conflicts, with people passionately following and endorsing these divisive narratives.

"All of this comes at the expense of our homeland. Those who remain immune to punishment continue to engage in misconduct, and without deterrents, they will persist in their destructive path, potentially causing irreparable harm to the entire nation.

"We are certain that this digital chaos has become organized and directed against the country, and today it is managed from within and from abroad for dirty personal interests that must be (removed) before it destroys us!

"We began to suspect that many of these so-called fake accounts are in fact known to the government, but we prefer to follow them from a distance!"

□ □ □

"It is necessary for the government to study the financial proposals scientifically and technically with a view of the future. It will then discover that it can, with the same amounts demanded by some members and from which certain people benefit, ensure a better living situation for everyone, solve the problem of unemployment for thousands of young people, provide electricity to thousands of homes, and make a great deal of progress in solving the housing problem", columnist **Ahmad Baqer** wrote for **aljarida** daily.

"Based on the government's directive, the Civil Service Council issued an amendment to the decision to sell vacations. It had been issued without controls under pressure from the council. The new

decision allows the sale of only one month of vacation every ten years. It is considered a revolutionary correction to the previous government's decision, which cost one billion dinars in almost a year.

"The government is now looking at correcting other erroneous decisions, such as exceptional pensions, and decisions related to a large number of cadres, which caused the huge disparity in employee salaries.

"There is no doubt that this correction will have an additional cost of hundreds of millions to address the previous error, whether the required treatment is through an increase for employees and retirees or through a strategic alternative, especially since the government has now discovered that it is necessary to increase the amount for providing labor support in the private sector in order not to cause any increase in the migration of Kuwaiti workers from the private sector to the public sector, if the public sector alone is increased.

"Thus, the government does not always adequately study financial decisions, and gives in to pressure from the council, perhaps for political reasons. When its effects become clear in the ongoing disbursement of billions and the failure to achieve justice, the government shouts.

"If we look at some of the financial disbursement decisions issued by the government on its own or under pressure from the council, and compare them to the value of the projects according to what some officials in the relevant authorities provided, we will find that their value was sufficient to solve major problems suffered by the Kuwaiti people.

"The amount of KD 1 billion paid to sell vacations was enough to build a 3,000 kilowatt power station that supplies electricity to thousands of idle plots in Al-Mutlaa and South Saad Al-Abdullah.

"As for paying interests to postpone loans during the COVID-19 pandemic, which cost between KD 400 million and KD 500 million, it was enough to supply 20 areas the size of Qadisiya area, which contains more than 1,000 houses, with streets, and sewage and rainwater systems."

□ □ □

"I was happy when I read the Kuwait Army's report about establishing an agricultural reserve in the country to achieve food self-sufficiency for its sectors," columnist **Mohammad Al-Saqr** wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.

"The establishment of this reserve, whose area is estimated at one million square meters, is a blessed step towards providing food products. It is an important step in the process of achieving food security and reducing dependence on imports. It is a strategic goal that must be implemented.

"This reserve was completed in 2022. In 2023, it produced 30 tons each of onions and eggplants, 42 tons of potatoes and 50 tons of tomatoes.

"This comes within the framework of Kuwait's effective strategy to achieve food security, which was launched in 2021. It relies on a number of initiatives and pillars, especially after the food crisis that struck the world as a result of the disruption of supply chains during the Corona pandemic.

"We hope this idea will expand and will be applied on a larger scale, so that other parties will take similar steps to contribute to saving food and increasing green spaces.

"I specifically mention here the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), which at the core of its work, is concerned with vegetation. It is the most experienced on this matter because it is its field of work. Therefore, it can adopt similar projects and increase the production animal husbandry and fish, if possible."

□ □ □

"The foundation for building any successful state is the human factor. The foundation for the human factor depends on the integrity and strength of two systems - the education system and the physical and mental health system", columnist **Ghada Khalaf** wrote for **Aljarida** daily.

"The basis perhaps is education, which prepares qualified human cadres such as doctors, engineers, or other cadres who contribute to building society. Therefore, education is considered the basis for achieving sustainable development and economic and social prosperity for any country.

"For this reason, education policies must be established according to scientific foundations and the needs of society, without unjustified parliamentary and political interference.

"Our refusal to let education become a victim of political interference is based on a number of reasons:

"First: In order to preserve the quality of education, education must be independent and based on scientific and professional standards, away from political interference that leads to transforming education into a means to achieve political goals, which negatively affects the quality of education. Take for example the interference of the legislative authority and influential people in leadership appointments.

"Second: Flexibility of education, as schools and universities must have the ability to adapt to the needs of society and technological and economic changes. Whenever there is excessive political interference, such intervention leads to restricting the flexibility of the education system. The education sector in Kuwait currently suffers from the centralization of decisions and powers and their confinement to leaders who lack experience and ability to manage the education file.

"Third: Educational policies need stability and continuity to achieve the required goals. Repeated political interference leads to fluctuations and instability in education, such as the continuous change in the senior leadership of the Ministry of Education, which has created a kind of instability in departments and executive plans."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

## Don't let bachelors reside near family homes: panel

6 labor cities sites chosen

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The Public Services Committee in the Council of Ministers is convening today (Sunday) to review the report presented by Municipal Minister Fahd Al-Shula on the current situation in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

A reliable source has informed that the committee will thoroughly analyze vital aspects concerning the enhancement of the northwestern section of the region. This analysis includes addressing challenges, evaluating property ownership and status, scrutinizing traffic and security conditions, and exploring various potential solutions.

The discussed options encompass imposing restrictions on leasing residential units to singles or the so-called bachelors, allowing the development of worker housing within industrial plots and agricultural areas, and granting permits for labor accommodations within major projects.

The source highlighted that six specific locations have been designated for labor cities, collectively covering an area of 13,335,000 square meters.

Additionally, eight sites have been earmarked for worker housing complexes, spanning a total area of 18,600,000 square meters. Furthermore, the committee will carefully evaluate the recommendations outlined in the Minister of Municipality's report. Depending on the evaluation of the current state of the area, appropriate actions will be determined.

He added that the committee will review the recommendations included in the report of the Minister of Municipality, and if the current status of the area is maintained, the matter will require finding solutions to address the imbalance in demographic structure; improving the security and traffic situation and putting an end to existing violations; developing the main and internal road network and modernizing and developing the infrastructure network (electricity, water and sewage); taking advantage of plots 19 and 20 to provide residential care, which were previously acquired, and no specific use has been decided for them to date and improving and developing the health system



Al-Shula

He stated that in the case of radical development of the area to keep pace with the surrounding uses, the following is needed to be done:

-- The necessity of expropriation in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of Decree Law No. 86/131, regarding the expropriation of real estate for which expropriation formulas have been issued. The Council of Ministers may issue expropriation formulas in the event of extreme necessity for considerations required by the public interest, and this shall be based on the request of the concerned authority and the presentation of the Minister of Municipality.

-- Handing over workers' cities and residential complexes to workers in accordance with the decisions of the Municipal Council issued regarding them, and beginning their implementation in parallel with the expropriation and evacuation plan for the area.

-- Reorganizing the region in a civilized manner that is consistent with its distinctive location, finding solutions to create the necessary balance for the demographic structure, ending the phenomenon of existing Arab houses and the problem of commons spread within them, and organizing the network of external and internal roads in the region in accordance with developments in the surrounding areas.

-- Raising the level of services in the region by providing the necessary public facilities and services according to the proposed new uses.

It is noteworthy that Minister Al-Shula explained, in his report, that the value of the acquisition of plots in the region, according to estimates for the year 2023, amounts to about 1.432 billion dinars.

At its meeting, the Ministerial Services Committee will consider the request of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to overcome the obstacles facing the S2 Investment Opportunity Project in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

The Minister of Justice and Minister of Housing, Faleh Al-Ruqabah, had sent a letter to the Council of Ministers, regarding the delay in issuing building permits for the S2 Investment Opportunity Project in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, referring to the partnership contract concluded on September 8, 2020 between the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and one of the companies for the management and development of lands and real estate, regarding the building design, financing, operating, maintaining and transferring the investment opportunity that serves the residents of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City in particular, and the areas surrounding the city in general.

Al-Ruqabah said that these projects are developmental, reduce the financial burden on the state, and translate the vision and plan of the State of Kuwait into the con-

### Kuwaiti hacker's hearing adjourned

Captain absolved, Filipino gets jail in liquor peddling

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The Court of Cassation on Monday ruled to refrain from issuing punishment against a Kuwaiti captain and to imprison a Filipino expatriate for 3 years and 4 months in the case of smuggling alcohol on the yacht of a social media celebrity.**

The Public Prosecution had ordered the exclusion of the owner of the seized yacht after the Filipino captain confessed to bringing the seized items.

It is noteworthy that the Criminal Court sentenced the Filipino captain to five-year imprisonment with hard work and deportation from the country after serving the sentence, and for the Kuwaiti captain to one-year imprisonment with hard work.

□ □ □

**Hacker case adjourned:** The Criminal Court adjourned to Monday next week the case filed against a Kuwaiti hacker, who hacked into the website of the US Department of Defense and the Pentagon, and accessed sensitive weapons sites.

It is noteworthy that the accused, who is 28 years old, is of Kuwaiti nationality. He was able to hack the US Department of Defense website and access sensitive weapons sites, in a move that endangered Kuwait's relationship with an ally and also endangered Kuwaiti national security.

The State Security Department had referred the accused to the Public Prosecution for investigation, after he was suspected of hacking the US Department of Defense website.

## Famous medical center shut for violating rules

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The Drug Inspection Department of the Ministry of Health closed a famous medical center in Salmiya, which included an unlicensed nursery in the basement of the center, in violation of the license.**

The Ministry of Health announced that inspectors from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with the participation of employees from the Health Licensing Department, Immigration Affairs Investigations, and the Public Authority for Manpower, closed the center.

The Ministry of Health explained that a number of secret unlicensed warehouses to store medicines and cosmetics for the purpose of selling to the public were discovered.

All these medical items were seized, due to the failure to meet storage and general hygiene conditions, in addition to the center not obtaining the Ministry of Health's approval to possess the medicines.

Violation reports were also issued against a number of employees practicing the medical profession and technical assistant professions without the necessary license to do in the State of Kuwait.

In this regard, the Director of the Ministry of Health's Drug Inspection Department Dr. Reem Al-Essa stressed the need to adhere to the laws regulating the practice of the pharmacy profession.

She said the department continues to monitor the distribution of medicines and health materials, and ensure that efficient, quality medicines, which are stored in a manner that meets the necessary requirements, reach patients and consumers.

Dr. Al-Essa affirmed the keenness to implement the provisions of control over the practice of the pharmacy profession and the circulation of medicines in the private sector in the State of Kuwait, and to activate law No. 28/1996, amended by law No. 30/2016 regarding regulating the practice of the pharmacy profession and the circulation of medicines, and the ministerial decisions regulating it.

tribution of private sector activity to the implementation of development projects. Accordingly, the delay in issuing building permits negatively affects the indicators of the State of Kuwait.

The committee will review the letter from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, regarding its approval of the concerned party's donation project to build a mosque in a public park in the Al-Masayel area, Block 1, at its own expense, if the neighbors agree.

### Officer, doctor in bribe probe

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The Public Prosecution has taken action by referring a Ministry of Interior senior official and a doctor to the Criminal Court in a case involving money laundering and bribery, reports Al-Qabas daily.**

This move comes following the decision of Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, to refer the case to the prosecution.

According to a reliable source, the Public Prosecution has pressed charges against three individuals for accepting bribes. This charge comes after their involvement was uncovered in obtaining a suspended visa through illicit means.

The source highlighted that investigations revealed that each transaction was facilitated by the accused in exchange for an amount totaling 2,000 dinars.



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# 'Psoriasis affects about 2-3 % of population in Kuwait, world'

Farwaniya Hospital holds awareness campaign

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3:** The Director of Farwaniya Hospital Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi says psoriasis is a common skin disease affecting about two to three percent of the population of Kuwait and the world, irrespective of race and ethnicity.

He said this in a press statement issued on the sidelines of a psoriasis awareness campaign held yesterday at Farwaniya Hospital, coinciding with Psoriasis Awareness Month, which falls in October every year.

Dr. Al-Mutairi explained that psoriasis is an autoimmune skin disease that affects men and women alike at various age levels, especially from 16 to 22 years, and from 57 to 60 years.

Despite the high cost of treatment, the Ministry of Health does not hesitate to provide appropriate treatments for various types of psoriasis. There is a specialized psoriasis clinic at Farwaniya Hospital, which includes an integrated medical team from various dermatology, internal medicine, and pharmacy specialties, in order to follow up complex and complicated cases that require direct treatment by several medical specialties.

The different types of psoriasis include plaque and nail psoriasis, guttate psoriasis, flexural psoriasis, pustular psoriasis, and erythrodermic psoriasis.

The disease often appears in the form of itchy rashes and flaky spots on the knees, elbows, trunk, and scalp.

Meanwhile, in a similar press statement, the Head of the Dermatology Department at Farwaniya Hospital and the Secretary General of the Kuwait Dermatologists Association Dr. Abeer Al-Bathali affirmed the keenness of the association to organize this campaign for raising awareness and educating the community about the disease by organizing weekly events and activities in all dermatology centers, starting with Farwaniya Hospital and concluding at the Avenues Mall on October 28.

Dr. Al-Bathali stated that the goal of the campaign is to educate individuals and society about the dangers of psoriasis, stressing that it is a common disease that appears in the form of red spots covered with a crusty layer on the knees, elbows, and scalp.

She said there are diseases that may accompany psoriasis, such as metabolic syndrome, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and high levels of uric acid and triglycerides.

Dr. Al-Bathali warned that patients suffering from psoriasis are among those at the highest risk for developing heart disease, due to which emphasis must be put on educating the community and correcting its concepts about the disease.



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

A group photo from the Psoriasis Awareness Campaign.

## Sheikh imposter's life imprisonment upheld

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3:** The Court of Appeals upheld the ruling issued by a lower court which sentenced a man to life imprisonment for impersonating a sheikh on Instagram with the intention of defrauding a lawyer, seizing a diamond ring and sums of more than KD 20,000, and then blackmailing her by posting inappropriate clips on social media sites.

The complainant stated that the accused deceived her by impersonating a member of the ruling family, and luring her as a lawyer to consult her legally.

She was surprised when he assaulted her, and then he tricked her into marrying and defrauding her, and seizing a diamond ring and sums of money.

According to the case file, the father of the three girls visited the healer in his residence in Mahboula in order to do the incantation on his daughters to rid them of envy.

However, they left crying, and told their father that the "healer" did immoral things to their bodies and harassed them.

The father then filed a report with the Ministry of Interior.

After investigations, the case was referred to the prosecution and then to the court.

## HH the Amir cables German President on National Day

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on his country's National Day.

His Highness the Amir wished President Steinmeier good health and wellbeing, and friendly Germany progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Steinmeier on his country's National Day.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations to President Steinmeier on his country's National Day.



Deputy FM with Azerbaijani ambassador to Kuwait.

KUNA photo

## Bilateral ties discussed

**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah** received on Monday Azerbaijani Ambassador to Kuwait Emil Karimov.

During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral ties and means of strengthening those ties on all levels. (KUNA)

## Between April 1 and Sept 30

# Prior oversight saves KD 7mln in six months, says State Audit

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3, (KUNA):** The prior oversight of Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) regarding a number of topics, studied and researched between April 1 and September 30, resulted in achieving financial savings of a total of KD seven million (about USD 22.6 million) to the public treasury, said Kuwait's State Audit Bureau (SAB) Tuesday.

In a press statement, Marwa Al-Rashidi, an official at SAB prior oversight department, said the bureau gave opinions on 1,793 topics, worth KD 2.5 billion (about USD 8.1 billion) during the above-mentioned period.

About 85 percent of the total topics issued at that period represented in the ones submitted by the government ministries and departments estimated at KD 2.37 billion (about USD 7.6 billion), she added.

The number of the Ministry of Health's issues was the highest reaching 762 estimated at KD 770 million (about USD 2.4 billion) she said.

The SAB didn't accept the documents of 595 issues, worth about KD 486 million (about USD 1.5 billion), as they did not abide by the SAB's regulations, she pointed out.

## O leadership ...

Continued from Page 1

All this is happening in Kuwait because there is an insistence on backwardness. That is why we saw that the project to transform Kuwait into a global financial and commercial center, for which the year 2035 was set, was prepared but the current government announced about delaying that plan to the year 2040. After a few years, it will be delayed to the year 2045, and perhaps it will be further delayed until the third millennium because Kuwait lives on slogans.

That is why we fear that the fate of the agreements that were concluded during the visit of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China will be the same as any other because of the corrupt people, the partisan interests that control the National Assembly, and the ministers' fear of taking action.

That is why we say explicitly: O leaders of Kuwait, the state needs a revolution of laws that will destroy all the wear and tear that caused our delay; laws that will put things right. This is your mission. Otherwise, Kuwait will continue to move against the time, as is our situation today."

## Kuwait deports

Continued from Page 1

In this context, the sources affirmed that the Deportation Department, under the correctional institutions, deported around 3,848 expatriates of both genders in August of this year on charges related to their violation of the country's regulations and laws.

They also highlighted that security campaigns against violators of the residency law are ongoing in all governorates, urging citizens and residents not to harbor runaway workers with pending cases.

## Private sector

Continued from Page 1

Following a meeting of the National Committee for Demographic Adjustment and Labor Market Development, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled stressed the imperative to make progress in realizing the goals outlined in the executive regulations of the Demographics Law. These regulations are designed to serve the best interests of Kuwait and its citizens. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for expeditious implementation of all projects that contribute to the creation of employment opportunities for Kuwaiti youth. This statement was issued by the Security Relations and Media Department.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled expressed his appreciation for the dedication and efforts of the National Committee members who are actively addressing demographic imbalances and labor market challenges within the State of Kuwait. He expressed hope for their success in fulfilling their responsibilities.

During their meeting, the Committee deliberated upon the current state of the population structure, the challenges it confronts, and strategies for labor market development to enhance job prospects for the youth. They also discussed methods to strike a balance among various sectors and ensure the sus-

tainability of their efforts.

The Committee conducted a thorough review of the latest economic and social developments, assessing their impact on demographic composition and labor market requirements. They also explored mechanisms for enhancing vocational education and training to ensure that educational outcomes align with the evolving demands of the labor market.

It is worth noting that the Council of Ministers had previously endorsed the formation of this committee on May 8th. The committee, chaired by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, also included representatives from several government agencies.

## 'Red flags'

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker said the "out-of-the-box" idea of Dr. Buqamaz was to cover the local agents in order for them to obtain the utmost benefit away from the monitoring of the National Assembly and the relevant monitoring institutions.

She concluded by warning that if the minister does not tell the truth about those companies and if she signed the contracts before responding to her questions, she would deal with the minister according to an "out-of-the-box" idea but under the Constitutional umbrella.

In another development, MP Muhammad Hayef held a press conference in his diwaneya during which he affirmed that cooperation with the government is linked to the way it deals with urgent issues like the execution of the Amiri amnesty issued by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to cover all beneficiaries, as well as the cooperation of the government in solving the issue of those convicted of participating in the tribal by-elections.

MP Hayef explained that some of the beneficiaries of the Amiri amnesty have not restored their withdrawn citizenships yet, despite the fact that a long time has passed since the issuance of the Amiri amnesty based on the recommendations of the relevant committee formed by the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and headed by the former Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid and former National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim.

He wondered why most of the beneficiaries of the amnesty who have been convicted of storing weapons and attempting to collapse the ruling regime have been released but those convicted of minor crimes such as sharing posts on social media have not yet been freed.

MP Hayef stressed the need for the government to finalise this issue before the start of the upcoming parliamentary session scheduled on October 31, 2023.

He said the amnesty is aimed to address the consequences of the political positions taken in 2012 including the collection of donations for Syrian citizens, despite the fact that the donations have been collected clearly and under the supervision and with the permission of the government.

The current government adopted an unprecedented attitude in terms of punishing those convicted of participating in by-elections with the toughest penalty, i.e., two-year imprisonment. No politician in any other country is or has been punished in this manner.



# October

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Talent Test 2023 winners with KTMCC Executive Committee.

## Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish crowned as overall champions

# Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation conducts Talent Test 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Kuwait Town Malayalee Christian Congregation (KTMCC) conducted the Talent Test 2023 on Thursday, 28th September 2023.

The event started off with the inauguration of the meeting by Pr. Prince Ranni in the NECK. Later, more than 20 various programs were conducted in various halls of the NECK simultaneously.

The competitions were divided into three categories on the basis of age. Churches of the Mar Thoma, CSI, Brethren, Evangelical & Pentecostal, hailing from NECK and St. Pauls Ahmadi, participated in the event.

Over 500 participants from various churches took part in the mega event. Solo singing, group song, elocution, short story, instrumental music, essay writing, bible quiz, drawing, photography were the items that were contested for in the event.

KTMCC also published a supplement for the Talent Test. The Supplement Coordinator, Mr. George Varghese presented the first supplement to Mr. Joseph M. P.

The closing ceremony of the Talent Test started at 2 in the afternoon. All the winners of all items were awarded with trophies in this ceremony.

Mr. Saju Vazhayil Thomas (KT-

MCC President) presided over the meeting. The closing ceremony was inaugurated by Rev. A. T. Zachariah (Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish Vicar).

Speeches & felicitations were given by Mr. Roy K. Yohannan (Talent Test General Convenor), Mr. Shibu V. Sam (General Coordinator), Mr. Deepak Philip Thomas (Program Coordinator), Mr. Reju Daniel John (KTMCC Secretary), Mr. Vinod Kurien (KTMCC Treasurer), Mr. Ajosh Mathew, Rev. Sajan George & Rev. Sandeep Oommen.

The Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish bagged the first position in the group song competition.

The joint second & third positions were bagged by the Kuwait St. Peters CSI Church, Little Flock Church and the Brethren Assembly Kuwait respectively.

The Kuwait City Mar Thoma Parish were crowned as the Overall Champions of the Talent Test 2023. While Kuwait St. Peters CSI Church became the 1st runners up, the Church of God Ahmadi Church bagged the 2nd runners up.

The Talent Test consisted of a committee of over 100 volunteers who worked tirelessly for the grand success of the event under the leadership of the KTMCC Executive Committee.



Alumni and friends pose for a group photo during the homecoming dinner.

## American University of Beirut, Kuwait Chapter holds homecoming dinner

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: A dinner was held at Maki Restaurant, where alumni and friends attended. The event was kicked off by a speech presented by Dr. Samer Al Rayyes, the president of the committee, on the American University's role in education and how it has been raising generations for the past 150 years. In addition, he presented the committee's upcoming activities to promote a family like atmosphere among alumnus and friends.

Furthermore, the ambiance was set by classy saxophones music and delicious cuisine prepared by Maki's team.



Photos during the American University of Beirut, Kuwait Chapter's homecoming dinner.

## Folk music, dancing acts and special concert highlight event

# Idukki Association Kuwait holds 'Ponnonam 2023'



Photos during the 'Ponnonam 2023' organized by the Idukki Association Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The Idukki Association Kuwait held 'Ponnonam 2023,' a major event associated with the national festival of Kerala Onam. Mr. Vinod Kumar, country head of the Joy Alukkas Group, opened the public gathering by speaking about the significance of Onam. Mrs. Hadeel B. Buqrais, a Kuwait HRD official and notable human rights campaigner, attended the ceremony with her husband, Mr. Abdullah. She expressed her delight at being a part of this event and called for further cultural contact between the Indian and Kuwaiti populations.

Mrs. Vineetha Ouseppachan, Chairperson of the Women's Forum, Mr. Shiju Babu, Program Coordinator, IAK Senior Members Jiji Matthew, Tom Edayodikkal, Vinod Kumar, and Asianet Representative Nixon George delivered a felicitation address. Jobins Joseph, IAK President, presided over the gathering. Martin P. Chacko, General Secretary, delivered the opening speech. Ouseppachan's "Maveli" roll was appreciated by everyone. Chenda Melom, Thalappoli, folk music, dancing acts, and a special concert by Kalabhavan Nasseb were among the highlights of the event, which was sponsored by the Women's Forum. Uma Thomas, MLA for Trikkakara, also attended the occasion. She emphasized her strong attachment to the people of Idukki. Abin Thomas, the program's organizer, proposed a vote of thankfulness.

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## World News Roundup

## Europe

## Bloc united

## EU rejects doubts over commitment to Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 3, (AP): The European Union's foreign policy chief on Monday led a delegation of top diplomats on an unannounced visit to Kyiv and dismissed concerns about political tension in the bloc over its long-term support for Ukraine's fight against Russia.

Though largely symbolic, the informal meeting between EU and Ukrainian diplomats demonstrated the EU's "clear commitment" to Ukraine in its 19-month-long war, **Josep Borrell** said.

"The EU remains united in its support to Ukraine... I don't see any member state folding on their engagement," Borrell told a news conference in the Ukrainian capital.

The gathering was the first time EU foreign ministers have met outside the bloc - and in a war zone, according to Borrell.

The talks took place after the weekend election victory in EU member Slovakia of former Prime Minister Robert Fico, whose pro-Russian agenda has increased the question marks about the EU's continued support for Kyiv.

The small eastern European country could bring more tension to the EU's discussions on Ukraine, as has happened with Hungary's at-times cool attitude toward Kyiv. Budapest has maintained close relations with Moscow and argued against supplying arms to Ukraine or providing it with economic assistance. Slovakia operates a key rail line used to transport western military hardware to Ukraine.



Borrell

## Provided

The EU, the United States and the United Kingdom have provided massive military and financial support to Ukraine, enabling it to stand up to the Kremlin's attack. The assistance is crucial for Ukraine's weakened economy and has so far been open-ended.

But uncertainty has set in over how long Kyiv's allies will keep sending aid worth billions of dollars (euros).

US President Joe Biden on Sunday reassured allies of continued US financial support for the war effort, after Congress averted a government shutdown by adopting a short-term funding package that dropped assistance for Ukraine in its battle against Russia.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Monday that Biden had rallied more than 140 countries to condemn Russia's invasion and built a coalition of more than 50 countries to provide aid to Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russia's finances are deteriorating in part over sanctions.

"There is a strong, very strong international coalition behind Ukraine," Jean-Pierre said. And if Russian President Vladimir Putin "thinks he can outlast us, he's wrong."

Many US lawmakers acknowledge that winning approval for Ukraine assistance in Congress is growing more difficult as the war grinds on.

Borrell, at his news conference, insisted the EU is devoted to "sustained engagement" with Ukraine. "Our resolve... is firm and will continue," he said.

He ticked off a list of ongoing commitments the 27-nation EU has made and hopes to make, including proposed military aid of 5 billion euros (\$5.3 billion) next year, a target to train some 40,000 Ukrainian troops and possible joint arms industry ventures between EU and Ukrainian defense companies.

Other signs of the EU's commitment include help with cyber defense, a demining program to enable Ukraine's postwar recovery and the reform of Ukrainian law enforcement to crack down on corruption, Borrell said.

## Security

But the EU's "strongest security commitment" for Ukraine is to grant it membership of the bloc, he said.

Ukraine is bent on becoming a member of the EU, and EU officials have encouraged that course, even though it could take years amid a war of attrition with no end in sight.

"With every village, with every meter that Ukraine liberates, with every meter in which it rescues its people, it is also paving its way to the European Union," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told reporters in Kyiv.

"Both Ukraine and the European side are determined to move forward at maximum speed, taking into account all the reforms that Ukraine has carried out, is currently carrying out and will continue to implement," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Kuleba also offered reassurances about the country's allies after the UACongress left Ukraine aid out of its funding package.

Kuleba told reporters that Ukraine held discussions with representatives of both parties in Congress to ensure more help will arrive.

"The decision was taken as it was, but we are now working with both sides of the Congress to make sure that it does not repeat again under any circumstances," Kuleba said.

"The question is whether what happens in the US Congress last weekend is an incident or a system. I think it was an incident," he added.

Kuleba said he also urged the foreign ministers "to provide maximum support to their defense companies in building cooperation with Ukrainian defense companies."

Such cooperation recently became a frequent topic in the talks between Ukraine and its partners.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that he did not doubt that Washington "will continue to be directly involved in the conflict."

At the same time, Putin is wagering that international support for Kyiv will sooner or later begin to flag. Peskov said the fatigue will eventually bring "fragmentation" of Ukraine's foreign assistance.

UK Defense Secretary Grant Shapps insisted Monday that the U.S. was "a long way" from withdrawing its support from Ukraine, and he reaffirmed the British commitment.

## Also:

**YEREVAN, Armenia:** The Armenian parliament on Tuesday voted to join the International Criminal Court, which earlier this year indicted Russian President **Vladimir Putin** for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine.

The move is likely to further strain Armenia's deteriorating relation with its ally Russia, which last month called Yerevan's push to join the ICC an "unfriendly step."

Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute that created the ICC are bound to arrest Putin if he sets foot on their soil.



Britain's Prince William, and Kate, the Princess of Wales, meet with schoolchildren ahead of a visit to the Grange Pavilion in Cardiff, south Wales on Oct 3, where they met with members from the Windrush Cymru Elders, Black History Cymru 365 and the Ethnic Minority Youth Forum for Wales, to learn about the contribution the Windrush generation made to the Welsh community. (AP)

## Politics

## Ex-president seeks to capitalize on his legal woes

## Trump turns fraud trial into campaign stop

NEW YORK, Oct 3, (AP): After a fiery first day of opening arguments, lawyers in Donald Trump's business fraud trial in New York were to move on Tuesday to the more plodding task of going through years of his financial documents in what's expected to be a weekslong fight over whether they constitute proof of fraud.

An accountant who prepared Trump's financial statements for years was expected to be back on the witness stand for a second day.

Trump, who spent a full day Monday as an angry spectator at the civil trial, was contemplating a return to court as well.

After denouncing the judge and New York's attorney general, who brought the lawsuit, Trump said in a courtroom hallway that he "may" be back for a second day, though he noted, "I'd love to be campaigning instead of doing this."

## Misstated

The trial is the culmination of a lawsuit in which Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, has accused Trump of deceiving banks, insurers and others for years by giving them papers that misstated the value of his assets.

Judge Arthur Engoron already delivered an early victory to James, ruling that Trump committed fraud by exaggerating the size of his penthouse at Trump Tower, claiming his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida was worth as much as \$739 million, and putting similar oversized valuations on office towers, golf courses and other assets.

The non-jury trial concerns six remaining claims in the lawsuit, and how much Trump might owe in penalties. James is seeking \$250 million and a ban on Trump doing business in New York. The judge has already ruled that some of Trump's limited liability companies should be dissolved as punishment.

During the trial's first day, Kevin Wallace, a lawyer for the attorney general, told the judge that Trump and his company had lied "year after year after year" in his financial statements to make him look richer than he really was.

Trump's lawyers said the statements were legitimate representations of the worth of unique luxury properties,

## Rep Gaetz files motion to oust McCarthy as US House speaker

WASHINGTON, Oct 3, (AP): US Speaker Kevin McCarthy is facing an extraordinary referendum on his leadership of the House after a conservative member of his own Republican majority, a longtime critic, moved to launch a vote to oust him from the helm.

Late Monday, Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., rose in the chamber as the House was almost done for the day to file the motion - a resolution that would set a snap vote in coming days that even Gaetz acknowledged may not have enough support to remove the speaker from the job.

"I have enough Republicans where at this point next week, one of two things will happen: Kevin McCarthy won't be the speaker of the House or he'll be the speaker of the House working at the pleasure of the Democrats," Gaetz told reporters afterward outside the Capitol.

McCarthy responded minutes later on social media, "Bring it on."

Gaetz soon retorted in a post, "Just did."

It's a historic moment: the first time in more than 100 years that a lawmaker may actually force a vote using the legislative tool that has been threatened against other House speakers, including in 2015, but never fully employed to try to remove them.

The bold strike to confront McCarthy carries potentially dire ramifications if enough lawmakers decide to remove his hold on the gavel, but also for Gaetz if it fizzles out. It also puts on stark display the warring factions that have roiled the Republican majority this year in the House and beyond.

So far, despite the deep divides over McCarthy's leadership, only a handful of hard-right Republicans have signaled they are willing to vote to remove him. Others who have aligned with Gaetz on spending cuts or other priorities are parting ways with him on this one.

made even more valuable because of their association with Trump. "That is not fraud. That is real estate," attorney Alina Habba said.

After staying away from a previous trial, in which his company and one of his top executives was convicted of tax fraud, Trump spent hours sitting in court watching Monday's opening statements, emerging several times to tell reporters that the trial was "a sham" intended to hurt his election prospects.

Visibly angry for much of the day, Trump left claiming he'd scored a victory, pointing to comments that he viewed as the judge coming around to the defense view that most of the allegations in the lawsuit are barred by the state's statute of imitations.

After the first witness, Mazars LLP partner Donald Bender, testified at length about Trump's 2011 financial

statement, Judge Engoron questioned whether it might have been a waste of his time, because any fraud in the document would be beyond the legal time limit. Wallace promised to link it to a more recent loan agreement, but Trump took the judge's remarks as an "outstanding" development for him.

Bender's testimony was to resume Tuesday. The trial is expected to last into December.

The scene was much like the one that has played out over and over since the spring as Trump has reported to courthouses and a local jail to be processed in four criminal indictments. Once again, reporters waited in line overnight to snag seats in the courtroom; news helicopters tracked his motorcade journey from Trump Tower to the courthouse in lower Manhattan; and cable networks carried the spectacle live on TV.

him and appearing to slam him face first onto the ground after he was handcuffed.

Waters and Mike Shell, his assistant chief for public accountability, told a news conference that the officers knew Woods had once been accused of murder, was on probation for armed robbery and had been connected to firearms and drug trafficking when they gave chase to him Friday after a traffic stop. (AP)

## Hunter Biden returns to court:

Hunter Biden was due back in a Delaware courtroom Tuesday, where he's expected to plead not guilty to federal firearms charges that emerged after his earlier deal collapsed.

The president's son is facing charges that he lied about his drug use in October 2018 on a form to buy a gun that he kept for about 11 days.

He's acknowledged struggling with an addiction to crack cocaine during that period, but his lawyers have said he didn't break the law. Gun charges like these are rare, and an appeals court has found the ban on drug users having guns violates the Second Amendment under new Supreme Court standards.

Hunter Biden's attorneys are suggesting that prosecutors bowed to pressure by Republicans who have insisted the president's son got a sweetheart deal, and the charges were the result of political pressure. (AP)



US Rep Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., (left), one of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's harshest critics, answers questions from members of the media after speaking on the House floor, at the Capitol in Washington on Oct 2. (AP)



Sena



Cuellar

## America

**Cuellar carjacked at gunpoint:** US Rep **Henry Cuellar**, D-Texas, was carjacked Monday night by three armed attackers, his office said.

Cuellar's chief of staff Jacob Hochberg released a statement saying: "As Congressman Cuellar was parking his car this evening, 3 armed assailants approached the Congressman and stole his vehicle. Luckily, he was not harmed and is working with local law enforcement."

Hochberg said police recovered Cuellar's vehicle. The Washington Post reported that the robbery happened at 9:30 p.m. at New Jersey Avenue and K Street SE in Washington's Navy Yard area, about a mile from the U.S. Capitol.

Monday's incident was the second assault on a member of Congress in the District of Columbia this year. In February, Democratic Rep. Angie Craig of Minnesota was assaulted in her Washington apartment building, suffering bruises while escaping serious injury. Her chief of staff said the attack did not appear to be politically motivated. (AP)

**Missing 9-year-old found safe:** A 9-year-old girl who vanished during a family camping trip in upstate New York was "safe and in good health" Monday after a massive two-day search ended with her rescue and the arrest of a person suspected in her abduction, police said.

**Charlotte Sena** disappeared while riding her bike early Saturday evening at Moreau Lake State Park, a heavily wooded area some 35 miles (60 kilometers) north of Albany.

Gov. Kathy Hochul said Monday night during a news conference that investigators were able to identify a fingerprint from a ransom note allegedly left by the suspect she identified as Craig Nelson Ross Jr., 47. "What happened was extraordinary," she said.

She said while the rest of Charlotte's family remained at the campground where she had gone missing, police watching their home saw someone drop a note in their mailbox at 4:20 a.m. Monday. (AP)

## Officers justified in beating man:

A Florida sheriff released body camera video Monday that he says shows his officers were justified when they repeatedly punched, elbowed and kned a drug suspect who appeared to resist arrest even after being zapped with a stun gun and

pinned to the ground.

The suspect's attorney, meanwhile, is calling for a federal investigation of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and accused

Sheriff T.K. Waters of a coverup. Friday's arrest of Le'Keian Woods drew national attention after the release of a passerby's cellphone video showing officers beating



Queen Rania of Jordan, (right), shakes hands with center manager Pauline Kersten after a visit to meet refugees at the Conway Education Centre as she attends the One Young World Summit at Conway Mill in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Oct 3. (AP)



## Haiti

## Bid to fight gangs

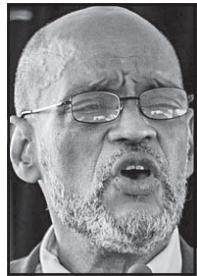
## UN approves deploying Kenya-led force to Haiti

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Oct. 3, (AP) — The UN Security Council voted Monday to send a multinational armed force led by Kenya to Haiti to help combat violent gangs, marking the first time in almost 20 years that a force would be deployed to the troubled Caribbean nation.

The resolution drafted by the United States and Ecuador was approved with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions from China and the Russian Federation.

The resolution authorizes the force to deploy for one year, with a review after nine months. The non-UN mission would be funded by voluntary contributions, with the US pledging up to \$200 million.

The vote was held nearly a year after Haiti's prime minister requested the immediate deployment of an armed force, which is expected to quell a surge in gang violence and restore security so Haiti can hold long-delayed elections. Haiti's National Police has struggled in its fight against gangs with only about 10,000 active officers in a country of more than 11 million people.



Henry

"More than just a simple vote, this is in fact an expression of solidarity with a population in distress," said Jean Victor Génésus, Haiti's foreign affairs minister. "It's a glimmer of hope for the people who have been suffering for too long."

A deployment date has not been set, although UN Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently said a security mission to Haiti could deploy "in months."

## Agreed

Kenyan Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Mutua said last week that the force could deploy within two to three months, or possibly early January. He also noted that key officers are being taught French.

Hours after the vote, Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry thanked the UN Security Council, the UN's secretary general and Kenya and other countries who agreed to join the force, saying, "The bell of liberation sounded. ... We couldn't wait any longer!"

It wasn't immediately clear how big the force would be. Kenya's government has previously proposed sending 1,000 police officers. In addition, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda have pledged to send personnel.

Vassily Nebenzia, the Russian Federation's UN ambassador, said he did not have any objections in principle to the resolution, but that sending an armed force to a country even at its request "is an extreme measure that must be thought through."

He said multiple requests for details including the use of force and when it would be withdrawn "went unanswered" and criticized what he said was a rushed decision. "Authorizing another use of force in Haiti ... is short-sighted" without the details sought by the Russian Federation, he said.

China's UN ambassador, Zhang Jun, said he hopes countries leading the mission will hold in-depth consultations with Haitian officials on the deployment and explained his opposition to the resolution.

"Without a legitimate, effective, and responsible government in place, any external support can hardly have any lasting effects," he said, adding that a consensus for a transition is urgently needed as well as a "feasible and credible" timetable. "Regrettably, the resolution just adopted fails to send the strongest signal in that regard."

Génésus said he's grateful the resolution was approved because a foreign armed force is essential, but noted that it's "not enough."

## Problems

"Socioeconomic development must be taken into account to take care of extreme poverty," he said, adding that it is the source of many of Haiti's problems and has created fertile ground for the recruitment of young people by gangs.

About 60% of Haiti's more than 11 million people earn less than \$2 a day, with poverty deepening further in recent years as inflation spikes.

The deployment of an armed force is expected to restore peace and security to Haiti so it can hold long-awaited general elections that have been repeatedly promised by Prime Minister Ariel Henry after the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Haiti lost its last democratically elected institution in January after the terms of 10 remaining senators expired, leaving not a single lawmaker in the country's House or Senate. Henry has been ruling the country with the backing of the international community.

The president of the U.N. Security Council, Brazil's Sérgio França, noted that without a Haitian political solution based on free, transparent and fair elections, "no ... aid will guarantee lasting success."

International intervention in Haiti has a complicated history. A U.N.-approved stabilization mission to Haiti that started in June 2004 was marred by a sexual abuse scandal and the introduction of cholera, which killed nearly 10,000 people. The mission ended in October 2017.

The resolution approved Monday warns that mission leaders must take measures to prevent abuse and sexual exploitation as well as adopt wastewater management and other environmental controls to prevent water-borne diseases, such as cholera.

But concerns remain.

Critics of the Kenyan-led mission have noted that police in the east Africa country have long been accused of using torture, deadly force and other abuses. Top Kenyan officials visited Haiti in August as part of a reconnaissance mission as the US worked on a draft of the resolution.

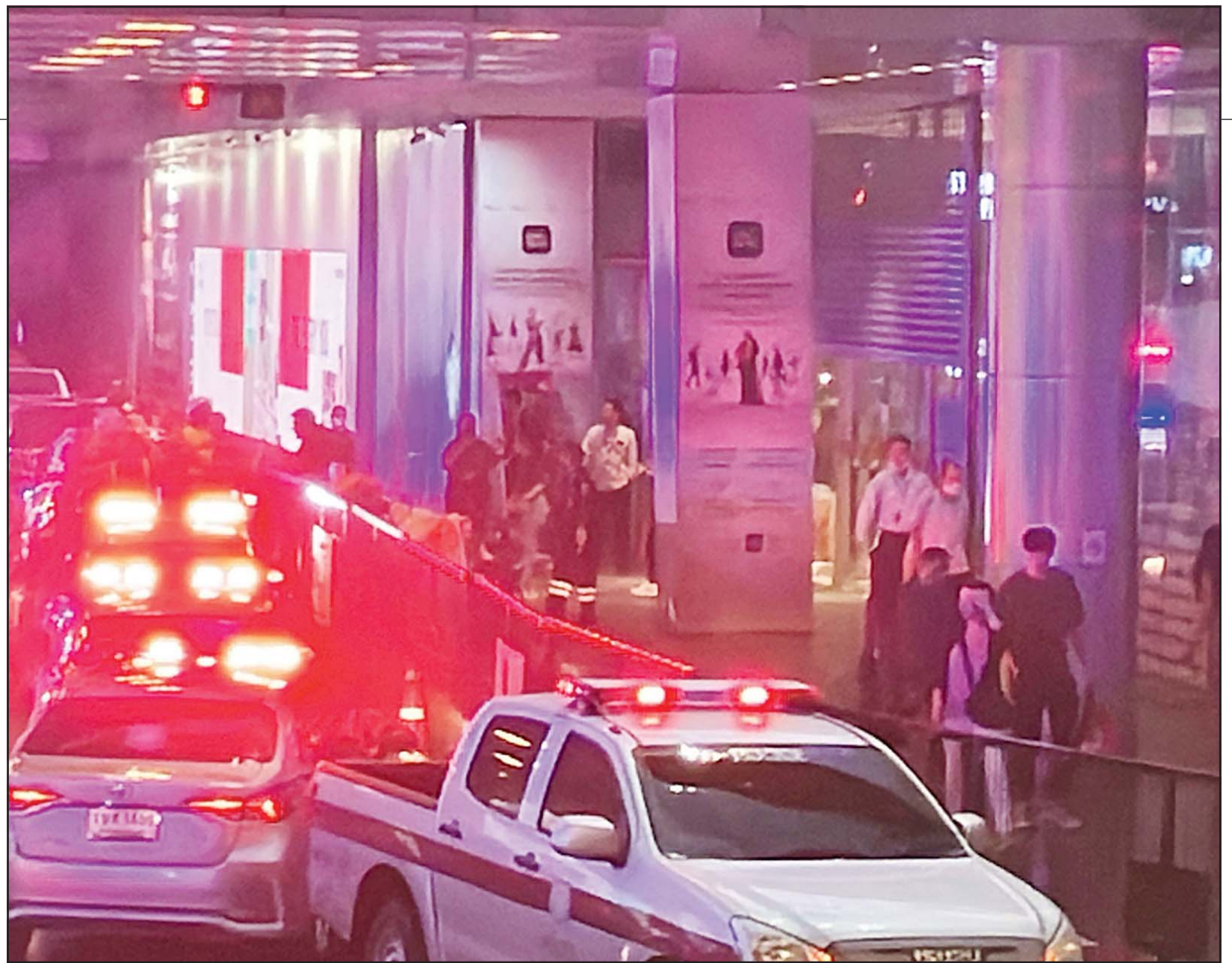
Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the UN, told reporters that the resolution contains strong accountability and vetting language and that she's confident Kenya will be able to carry out the mission.

"I can assure you the US will engage on these issues very, very aggressively," she said. "We've learned from mistakes of the past."

Monday's vote comes nearly a year after Haiti's prime minister and 18 top government officials requested the immediate deployment of a foreign armed force as the government struggled to control gangs amid a surge in killings, rapes and kidnappings.

From Jan. 1 until Aug. 15, more than 2,400 people in Haiti were reported killed, more than 950 kidnapped and another 902 injured, according to the most recent U.N. statistics. More than 200,000 others have lost their homes as rival gangs pillage communities and fight to control more territory.

"We have taken an important step today, but our work to support the people of Haiti is not done," he said.



Ambulances wait outside an exit of the Siam Paragon Mall in Bangkok while shoppers rush out Oct. 3. Hundreds of shoppers fled the major shopping mall on Tuesday afternoon after what sounded like gunshots were heard inside. (AP)

## Asia

## Suspect in police custody

## 2 dead in Bangkok shopping mall shooting

BANGKOK, Oct. 3, (AP) — A shooter opened fire inside a major shopping mall in the center of Thailand's capital Tuesday afternoon, killing at least two people before being apprehended, authorities said.

Police said a suspect was taken into custody less than an hour after the first reported gunshots at the Siam Paragon Mall, long been seen as one of Bangkok's biggest and most upscale shopping destinations. Video uploaded to social media and broadcast on television showed a long-haired teenage boy in the custody of police. Major Thai media said he was 14 years old, though recently appointed police chief Torsak Sukvimol confirmed only that he is a minor and appeared to be suffering from mental illness.

Torsak said two people had been killed, a visitor from China and a Myanmar national. Earlier, Yuthana Sreththan, director of Bangkok's Erawan Emergency Medical Center, had said three people were killed and six were injured. There was no explanation of the discrepancy, though Yuthana later supported the police number.

Police spokesman Archayon Kraithong told reporters the situation was under control at the mall, which sells high-end fashions and luxury cars, and includes a cinema, an aquarium and the attached five-star Siam Kempinski Hotel.

Prime Minister Sreththa Thavisin told reporters that he was informed by police that one of the dead was a Chinese tourist about 30 years old.

"I would like to express my deepest condolences to the family of the deceased following the shooting inside Siam Paragon," Sreththa, who took office in August, said in an earlier statement. "I would like to give my moral support to the families of all who died and were injured."

Gun violence is not uncommon in Thailand, though mass shootings are rare.

The incident happened days before Thais were planning to mark the anniversary of the country's biggest mass killing by an individual, a grisly gun and knife attack at a rural day care center in a northeastern province that killed 36

people, most of them preschoolers, on Oct. 6, 2022.

Tuesday's shooting prompted authorities to temporarily shut access to the nearby Siam Square elevated train stop, preventing commuters from exiting as the evening rush hour began and intense rain pounded the city, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene.

First responders could be seen entering the mall as sirens wailed outside.

Witnesses said crowds of people left the building, one of several shopping centers in the area popular with tourists and well-heeled Thais alike.

Chinese tourist Liu Shiyang told the AP that she saw people running and saying someone had opened fire. She said she heard gunshots and an alarm ringing, and that the lights in the mall went out.

"We're temporarily hiding. Who dares to go out?" she said while taking cover. She was later able to leave.

## Scary

Gautam Vora, 45, an Indian national who works in finance in Bangkok, was at the mall with his wife and child. He said it was "quite scary," even though he was initially unsure whether he had heard gunshots or "somebody playing a hoax with some firecrackers."

"Everybody was screaming and running," he said. "There was a lot of chaos and that was almost like a stampede."

"I don't think they were well prepared for this," he added. "I think most of the staff inside the shopping mall were confused and they were running helter-skelter, too."

Multiple videos uploaded to social media showed people running out of the building, and several showed a person dressed in a baseball cap, dark shirt and camouflage pants inside the mall, holding a handgun. A video believed to be of the shooter after his arrest showed a long-haired boy wearing glasses dressed like that, with an American flag on his cap. Videos and photos also showed the pistol he was said to have been carrying before he was disarmed.

Taiwan issued a weather alert on Tuesday as Typhoon Koinu is approaching and may make landfall later

this week, bringing gales and downpours to the southeastern parts of the island.

The weather bureau put out a land warning on Tuesday after issuing a sea alert late Monday. Koinu was moving northwest with sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph) near its center, according to the bureau.

Forecasters expected it to bring strong winds and downpours to southern and eastern parts of Taiwan early Wednesday and potentially make landfall in the southeastern part of the island on Thursday.

Beaches in Kenting National Park, in the southern tip of Taiwan, were closed to the public on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the local authorities in the southeastern Taitung County listed several coastal and mountainous areas as potential hazard zones.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo launched on Monday Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway, which was a delayed multibillion-dollar project backed by China under the government of Xi Jinping.

During the launching ceremony held at the central station in Jakarta, Widodo hailed the project as "a symbol of our modernization".

With a top speed of 350 kilometers (220 miles) per hour, the bullet train "Whoosh" can get between the capital Jakarta and Bandung in 45 minutes, the 140 km journey would previously have taken about three hours by train, he added.

The name "Whoosh" was actually an acronym, standing for a tagline of "Saving time, optimal operation, and reliable system", the President noted.

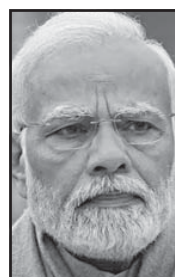
Widodo said the 600-capacity train was the first high-speed rail transportation in Southeast Asia.

It was built by PT KCIC, which is made up of four Indonesian state companies and Beijing's China Railway International Co.

The project was initially set to cost less than USD 5 billion and be completed by 2019, however, delays caused by construction challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic led to a surge in costs.



Armed members of 'G9 and Family' march in protest against Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Sept. 19. (AP)



Modi



Trudeau

## Subcontinent

**'Remove 41 diplomats':** India has told Canada to remove 41 of its 62 diplomats in the country, an official familiar with the matter said Tuesday, ramping up a confrontation over Canadian accusations that India may have been involved in the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in suburban Vancouver.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly ahead of public reaction from the Canadian government later Tuesday. The official confirmed an earlier report from the Financial Times.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said there were "credible allegations" of Indian involvement in the slaying of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 45-year-old Sikh leader who was killed by masked gunmen in June in Surrey, outside Vancouver.

For years, India has said Nijjar, a Canadian citizen born in India, has links to terrorism, an allegation Nijjar denied. (AP)

**Indian journalists targeted:** Indian police raided the offices of a news website that's under investigation for allegedly receiving funds from China, as well as the homes of several of its journalists, in what critics described as an attack on one of India's few remaining independent news outlets.

The raids came months after Indian authorities searched the BBC's New Delhi and Mumbai offices over accusations of tax evasion in February.

NewsClick, founded in 2009, is known as a rare Indian news outlet willing to criticize Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A number of other news organizations have been investigated for financial impropriety under Modi's Hindu nationalist government, as international monitors warn that press freedom is eroding in India.

Indian authorities registered a case against the site and its journalists on Aug. 17, weeks after a New York Times report alleged that the website had received funds from an American millionaire who, the Times wrote, has funded the spread of "Chinese propaganda." NewsClick has denied the charges.

The case was filed under a wide-ranging anti-terrorism law that allows charges for "anti-national activities" and has been used against activists, journalists and critics of Modi, some of whom have spent years in jail before going to trial. No one has been arrested in connection with NewsClick so far.



Founder and Editor-in-Chief of NewsClick Prabir Purkayastha is brought to Delhi Police Special Cell in New Delhi, India on Oct. 3. Indian police raided the offices of the news website that's under investigation for allegedly receiving funds from China, as well as the homes of several of its journalists, in what critics described as an attack on one of India's few remaining independent news outlets. (AP)

Two people, including NewsClick's editor in chief, were detained during the raids, and police carried away boxes of documents.

At least two journalists whose houses were raided by Delhi police said their devices were seized.

"Delhi police landed at my home. Tak-

ing away my laptop and phone," journalist Abhisar Sharma wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. (AP)

**2 quakes hit Nepal:** Two earthquakes struck northwestern Nepal on Tuesday, sending tremors through the region, the country's earthquake monitoring center said.

Several houses were reportedly damaged in Bajhang district but there were no immediate reports of any casualties, the district's chief administrator Narayan Pandey said.

A key highway connecting the district to neighboring areas was blocked by a landslide triggered by the earthquake, he said, adding it was difficult to send machinery to clear the path due to aftershocks.

One man was slightly hurt after a water tank fell off the roof of his house and he was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Most of the houses in the sparsely populated mountainous region are one or two stories, and there are no big buildings.

Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring & Research Center said the epicenter for both quakes, with initial magnitudes measuring 5.3 followed by 6.3, was Bajhang district in northwestern Nepal, close to the Indian border.

Tremors were also felt in the Indian capital, New Delhi. (AP)



### oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down USD 1.79 to USD 96.11 per barrel on Monday in contrast with USD 97.90 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The same occurred to the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate at the global markets with the first going down by USD 1.49 to USD 90.71 per barrel and the latter by USD 1.97 to USD 88.82 pb. (KUNA)

### dollar stable

The exchange rate of US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.309 on Tuesday, while the euro went down 0.94 percent to reach KD 0.323, compared to Monday's rates.

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin on Tuesday that the exchange rate of the sterling pound went down 0.92 percent to reach KD 0.373, the Swiss franc went down 0.32 percent standing at KD 0.336 and the Japanese yen was stable at KD 0.002. (KUNA)

### OPEC to launch World Oil Outlook '23 in Riyadh

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced that it will launch 17th edition of its World Oil Outlook (WOO) on Monday, October 9, in Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh.

Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman will be participating as special guest of honor, mentioned OPEC-released statement.

OPEC Secretary General, Haitham Al-Ghais, will deliver the opening remarks, followed by a video outlining the publication's key messages.

The launch will also feature a panel discussion, and a questions and answers session with management and analysts from the OPEC Secretariat's Research Division.

First published in 2007, WOO is one of the Organization's flagship publications. It provides an in-depth review and analysis of the global oil and energy industries, and offers assessments of various scenarios in the medium- and long-term development of the oil sector.

WOO also offers insights into related key issues, including supply and demand, investment, the potential impact of policies and sustainable development, and a detailed analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing the global oil and energy industries. Secretary General Al-Ghais stated, "WOO demonstrates OPEC's long-standing commitment to market stability through knowledge sharing and data transparency," reported the statement. (KUNA)

### Market Movements

03-10-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
UAE - DFM	+18.70	4,201.84	SAUDI - Tadawul	-53.60	10,952.34
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+1.46	6,305.99	JAPAN - Nikkei	-521.94	31,237.94
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+70.44	46,734.02	EGYPT - EGX 30	-194.28	19,706.96

# Business

### As part of bank's continuous support of 'Let's Be Aware' campaign

## KIB spreads banking culture and raises financial awareness at Avenues Mall

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has recently returned to the Avenues Mall with a new booth to continue raising financial and banking awareness among different segments of society. This comes in support of the Let's Be Aware "Diraya" campaign, which was launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in cooperation with the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). The step is also in line with the goals of KIB's social responsibility program, which is focused on spreading financial literacy and introducing all customers to various banking issues.

Commenting on the occasion, Mariam Al-Nasser, Area Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, said: "The Bank's booth at the Avenues Mall witnessed a heavy turnout of visitors. Our representatives were keen on providing detailed information about the banking and financing services KIB offers. They also shed light on the products that suit each visitor and



Mariam Al-Nasser, Area Manager of Retail Banking at KIB

different digital solutions they can get. In addition, they discussed all campaigns and promotions available for customers

to get the most out of what KIB has to offer. Most importantly, they raised awareness around the safe usage of banking cards, apps, and various electronic channels, warning against financial fraud methods that have been on the rise."

Al-Nasser pointed out that KIB strives to take advantage of all opportunities provided to communicate directly with its customers. She asserted the Bank's keenness to choose strategic locations, such as the Avenues, to organize its awareness events and activities, due to the presence of most segments of society, which contributes to achieving the Bank's goals under such initiatives.

It is worth noting that KIB is committed to understanding its customers' banking needs and fulfilling them in accordance with their modern lifestyles. The Bank constantly aims to enhance the technologies of the products and financing services it offers as part of its retail banking segment.



KIB's booth at Avenues Mall

## Kuwaiti investments surge by KD 137.27 million in 9 months

Investors demonstrate increase interest

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The latest market trading volume statistics, categorized by nationality, have revealed significant trends in investments during the first nine months of 2023. Kuwaiti investors demonstrated increased interest, with their investments growing by 137.27 million dinars over this period, and a noteworthy surge of 21.27 million dinars in September alone.

Specifically, individual Kuwaiti traders increased their investments by 41.15 million dinars, while Kuwaiti institutions and companies contributed to the growth with a substantial 131.38 million dinars. However, Kuwaiti investment funds experienced a decrease of 7.09 million dinars, and client portfolio investments fell by 28.16 million dinars.

On the other hand, Gulf investments encountered a decline of 136.63 million dinars over nine months, with an additional drop of 18.79 million dinars in September. Gulf individuals displayed increased investments totaling 12.368 million dinars during this nine-month period, but Gulf institutions and companies witnessed a significant decline of 145.18 million dinars. Gulf investment funds also faced a decrease of 3.89 million dinars, while client portfolio investments increased by 70.1 thousand dinars.

In contrast, foreign investments took a different path, declining by 641.8 thousand dinars since the beginning of the year, with a further decrease of 2.483 million dinars in September. Foreign individuals reduced their investments by 613 thousand dinars over nine months. On the flip side, foreign institutions and companies increased their investments by 4.6 million dinars, while foreign investment funds added 4.67 million dinars to their portfolios.

Additionally, there were changes in the number of active trading accounts on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange. Active trading accounts increased by 6.1% from the start of 2023, rising from 17,702 accounts in December to 18,790 accounts by the end of September, with a monthly increase of 2.5%. Nevertheless, compared to September 2022 when there were 19,590 accounts, there was a 4.1% decline on an annual basis.

Dormant accounts increased by 0.95% during the first nine months of 2023, reaching 402.89 thousand accounts by the end of September. On a monthly basis, dormant accounts increased slightly by 0.06%, whereas on an annual basis, there was a 1.8% increase compared to September 2022 when there were 395.6 thousand accounts. Active Kuwaiti accounts in September totaled approximately 17.07 thousand accounts, compared to 16.63 thousand in August, and dormant Kuwaiti accounts increased marginally from 381.52 to 381.73 thousand accounts.



SFD CEO Sultan Al-Marshad and Seychelles government officials inaugurate the 33 KV Transmission Network Project (Photo: AETOSWire)

### Lighting up South Mahe Island's future

## Saudi Fund for Development inaugurates 33 KV Transmission Network in Seychelles

VICTORIA, Seychelles, Oct 3, (Business Wire): In the presence of the President of the Republic of Seychelles, H.E. Wavel Ramkalayan; The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Chief Executive Officer, H.E. Sultan Al-Marshad, officially inaugurated today in Seychelles, the 33 KV Transmission Network of South Mahe Island Project, with the Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment of Seychelles, Hon. Flavien P Joubert. Attending the inauguration ceremony were the Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles, Mr. Ahmed Afif, alongside other Ministers, the designated representative of BADEA, and government officials from each side.

SFD had previously made a contribution of \$20 million USD towards this project, aimed at improving the electricity distribution network in the southern part of South Mahe Island to ensure a reliable supply of electric power for the population, and support activities across important sectors of the economy.

This project will play a vital role in improving the lives

of the people of South Mahe. It will provide affordable electricity to thousands of households and businesses, boosting economic activity, and creating new jobs. It will also support the public health and education sectors, creating a more sustainable future for the island.

This project contributes towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 7, which calls for universal access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy.

The Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment of Seychelles, Hon. Flavien P Joubert, said: "We are grateful to the SFD for their generous support in funding this project. Their contribution has been instrumental in modernizing our electricity infrastructure and improving the reliability and efficiency of our electricity transmission and distribution network. We look forward to continuing our partnership with international development funds as we work towards our goal of providing Seychelles with a more sustainable and prosperous future."

## IFC expertise available for Kuwaiti public and private sectors: official

By Suleiman Redha

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3, (KUNA): The International Finance Corporation's (IFC) expertise is readily available and can be rendered to the Kuwait public and private sectors to boost their cooperation and achieve the state's comprehensive development plan, said an official on Tuesday.

Speaking to KUNA, Hela Cheikhrouhou -- Regional Vice President, Middle East, Central Asia, Turkiye, Afghanistan, and Pakistan -- said her visit to Kuwait mainly aimed at exploring venues of cooperation with the private sector and identifying the capabilities of Kuwaiti companies to enter the emerging market.

Cheikhrouhou stressed that it is important to bolster cooperation between the public and private sectors in Kuwait, revealing that she would be



Hela Cheikhrouhou, Regional Vice President, Middle East, Central Asia, Turkiye, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

meeting with several officials from the government and private entities during her visit.

Cheikhrouhou reiterated that the IFC

was a pioneer in public and private sectors partnerships, generating USD 46 billion since 2004 to better services to some 150 million individuals globally.

The IFC had previously worked on projects with the Kuwaiti private sector, she revealed.

The IFC official added that the corporation had worked with Kuwait's Zain telecommunication company on four projects in Iraq and Malawi, providing financial facilities worth USD 261 million and earning USD 414 million through the network expansion projects.

The IFC had worked with several countries in the region, pointed out Cheikhrouhou, revealing that the corporation worked with Jordan last March and invested in "green bonds" in cooperation with the Jordan Kuwait Bank (JKB) to fund environmental friendly projects in the kingdom.

### The Conversation

#### Drawing parallels

How lessons from 'nanotechnology' can shape future of AI development

By Andrew Maynard, Arizona State University and Sean Dudley, Arizona State University

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

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Twenty years ago, nanotechnology was the artificial intelligence of its time. The specific details of these technologies are, of course, a world apart. But the challenges of ensuring each technology's responsible and beneficial development are surprisingly alike. Nanotechnology, which is technologies at the scale of individual atoms and molecules, even carried its own existential risk in the form of "gray goo."

As potentially transformative AI-based technologies continue to emerge and gain traction, though, it is not clear that people in the artificial intelligence field are applying the lessons learned from nanotechnology.

As scholars of the future of innovation, we explore these parallels in a new commentary in the journal Nature Nanotechnology. The commentary also looks at how a lack of engagement with a diverse community of experts and stakeholders threatens AI's long-term success.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, nanotechnology transitioned from a radical and somewhat fringe idea to mainstream acceptance. The U.S. government and other administrations around the world ramped up investment in what was claimed to be "the next industrial revolution." Government experts made compelling arguments for how, in the words of a foundational report from the U.S. National Science and Technology Council, "shaping the world atom by atom" would positively transform economies, the environment and lives.

#### Public pushback

But there was a problem. On the heels of public pushback against genetically modified crops, together with lessons learned from recombinant DNA and the Human Genome Project, people in the nanotechnology field had growing concerns that there could be a similar backlash against nanotechnology if it were handled poorly.

These concerns were well grounded. In the early days of nanotechnology, nonprofit organizations such as the ETC Group, Friends of the Earth and others strenuously objected to claims that this type of technology was safe, that there would be minimal downsides and that experts and developers knew what they were doing. The era saw public protests against nanotechnology and - disturbingly - even a bombing campaign by environmental extremists that targeted nanotechnology researchers.

Just as with AI today, there were concerns about the effect on jobs as a new wave of skills and automation swept away established career paths. Also foreshadowing current AI concerns,

worries about existential risks began to emerge, notably the possibility of self-replicating "nanobots" converting all matter on Earth into copies of themselves, resulting in a planet-encompassing "gray goo." This particular scenario was even highlighted by Sun Microsystems co-founder Bill Joy in a prominent article in Wired magazine.

Many of the potential risks associated with nanotechnology, though, were less speculative. Just as there's a growing focus on more immediate risks associated with AI in the present, the early 2000s saw an emphasis on examining tangible challenges related to ensuring the safe and responsible development of nanotechnology. These included potential health and environmental impacts, social and ethical issues, regulation and governance, and a growing need for public and stakeholder collaboration.

#### Complex landscape

The result was a profoundly complex landscape around nanotechnology development that promised incredible advances yet was rife with uncertainty and the risk of losing public trust if things went wrong.

One of us - Andrew Maynard - was at the forefront of addressing the potential risks of nanotechnology in the early 2000s as a researcher, co-chair of the interagency Nanotechnology Environmental and Health Implications working group and chief science adviser to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Project on Emerging Technology.

At the time, working on responsible nanotechnology development felt like playing whack-a-mole with the health, environment, social and governance challenges presented by the technology. For every solution, there seemed to be a new problem.

Yet, through engaging with a wide array of experts and stakeholders - many of whom were not authorities on nanotechnology but who brought critical perspectives and insights to the table - the field produced initiatives that laid the foundation for nanotechnology to thrive. This included multistakeholder partnerships, consensus standards, and initiatives spearheaded by global bodies such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

As a result, many of the technologies people rely on today are underpinned by advances in nanoscale science and engineering. Even some of the advances in AI rely on nanotechnology-based hardware.

In the U.S., much of this collaborative work was spearheaded by the cross-agency National Nanotechnology Initiative. In the early 2000s, the initiative brought together representatives from across the government to better understand the risks and benefits of nanotechnology. (AP)



### Commercial Bank of Kuwait names winners in 'YOU Account' Draw

Commercial Bank conducted the "YOU Account" draw on Sunday October 1, 2023 in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry as represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The Bank's social media channels lively covered the draw where the prizes of the draw, namely KD 250 for each winner went to:

1. Yousef Faisal Al-Asmawi
2. Farah Saud Al-Azmi

YOU Account is designated for the youth who transfer their monthly social allowance to Commercial Bank of Kuwait. Youths who opt for YOU Account can avail a package of benefits upon opening the account by depositing KD 10 only and get KD 50 gift upon transferring the social allowance to Al-Tijari.

Further, YOU Account gives customers chances to enter monthly and

yearly draws to win valuable prizes. Apart from the above, customers aged 18 and above will get a free of charge pre-paid card for one year when opening the account. CBK youth segment can avail the discounts and promotions offered throughout the year. Moreover, new customers who transfer their social allowance will get two chances to enter the monthly draw to win KD 250 cash prize.



CBK-YOU Account draw visual

### Needy countries beyond Europe to potentially benefit

## Ukraine, Poland & Lithuania reach deal to expedite grain exports

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 3, (AP): Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania have agreed on a plan they hope will help expedite Ukrainian grain exports, officials said Tuesday, with needy countries beyond Europe potentially benefiting from speedier procedures.

The deal means that grain inspections will shift from the Ukraine-Poland border to a Lithuanian port on the Baltic Sea, according to a statement from the Ukrainian farm ministry.

The move seeks to facilitate the transit of Ukrainian exports through Polish territory, the statement said, without providing further details.

From the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda, where the inspections for pests and plant diseases will take place from Wednesday, the grain can be exported by sea around the world.

While the stated goal is to hasten Ukrainian grain exports, the agreement may also help defuse tensions over grain prices between Ukraine and Poland a time when some international support for Kyiv's efforts to throw back Rus-

sia's invasion may be fraying.

Agricultural exports have brought one of the biggest threats to European unity for Ukraine since Russia invaded.

Russia dealt a huge blow by withdrawing in July from a wartime agreement that ensured safe passage for Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea. That has left more expensive overland routes through Europe as the main path for Ukraine's exports.

Farmers in nearby countries have been upset that Ukraine's food products have flooded their local markets, pushing prices down and hurting their livelihoods. Sealed freight has helped combat that problem, and sending Ukrainian grain straight to the Lithuanian port may also be an answer.

Poland, Hungary and Slovakia announced bans on local imports of Ukrainian food after a European Union embargo ended in mid-September. Ukraine filed a complaint soon afterward with the World Trade Organization as the spat worsened.

The EU countries said they would keep allowing those products to move through their borders to parts of the world where people are going hungry.

Ukraine is a major global supplier of wheat, barley, corn and vegetable oil and has struggled since Russia's invasion to get its food products to parts of the world in need.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian air defenses intercepted 29 out of 31 Shahed drones and one Iskander-K cruise missile launched over Ukraine early Tuesday morning, Ukraine's air force reported.

The attack was targeted at Ukraine's eastern Dnipropetrovsk region and the Mykolaiv region of southern Ukraine, it said. No injuries were reported but an industrial facility was damaged.

Ukraine's presidential office said Tuesday that at least two civilians were killed and 14 were wounded over the previous 24 hours.

The greatest number of casualties occurred in the south, where the Russian army shelled the regional capital Kherson nine times, it said.

## Global green industry leaders unite at Eco Expo Asia 2023

HONG KONG, Oct 3, (Business Wire): Eco Expo Asia 2023, jointly organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd and co-organised by the Environment and Ecology Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, will launch from 26 - 29 October in AsiaWorld-Expo in Hong Kong, with the online matching services "Click2Match" available from 19 October to 6 November.

Global Green Industry Leaders Unite at Eco Expo Asia 2023 (Photo: Business Wire)

Under the theme of "Green Future", the show aims to gather prominent figures from Mainland China and the global environmental industry to promote concepts such as carbon reduction, the circular economy and new energy. This is with the ultimate goal of transforming Hong Kong into an international hub for green technology and finance. In addition to the returning exhibition groups from Canada and Japan, several new groups from Mainland China will mark their debut participation.

Eco Expo Asia has gathered strong support from the Greater Bay Area, with the participation of the new Macao SAR and Zhongshan pavilions, as well as a hydrogen pavilion composed of Hong Kong companies. This, with the return of the Guangzhou and Shenzhen pavilions, will help to

reinstate the role of Hong Kong in catalysing inter-cooperation within this thriving megalopolis. Other new pavilions from Mainland China include those from Jiangsu and Hunan provinces, as well as the city of Shanghai, with leading players in renewable energy, hydrogen, green finance and more. This year's expo also attracts the leading players in green industries from around the world, with confirmed participation from 11 countries and regions.

The annual is a not-to-be-missed part. Heavyweight speakers will share their views and insights on hot topics, including the "Climate Change Framework for Built Environment", "Evolving ESG Landscape and the Future of Sustainable Finance" and circular digital technologies. Other highlights include the "C40 Climate Action Seminar (Asia and Oceania Regions)", the Hong Kong Government related session and the "Building a Zero Waste Bay Area" launch ceremony, highlighting the GBA's commitment to carbon neutrality.

The expo will open its doors to the public on the last day to promote green living, visitors can participate in environmental workshops, seminar, green mart and the debut ESG Job Hub.

Register Now for Your FREE e-Badge - <https://tinyurl.com/2p8942h8>



[www.ecoexpoasia.com](http://www.ecoexpoasia.com)

## Facebook & Instagram users in Europe could get ad-free subscription option

LONDON, Oct 3, (AP): Meta plans to give Facebook and Instagram users in Europe the option of paying for ad-free versions of the social media platforms as a way to comply with the continent's strict data privacy rules, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday.

The company wants to charge users about 10 euros (\$10.50) a month to use Instagram or Facebook without ads on desktop browsers, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed people familiar with the proposal. Adding more accounts would cost 6 euros each.

Prices for mobile would be higher, at roughly 13 euros a month, because Meta needs to account for commissions charged by the Apple and Google app stores on in-app payments, the newspaper said.

Meta reportedly is hoping to roll out paid subscriptions in the coming months as a way to comply with European Union data privacy rules that threaten its lucrative business model of showing personalized ads to users.

Meta would give users the choice between continuing to use the platforms with ads or paying for the ad-free version, the WSJ said.

"Meta believes in the value of free services which are supported by personalized ads," the company said in a statement to The Associated Press. "However, we continue to explore options to ensure we comply with evolving regulatory requirements. We have nothing further to share at this time."

The EU's top court said in July that Meta must first get consent before showing ads to users - a ruling that jeopardizes the company's ability to make money by tailoring advertisements for individual users based on their online interests and digital activity.

It's not clear if EU regulators will sign off on the plan or insist that the company offer cheaper versions. The newspaper said one issue regulators have is whether the proposed fees will be too expensive for most people who don't want to be targeted by ads.



A view of the mobile phone app logos for, from left, Facebook and Instagram in New York, Oct. 5, 2021. Meta plans to give European Facebook and Instagram users the option of paying for ad-free versions of the social media services as a way to comply with the continent's data privacy rules, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday, Oct 3, 2023. (AP)

NEW DELHI, Oct 3, (AP): South Asia is expected to grow by 5.8% this year, making it the fastest-growing region in the world even as the pace remains below pre-pandemic levels, the World Bank said on Tuesday.

The latest South Asia Development Update from the World Bank projected growth in the region to slow slightly to 5.6% in 2024 and 2025, as post-pandemic rebounds fade and reduced global demand weighs on economic activity.

At almost 6% this year, the region is growing faster than all other emerging markets, said Franziska Ohnsorge, the organization's chief economist for South Asia.

"While high inflation and interest rates have bogged down many emerging markets, South Asia seems to be forging ahead," the World Bank noted in its report.

Still, "for all of the countries here this represents a slowdown from pre-pandemic levels," Ohnsorge said, adding that the growth wasn't fast enough to meet various development goals set by countries in the region.

Despite the progress, the region still has a long way to go, the report said. Per capita incomes in South Asia are around \$2,000 - one-fifth of the level in East Asia and the Pacific region. The current growth rates, while high, are not sufficient for South Asian nations to achieve high-income status within a generation, it said. Additionally, the growth is not necessarily equal.

India, which accounts for most

World's fastest-growing region on the horizon

# South Asia is expected to grow by nearly 6% this yr

## Malaysia bank reiterates economic resilience

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3, (KUNA): The Malaysian economy remains resilient and will continue to be supportive moving into 2024, anchored by domestic activities, said Malaysia's Central Bank Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour on Tuesday.

Ghaffour made the remark in his speech at the 13th International Conference on Financial Crime and Terrorism Financing (IFCTF) themed: "Trust Reinvented: Building a Sustainable Culture of Integrity, Transparency and Accountability".

He said labor market conditions, particularly employment and wages, had continued to improve, supporting households'

ability to spend.

"Meanwhile, investments by the private and public sectors remain forthcoming, and these factors will continue to support the economy in 2024" he said, adding that the economy would also benefit from a gradual recovery in the tech cycle, and a rebound in external demand.

The governor noted that Malaysia, fortunately, does not face a severe inflation challenge such as in other economies, and core inflation continued to ease to 2.5 percent in August this year, in line with the lower global commodity prices and improving supply and demand conditions.

"We expect inflation to con-

tinue to trend lower, in line with slowing momentum of price increases. We will continue to monitor potential risks to the outlook, arising mainly from changes to domestic policy on fuel subsidies," Ghaffour added.

Held on 2-4 October at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, the 13th International Conference on Financial Crime and Terrorism Financing (IFCTF) featured insightful discussions and lively debates covering the complexities of financial crime today, the use of latest technologies transforming the landscape, and key aspects of integrity, transparency, and accountability.

of the regional economy, is set to remain robust with 6.3% growth in the 2023-24 fiscal year, while others like Maldives and Nepal are also expected to grow thanks to a rebound in tourism.

But things are bleaker in other countries. Bangladesh's growth may slow to 5.6%, while projections for Pakistan's growth -only 1.7% - are below the rate of its population growth, the World Bank said. Sri Lanka, whose economy collapsed last year, is recovering slowly from a severe recession, but the IMF last week held off from releasing a second tranche of a funding package after concluding that the country had failed to make enough progress in economic reforms.

The World Bank said another concern was that government debt in South Asian countries averaged 86% of GDP in 2022, which is higher than other emerging markets. It added the

high debt could increase the risk of defaults and raise borrowing costs.

The region's economic outlook could also be affected by the slowdown in China's economy and is vulnerable to further shocks from natural disasters, which have become more frequent and intense due to climate change, the report said.

Ohnsorge said that governments in South Asia could improve fiscal conditions by seizing on opportunities for energy transition, which could create jobs, reduce reliance on energy imports and cut pollution levels.

"Almost one-tenth of the region's workers are employed in pollution-intensive jobs," many of which are concentrated among informal and lower-skilled workers who are more vulnerable to changes in the labor market, the World Bank said. The region currently lags behind others in adopting energy-efficient

technologies and creating more green jobs, Ohnsorge added.

The World Bank on Tuesday also released its latest India Development Update, which found that despite a challenging global economic environment, India was one of the fastest-growing major economies in the previous fiscal year at 7.2%. This put it as the second highest among the Group of 20 countries and was almost twice the average for emerging market economies, it said.

With global challenges expected to continue on the back of high interest rates, geopolitical tensions and sluggish global demand, overall economic growth is likely to slow in the medium-term. The World Bank forecasts India's GDP growth for the current fiscal year to be 6.3%, attributing it mainly to external factors and waning pent-up demand after the COVID-19 pandemic.

## AVEVA achieves AWS Energy Competency status

LONDON, Oct 3, (Business Wire): AVEVA, a global leader in industrial software, driving digital transformation and sustainability, announced that it has achieved Amazon Web Services (AWS) Energy Competency status. The distinction recognizes AVEVA's expertise in helping customers leverage AWS' cloud technology to transform complex industrial systems and accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future.

AVEVA is one of just seven companies to hold the AWS Energy Competency Status for New Energies, out of more than 7,000 listed AWS Partners.

"Together, AVEVA and AWS help enable the transformation of the industrial sector by delivering differentiated, innovative software solutions that accelerate the energy transition. AWS Energy Competency status indicates how the combination of the agility, innovation and breadth of service capabilities combined with AVEVA's broad portfolio of industrial SaaS solu-

tions can enable businesses to become more connected, resilient and agile on the road to achieving a low-carbon future."

AWS Energy Competency Status underscores AVEVA's proven customer success in developing solutions across the value chain - from the production design and build phase, to asset operations and optimization, including for new energy solutions. To receive the designation, AWS Partners undergo a rigorous technical validation process, including a customer reference audit.

AWS enables scalable, flexible, and cost-effective solutions from startups to global enterprises. To support the seamless integration and deployment of these solutions, AWS established the AWS Competency Program to help customers identify AWS Partners with deep industry experience and expertise.

Digital tools available today could contribute up to 20% of the reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions needed to hit the

2050 net-zero trajectories laid out by the International Energy Agency (IEA) for the energy, materials and mobility industries. AVEVA delivers purpose-built industrial software solutions that help enterprises across industries to manage energy demand, optimize enterprise operations, and track and measure emissions. On the supply side, AVEVA solutions support the expansion of the entire energy system, helping low-carbon pioneers to reduce the cost of technologies at the demonstration or prototype phase, such as clean hydrogen and carbon capture at scale.

Customers such as Veolia Water, which is a global leader in water and wastewater treatment facilities and systems for industrial clients and public authorities, managed to achieve 20% improvement in IT agility and freed-up resources by using AVEVA engineering solutions and AWS cloud. Their insight times were cut from 1 week to 24 hours and the tender response time reduced from 24 days to 24 hours.

AVEVA is a global leader in industrial software, sparking ingenuity to drive responsible use of the world's resources. The company's secure industrial cloud platform and applications enable businesses to harness the power of their information and improve collaboration with customers, suppliers and partners.

More than 20,000 enterprises in more than 100 countries rely on AVEVA to help them deliver life's essentials: safe and reliable energy, food, medicines, infrastructure and more. By connecting people with trusted information and AI-enriched insights, AVEVA enables teams to engineer efficiently and optimize operations, driving growth and sustainability.

AVEVA supports customers with open solutions and the expertise of more than 6,400 employees, 5,000 partners and 5,700 certified developers. With operations around the globe, AVEVA is headquartered in Cambridge, UK. Learn more at [www.aveva.com](http://www.aveva.com)





Ahmed Al Mutawa

**'Warba' announces winners of 'Al Sunbula' weekly draw**

Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait - announced the winners of the weekly Al Sunbula draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold weekly draws for ten winners of Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees. Each of the 10 lucky winners of the Sunbula weekly draw of Warba Bank received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Faisal Abdullah Ali Al-Kandari, Mohammad Duweiri Jiyal Al-Anezi, Tahani Abdul Aziz Al-Dosari, Abdul Rasul Abdullah, Ibtisam Mutlaq Mohammad Al-Zamil, Ibrahim Salem Ibrahim Al-Salem, Abdul Aziz Safdar Aziz, Jefferson Sigwa Karan, Khaled

Mohammad Ghannam Al-Sahli, and Hamoud Saleh Ghanem Al-Khalidi. As for the Sunbula account, it is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their accounts at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout the year. Regarding the conditions, Mr. Ahmed M. Al-Mutawa, Area Manager Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and major draws, and the client still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw,

and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances to win". Notably Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, "Customer Onboarding", in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank's website without the need to visit any of the Bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

# Zain showcases digital corporate comms strategy



Zain Digital PR Forum 2023

Company sponsored Kuwait PR Association's Digital PR Forum

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Zain recently sponsored the Digital PR Forum, an informative event organized by the Kuwait Public Relations Association at the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). The forum gathered notable consultants, academics, and experts from the PR and media fields, and came under support from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and under the patronage of Kuwait PR Association's Honorary President Sheikh Khalid Al Abdullah Al Sabah.**

Zain's support to this forum came to affirm the company's active participation in academic and cultural gatherings that enrich various experiences and offer the public an opportunity to enhance their expertise in public relations, corporate comms, and media. These fast-moving industries were hugely impacted by the tech revolution and the accelerated development in technologies like AI, something the forum has tackled in great detail.

During the event, Zain joined a special panel to discuss digital corporate communications strategies and the emerging challenges organizations face in light of advancements in modern technologies. Maryam Al Musallam, Sponsorships and Events Team Leader at Zain Kuwait's Corporate Affairs and Relations Division, showcased the company's digital corpo-

rate comms strategy, and introduced its core pillars to the audience. During the panel, Al Musallam shed more light on the core pillars on which Zain's corporate comms strategy centers around: building and



Zain Digital PR Forum 2023

maintaining corporate relations with internal and external audiences, having strong media relations and active social media engagement, focusing on corporate social responsibility and sustainability initiatives to give back to the community, and enriching entrepreneurship and innovation in the community.

Through its continuous social presence, Zain reaches out to the community's most vibrant sectors, including sports and youth, education and culture, the environment and sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship, charitable and humanitarian efforts, national initiatives, diversity and inclusion programs, and more.

The company's comprehensive corporate comms strategy serves a number of goals, like connecting with members of the community, delivering Zain's vision and corporate values, solidifying its brand presence, outlining a comprehensive crisis management plan, maintaining relations with the media, and more.

The Digital PR Forum aimed at exploring the latest trends and challenges of digital public relations, while working to introduce digital-ready workflows and recommendations for governmental and private institutions to help them better communicate with their audiences.

The event featured four insightful sessions, attended by media students and PR professionals. The first session, Managing PR Crises, was presented by Yousef Kazem, the official spokesman of the Kuwait Government's unified e-services app, Sahel. The second session, Recent Global Trends in PR and Media, was presented by Dr. Ali Dashti, professor of PR and Media at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST).

The third session, Managing Your Digital Reputation, was presented by Khalid Al Khulaifi, certified trainer and PR & media consultant. The fourth session, Modern Methods for Organizing Activities and Events, was presented by Jamal Al Nasrullah, Chairman of the Kuwait Public Relations Association.

Zaheb affirms KFH's technological development

## KFH launches Zaheb digital platform for e-payment solutions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched the "Zaheb" digital platform for merchants and owners of medium and small enterprises as part of its efforts to enhance technology, digital transformation and improve service level.

The Zaheb platform is specialized in providing innovative payment and acceptance of payment methods (invoice link, QR code payment). This step is in line with KFH's dedication to offering the best innovative payment solutions, promote financial inclusion and facilitate secure and swift transfer of funds in the market.

KFH Executive Manager Credit and Charge Card Products, Talal AlArbeed, said that the Zaheb platform targets merchant customers and owners of SMEs in order to contribute to the development of



Talal AlArbeed

their businesses and attract them to the regulated banking market. The latest advancements in financial transactions worldwide can be

achieved through this new service, which aims to enhance e-payment methods, increase security, and ensure faster processing.

AlArbeed added that the new service affirms KFH's commitment to digital development, catering to different customer segments and meeting their interests and aspirations in line with global standards.

AlArbeed explained that Zaheb platform offers to local merchants the utmost cutting-edge payment solutions across various fields of business, taking into consideration the different sales systems and customer preferences.

He stressed KFH's keenness to provide its customers, merchants, and business owners of small, medium, and large companies, with the best services in line with advanced retail services, es-

pecially in the field of electronic payment.

He pointed out that the services in the platform include: "Invoice Link" for individuals and groups, which enables merchants to generate invoice links to be shared with their customers via e-mail or SMS, and the "QR code payment", where merchants can generate dynamic or static QR code that customers can scan to pay them directly using their debit or credit card.

The "Zaheb" platform provides its services to all business owners from SMEs and large enterprises operating in accordance with Shari'a and having a current account in KFH. The new service is expected to meet a large part of e-payments that have recently increased in demand and become a priority in companies' sales strategies.

Excellence in Learning in Flow of Work

## Burgan Bank receives the Brandon Hall Silver Award

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: In recognition of its learning and development efforts, Burgan Bank announced receiving the prestigious Brandon Hall Human Capital Management (HCM) Excellence Silver Award for its outstanding application in the "Learning and Development - Learning in the Flow of Work" category. The 2023 Brandon Hall Group HCM Excellence Awards™ recognizes the best corporate human resources (HR) efforts and initiatives across several key areas of practice, including learning and development, talent management, leadership development, talent acquisition, sales performance, diversity, equity and inclusion, and the future of work. This award, which Burgan received for its pioneering adoption of the novel "Learning in the Flow of Work" approach to Learning and Development, serves as a testament to the Bank's relentless pursuit of excellence and its dedication to fostering a culture of continuous innovation in learning.

Commenting on Burgan's latest recognition, Mr. Fadel Abdullah, Acting CEO - Burgan Kuwait, said: "We are thrilled and honored to receive the Silver Award for Learning and Development, which underscores our commitment to nurturing a culture of continuous growth and dynamic development, as well as our dedication to an expansive learning model that empowers our employees to thrive in a rapidly changing industry. Our Learning and Talent Development Department collaborated with IQAD Learning Solutions Company which showcases what can be achieved when creative, progressive minds come together." Abdullah further noted that the award attests to Burgan Bank's dedication to its employees' growth as well as its pursuit of progress and excellence. In order to create a seamless learning and development experience for all Burgan staff, the Bank has adopted the "Learning in the Flow of Work" progressive methods, which successfully bridge the gap between learning and work. Under this approach, employees can integrate professional development seamlessly into their daily tasks, enabling them to



Fadel Al Abdullah

acquire new skills and knowledge organically and proficiently.

Burgan Bank took a holistic and expansive approach to building its award-winning learning and development programs that combine human capital development and digital transformation with the Bank's overarching business goals and strategy. This learning model, which builds on the concept of "bite-size" learning, was selected for its efficiency in balancing experiential learning, social learning, and formal training, allowing Burgan Bank to elevate its human capital investment to new heights.

To ensure fairness and integrity of the award, a panel of veteran, independent senior industry experts, Brandon Hall Group analysts, and executives evaluates all Excellence Award entries on a set of criteria, which includes the learning and development program's alignment to the entity's business needs and environment, in addition to the program design, functionality, and delivery. Other factors that entries are judged on include adoption, integration, user experience, innovation, and creativity, as well as overall effectiveness, impact, and measurable benefits.

Upholding its commitment to human capital development, Burgan Bank continues to innovate new channels and platforms that streamline growth and development for all employees across the Bank's functions.

## ABK announces its upcoming Alfouz Annual Grand Draw event

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated annual Alfouz account grand draw event that will take place on Friday, 6 October 2023 at The Avenues - Phase 2 at 7:30 p.m.

This exciting day promises to be filled with engaging activities and entertainment, leading up to the long-awaited announcement of the grand draw winner of a KD 5,000 monthly salary for 10 years.

In addition to the grand prize, Alfouz offers a series of other worthwhile draws that make banking with ABK even more rewarding. Customers stand a chance to win an impressive KD 10,000 in weekly draws, an attractive KD 20,000 in monthly draws, and an outstanding KD 100,000 in quarterly draws.

Johair Marafi, Acting General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, encouraged everyone to join

the Bank in this event, saying, "We are excited to announce the Alfouz grand draw winner. This event encapsulates our commitment to rewarding our customers and providing them with exceptional banking experiences. We invite everyone to participate and celebrate with us."

Mark your calendars for Friday, 6 October at The Avenues - Phase 2, for a fun day and to witness the thrill of the lucky Alfouz winner announcement.

Since its establishment in 1967, ABK has progressed to become one of the leading Kuwaiti banks in the region that offers a wide array of personal, corporate, and private banking products and services. ABK also provides a broad range of local, regional, and global investment solutions and services through its subsidiary, ABK Capital.

Across the region, the Bank offers individuals and corporates the

convenience of comprehensive banking and financial services in the Egyptian market through ABK-Egypt's network of 44 branches.

This is in addition to ABK's three branches located in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai Interna-



Ms. Johair Marafi

tional Financial Centre (DIFC) in the United Arab Emirates, servicing both Kuwaiti and Emirati individual and corporate clients.

ABK is a strong supporter of Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association's 'Let's Be Aware' awareness campaign. Through its various initiatives, the Bank aims to promote financial inclusion by educating Kuwaiti society about customer rights, responsibilities, and the different types of banking and special needs services. Additionally, ABK consistently provides strategic information on how to avoid banking and financial fraud, loan application requirements, digital services, and more.

For more information about ABK, please follow the Bank's Instagram account @abk\_kuwait, visit eahli.com, contact Ahlan Ahli 1 899 899 or visit one of the Bank's branches across Kuwait.



'Writing the book has been a very therapeutic experience'

# Actor Patrick Stewart looks back on his life in memoir

NEW YORK, Oct 3, (AP): Patrick Stewart, who famously played a "Star Trek" captain, has boldly gone where no one has gone before - into his past.

The actor spent much of the pandemic at his computer writing his memoir, and the result is out this fall, "Making It So," borrowing his catchphrase from "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

"My long-term memory is very strong. It only needed me to turn the key on day one for the door to be open and memory after memory after memory and sensation and sensation and feelings all came scuttling back," said Stewart, 83, in a Zoom interview from his Los Angeles home.

It is a remarkable story of a boy who grew up poor in the north of England, became a great Shakespearean stage actor and then a sci-fi movie icon aboard the USS Enterprise and the "X-Men" movie franchise.

He grew up without a toilet or a bathroom in his home, sold furniture as a young man, worked up the rungs of regional theater in England - including touring and crushing on Vivien Leigh - before a 14-year-run with the Royal Shakespeare Company and film and TV stardom in Los Angeles.

"It's been a very therapeutic experience," Stewart says in the interview of writing the book. "I know that my therapist is one of the people who is most looking forward to the book. I know I'm going to be hearing, 'Why didn't you tell me this?'"

If one shadow looms, it is that of Stewart's father, a former regimental sergeant major in the British Army who was prone to outbursts of repeated violence against his mother.

Stewart writes about how he and his older brother, Trevor, braced for nights when their dad came home drunk and angry. "Sometimes it was with an open hand, other times a closed fist. Always he aimed for her head."

Stewart wonders if the violence triggered his career. "The stage would prove to be a safe space, a refuge from real life in which I could inhabit another person, living in another place and time," he writes.

Other portraits emerge of people who were kind to Stewart along the way - Paul McCartney, Rod Steiger and Kirk Douglas - and some who were not: Director David Lynch was weird during the original "Dune" shoot and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry never liked the idea of Stewart piloting one of his starships.

## Honest

"I wanted to be honest, but I wanted to be so respectful and careful as well. That was the most challenging part of the experience: How much I should say. What should I not say?" says Stewart.

"It's almost guaranteed that someone is going to come out and say, 'How dare you? That's outrageous.' Well, I've brought it on myself. But I did take it very, very seriously."

One highlight is in 1966 when Stewart, preparing to play in "Hamlet," is given a one-hour tutorial by the late great director Peter Hall, considered the single most influential figure in modern British theater.

"When the hour was up and I looked at my book, there was nothing but notes scribbled into it," Stewart says. "I realized that he had opened up this text to me in ways that no one had ever done before."

Another is the grace with which he dealt with premature balding. Despite losing all his hair by 19, Stewart would audition with a hairpiece, remove it and then make his case: Two actors for the price of one.

Stewart dedicates the book to two key school teachers, who fed him a love of Shakespeare and prompted him toward acting. His adoration for Shakespeare would serve him well later in his 40s when he was asked to play Jean-Luc Picard, a 24th century starship commander.

"There is a formality to the way they speak and comport themselves that remind me of numerous Shakespearean situations I'd been in on-stage. I should play Jean-Luc, I realized, as if he were a character in 'Henry IV,' which is about brave men."

Later in life, Stewart has been exploring his sense of humor, whether dressing as a lobster or lending his voice to Seth MacFarlane animated shows. "People thought it would be fun to see me play against type," he writes.

Throughout the memoir, Stewart is as critical to himself as any other. Again and again, he admits to mistakes or being unnecessarily stiff, at one point calling himself a "pompous ass." Stewart describes his relationship with his children as "a work in progress."

"I needed to do better by the women with whom I was romantically involved," he writes in one section. "In a life chockablock with joy and success, my two failed marriages are my greatest regret."

Writing the book became "some of the happiest days of my life," he says, even though there are a few areas in the audiobook where he had to stop because he was crying.

Books

Variety



Chris Martin of Coldplay performs at the Rose Bowl, Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, in Pasadena, Calif. (AP)

Music

Jorja Smith to reintroduce herself on 'Falling or Flying'

## Coldplay brings empathy, Gomez on stage

PASADENA, Calif., Oct 3, (AP): In 2023, a Coldplay concert opens like a triumphant finale - LED wristbands flashing, confetti canons on overdrive, a singalong of 68,000 voices repeating "You've got a higher power," to match frontman Chris Martin's energy.

Flags representing attendees from Argentina, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Colombia, Venezuela, South Korea and Brazil were raised; children and the elderly sang along to familiar radio hits. Live music isn't church, but for two hours on Sunday night, the British band got close.

A short film on the conservation efforts of Coldplay's global stadium tour for their 2021 album "Music of the Spheres" previewed the band's North American tour closer at the Rose Bowl, just outside of Los Angeles. Then: an explosion of rainbow lighting effects, tie-dye orbs, and wholesome bits - for "Paradise," Martin asked the audience to engage in the "quietest singalong ever," chanting the title in a whisper.

In one moment, he participated in a gender reveal - a couple handed him an envelope, which he opened for the cameras - blue for boy. In another, he read some of the signs held high above heads in the crowd before inviting two girls from Mexico on stage to sing "Let Somebody Go." When he was handed a small stool, he joked, "We're the most popular soft rock band in the world and we can't afford a stool?"

"This song you've chosen, we used to play it a bit, but we, when we recorded it, we recorded it with Selena Gomez," Martin told the two girls. They sang together, before Gomez herself emerged from the stage below for her verse. Then, opener H.E.R. joined and played guitar - an unexpected surprise for a glorious final night.

Elsewhere, the virtuosity of the band was apparent. Drummer Will Champion sang while lead-

ing the percussion; guitarist Jonny Buckland and bassist Guy Berryman took turns playing keys and synths. For a band that formed 26 years ago, there was a sense that this was a full-circle moment - that they still remember those early days of cigarettes and writing together in small practice spaces, and that allows them the ability to see their future.

The overarching sentiment for the night, of course, was empathy. Martin ran around with a trans-inclusive rainbow pride flag and routinely reminded the audience that "everyone is an alien somewhere," as his graphic t-shirt read. Routinely, he spoke in Spanish and asked the audience to sing in Korean for the BTS collaboration, "My Universe."

At the end of the show: a killer series of singles, including "A Sky Full of Stars," "Fix You" and an acoustic encore of "Magic." Then, fireworks. There is a reason the band is beloved around the world - after the encore, Coldplay played the audience out with "Believe in Love," a welcome reminder.

Breaks are privileges awarded veteran acts, most often an effect of long-lasting relevancy. The opposite is also true: New acts are rarely given permission to take a beat, or risk slipping into obscurity. The horrible irony is that deadlines have never been muses for great art. The alternative is, of course, to say screw it all and work on your own timeline, likely as an independent artist. That's something Jorja Smith knows well.

Five years ago, the British musician released her debut LP, "Lost & Found," defining an era of R&B-pop-trip-hop. Or simply British soul, depending on who you ask - or which country you ask it in. Now she's released "Falling or Flying,"

an eclectic sophomore release built from the pieces of her past and present.

For it, Smith relocated to her hometown of Walsall, in the West Midlands of the UK, from London working largely with the local production duo DameDame. The grounding effects are immediate. These 16 tracks meander, but they never feel lost. Her revered ballads have a home here, like on "Broken is the man" and the slow burn "What if my heart beats faster?" (The latter will surely reprise early Amy Winehouse comparisons for Smith's rich, brassy tone. There are worse things to be compared to.)

In 2021, Smith dropped a short EP, "Be Right Back," to keep the loyalists satiated. At the time, she described it as a "waiting room" for this record that would inevitably follow. It certainly served that purpose.

On "Falling or Flying," surprises abound, from the Bombay Bicycle Club and the Kooks-inspired English-indie track "Go Go Go" to the glossy, soulful title track "Falling or Flying." Then there are the pop-punk riffs filtered through SZA, like on "Too many times," with echoes on "Backwards," before the string orchestral coda.

Collaborations are few and pointed: British rapper J Hus on "Feelings" and Jamaican reggae singer Lila Iké on "Greatest Gift," as well as a choir. Here, as before, as in every Jorja Smith record, even stripped-down production soars, like an R&B Radiohead, but it is her voice that enraptures.

Five years is a long time between a debut and sophomore release. "I like this world that I've just come into. And I'm still figuring things out. Always figuring things out," Smith said of releasing new music in the current era. "This is the first time I'm putting stuff out there that I can connect with right now." The outcome is transcendent.

NEW YORK: A documentary chronicling Beyoncé's just-concluded 39-city Renaissance World Tour will premiere in North American theaters Dec. 1, AMC Theaters announced Monday.

The film adds a second blockbuster from a music superstar to a fall slate of movies that's been slightly thinned out by the ongoing screen actors' strike. Like "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," which debuts Oct. 13, "Renaissance: A Film By Beyoncé" is being released directly by AMC, the movie theater chain, without studio involvement.

Tickets will start at \$22 plus tax. The film will run for a minimum of four weeks, AMC said.

Beyoncé's previous films include the acclaimed 2019 Netflix film "Homecoming," which captured her Coachella performance in 2018. In the deals with AMC, Beyoncé and Swift are both reported to be receiving at least 50% of ticket sales.

The film charts Beyoncé's tour on behalf of her 2022 Grammy-winning album "Renaissance." It mixes concert footage and elements of a visual album while trailing the tour from its launch in Stockholm, Sweden, in May to the finale Sunday night in Kansas City, Missouri.

Over the course of five months, some 2.7 million concertgoers attended. The tour has grossed close to \$500 million, according to Billboard.

"It is about Beyoncé's intention, hard work, involvement in every aspect of the production, her creative mind and purpose to create, her legacy, and master her craft," reads the film's description. (AP)

LONDON: A second British police force is looking into sexual offenses allegedly committed by actor and comedian Russell Brand, British media reported Monday.

Thames Valley Police is taking a fresh look at harassment and stalking allegations previously made by a woman against Brand between 2018 and 2022, the BBC and PA news agency said.

The police force declined to name Brand - as is usual in the UK for people who have not been charged - but issued a statement when asked about the news reports.

"Thames Valley Police in the past two weeks, received new

information in relation to harassment and stalking allegations dating back to 2018," it said. "This information is being investigated; as such it would be inappropriate to comment on an ongoing investigation."

London's Metropolitan Police said last week it was examining "a number of allegations of sexual



Beyoncé



Brand

offenses" relating to Brand following a television documentary and newspaper investigations.

Brand, 48, denies allegations of sexual assault made by four women in a Channel 4 television documentary and The Times and Sunday Times newspapers. The accusers, who have not been named, include one who said she

was sexually assaulted during a relationship with him when she was 16. Another woman says Brand raped her in Los Angeles in 2012.

Brand was a major UK star in the early 2000s, hosting shows on radio and television and appearing in several Hollywood movies. He was briefly married to pop star Katy Perry between 2010 and 2012.

Brand has largely disappeared from mainstream media but has built up a large following online with videos mixing wellness and conspiracy theories. YouTube has said it will stop Brand from making money from the streaming site, where he has 6.6 million subscribers, due to the "serious allegations" against him. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023



People & Places



Louis Vuitton



Chanel



Chanel



Louis Vuitton



Chanel

Fashion

**PARIS:** It was more than just another fashion show in the City of Lights. Louis Vuitton's latest extravaganza on Paris' most famous street, the avenue des Champs-Élysées, transformed an iconic 19th-century Art Nouveau space into an evolving artwork. As guests entered, they encountered an ephemeral installation - a vast, expanding balloon structure that melded with the walls. But as avant-garde as it was, the installation's plastic, coupled with an autumnal heatwave, had some attendees likening it to a fashionable yet sweltering greenhouse.

The designs? A riot of colors, ludic patterns, and subtle riffs on harlequins. A visual feast that kept the eyes and iPhones flitting from one ensemble to the next.

Yet the decor and fashion might have met their match in star power. The luminaries of Hollywood - Zendaya, Cate Blanchett, Jennifer Connelly, Paul Bettany, Jaden Smith, and a host of others - converged, turning the venue into a veritable galaxy of celebrities. The heat outside mirrored the fervor inside, as Vuitton proved, once again, that in the world of fashion, it's an unstoppable force.

Here are some highlights of Monday's shows, including an interview with Stella McCartney.

**Louis Vuitton**

In a surreal wash of orange, Louis Vuitton's showcase, under the deft hand of women's creative director Nicolas Ghesquière, was a blend of epochs and emotions.

A burst of color, channeling the vibrancy of harlequins, took center stage. The striped high-waisted trousers and billowing yellow silk sleeves paid tribute to days of yore, while modern ski goggles reminded everyone of Ghesquière's ever-present innovation.

The '70s too had their moment. Striped shirts with open cuffs, reminiscent of this era, fused the delicate and free-spirited vibe against the hard, resolute feel of a box camera styled as a necklace. This distinct contrast - the soft meets the hard - exemplified Ghesquière's talent for marrying contrasts.

Subtle nods, perhaps to stalwarts like Armani Privé couture, could be spotted, but the collection was unmistakably Vuitton. The embrace of a glossy black bodice contrasted with the airy freedom of a voluminous white skirt. Similarly, a gleaming miniskirt seemed to mix between rigidity and flow.

Yet, Ghesquière's vibrancy sometimes edged toward the theatrical, seemingly sacrificing subtlety for statement. While his craftsmanship is undeniable, the balance between drama and understatement remains a tightrope he navigates.

All told, Ghesquière's latest offering is a testament to skill in stitching together the past with the present.

Just before Louis Vuitton's anticipated show, environmental activists

Above and below: Models wear creations for the Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Stella McCartney Spring/Summer 2024 womenswear fashion collections presented, Oct 3, in Paris. (AP)

Style



Stella McCartney



Chanel



Louis Vuitton



Stella McCartney



Louis Vuitton



Chanel

a striking 70s macramé dress. Inspired by her parents' touring days, vintage Wings merch graphics found their way onto organic T-shirts. Guests basked in the October sun, sipping in the atmosphere as much as they did the sights.

This season's McCartney designs? Think 70s eclectic thrift shop but make it chic. An ageless quality permeated, drawing inspiration not just from Stella's design vault, but from the idea of borrowing the

clothes of her iconic parents as a kid. It made for a sweet and loving fashion ode.

McCartney gave us sheeny shirts with historic white cape sleeves, neatly paired with shimmering crystal hot pants - lead-free, of course. An oversized floral print on a draped toga dress seemed to capture the Beatles' psychedelic era, almost transporting wearers to London's Camden vintage shops.

The nostalgia was evident, but so was the sustainability narrative. Stella's Sustainable Market showcased her dedication to innovative materials, complemented by English sculptor Andrew Logan's artistry. McCartney's show wasn't just a fashion statement; it was a manifesto of where the future might head.

"This season is 95% sustainable," McCartney declared proudly by a faux market stand, marking her highest ever sustainability percentage on the runway.

Drawing inspiration from a personal vault, she said, "A lot of it was, I was looking at my mom and dad's wardrobe." This deep dive into her familial past wasn't just a nostalgia trip. "Now my daughter steals from me," McCartney noticed, highlighting the cyclical nature of fashion and how traditions ripple through generations. (AP)

see Robert Downey Jr. "Emily in Paris" starlet Ashley Park, and spotless fashion mogul Anna Wintour browsing a market. But then again, the Marché Saxe-Breteuil wasn't just any market this week - it was Stella McCartney's sustainability showcase, an ingenious stage for her Spring 2024 eco-collection.

The makeshift stalls were far from ordinary. One, a nod to her late mother, famed vegan advocate Linda McCartney, presented vegan marvels. Another proudly showcased the real seaweed - yes, seaweed - that went into crafting

fluencer Jeremstar protested for animal rights, only to be restrained by police. Despite these disturbances, the Vuitton event went ahead and the brand has not

issued a response.

**Stella McCartney**

It's not every Monday that you'd



Health

'Controversial tactic'

Parents in Pakistan risk jail for polio jab refusal

KARACHI, Pakistan, Oct 3, (AP): Authorities in one Pakistan province are turning to a controversial new tactic in the decades-long initiative to wipe out polio: prison.

Last month, the government in Sindh introduced a bill that would imprison parents for up to one month if they fail to get their children immunized against polio or eight other common diseases.

Experts at the World Health Organization and elsewhere worry the unusual strategy could further undermine trust in the polio vaccines, particularly in a country where many believe false conspiracies about them and where dozens of vaccinators have been shot and killed.

Adding to the problems faced by experts trying to persuade people of the vaccines' safety: The oral vaccines themselves now cause most polio cases worldwide.

WHO's polio director in the Eastern Mediterranean warned the new law could backfire.

"Coercion is counterproductive," said Dr. Hamid Jafari.

He said health workers have typically succeeded in raising immunization rates in vaccine-hesitant areas by figuring out the reasons for people's refusal and addressing those concerns, like bringing in a trusted political or religious leader to talk with people.

"My own sense is that Pakistan wants to have this legislation in their back pocket in case they need it," Jafari said. "I would be surprised if there's a willingness to actually enforce these coercive measures."

Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan are the only countries where the spread of polio has never been stopped. The potentially fatal, paralyzing disease mostly strikes children up to age 5 and typically spreads in contaminated water.

WHO and its partners have administered billions of vaccine doses since they first began trying to eradicate the disease in 1988. The effort costs nearly \$1 billion a year and is largely funded by donor countries and private organizations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The immunizations, given to children as drops in the mouth, have reduced polio cases by more than 99%. But in very rare cases, the live virus in the vaccine can cause polio or mutate into a strain that triggers a new outbreak.

Virus

So far this year, there have been seven cases of polio caused by the wild virus - all in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, more than 270 cases have been caused by a virus linked to the vaccine in 21 countries across three continents.

In January, roughly 62,000 parents, mostly in Pakistan's Sindh province, refused polio vaccinations for their children, prompting authorities there to propose the new law with penalties.

The bill is in the final stages of becoming law after the provincial assembly approved it in August. It would punish parents with up to a month in prison for failing to vaccinate their children against certain diseases; they could also be fined up to 50,000 rupees (\$168). Officials said their primary aim was to boost polio immunization rates, though diseases including measles, pneumonia and pertussis are also in the legislation.

Rukhsana Bibi, a health worker in Karachi, hopes the new law will reduce vaccine refusal rates and protect health workers. Karachi is considered at high risk for a polio resurgence.

Bibi noted that in the past, abusive or threatening parents have been detained by police. They were released on the condition that they have their children immunized, and that they help the polio team with outreach efforts.

There are multiple factors fueling vaccine hesitation in Pakistan.

Many people are suspicious of the outside entities funding the vaccines and of the Pakistan government itself.

Some "fringe elements" believe in a false conspiracy theory - that the vaccines are part of a plot by Western outsiders to sterilize people, Bibi acknowledged. But many parents would prefer that the government provide better health care, food or financial assistance.

"Parents believe that's because the government gets grants and donations for such vaccines, so it keeps focusing on (the polio vaccines) instead of providing basic health care," Bibi said. "It makes parents suspicious."

The public's already-shaken confidence in vaccine drives also took a dive in 2011, when the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency set up a fake hepatitis vaccination program in an attempt to gather intel on former al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. Militants have also gunned down health workers distributing vaccines and sent suicide bombers to blow up the police vehicles protecting them.

Heidi Larson, director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said it was disheartening that people were so mistrustful of the government that they didn't believe the polio vaccine was in their children's best interests.

"I don't think in this kind of situation that throwing parents in jail is going to help," she said. "Not only does it not work, but it's likely to ramp up the anger."



Jafari



Permanent Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Hans Ellegren, center, together with members Eva Olsson, right, and Mats Larsson, announces the winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics, at the Royal Academy of Sciences, in Stockholm, Tuesday, Oct. 3. The Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier for looking at electrons in atoms by the tiniest of split seconds. (AP)



Physicist Anne L'Huillier speaks in this Oct. 8, 2014 photo. The Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded on Tuesday, Oct. 3, to Pierre Agostini, Hungarian-born Ferenc Krausz and French-born Anne L'Huillier for their work with the tiny part of each atom that races around the center and that is fundamental to virtually everything: chemistry, physics, our bodies and our gadgets.

Discovery

Over 100 dolphins die in Amazon:

More than 100 dolphins have died in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest in the past week as the region grapples with a severe drought, and many more could die soon if water temperatures remain high, experts say.

The Mamiraua Institute, a research group of Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, said two more dead dolphins were found Monday in the region around Tefe Lake, which is key for mammals and fish in the area. Video provided by the institute showed vultures picking at the dolphin carcasses beached on the lakeside. Thousands of fish have also died, local media reported.

Experts believe high water temperatures are the most likely cause of the deaths in the lakes in the region. Temperatures since last week have exceeded 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Tefe Lake region.

The Brazilian government's Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, which manages conservation areas, said last week it had sent teams of veterinarians and aquatic mammal experts to investigate the deaths.

There had been some 1,400 river dolphins in Tefe Lake, said Miriam Marmontel, a researcher from the Mamiraua Institute.

"In one week we have already lost around 120 animals between the two of them, which could represent 5% to 10% of the popula-

Nobels

Three scientists share prestigious award

Physics Nobel honors electrons research

STOCKHOLM, Oct 3, (AP): Three scientists won the Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for studying how electrons zip around the atom during the tiniest fractions of seconds, a field that could one day lead to better electronics or disease diagnoses.

The award went to Pierre Agostini, Hungarian-born Ferenc Krausz and French-born Anne L'Huillier for their work with the tiny part of each atom that races around the center and that is fundamental to virtually everything: chemistry, physics, our bodies and our gadgets.

Electrons move around so fast that they have been out of reach of human efforts to isolate them, but by looking at the tiniest fraction of a second possible, scientists now have a "blurry" glimpse of them and that opens up whole new sciences, experts said.

"The electrons are very fast, and the electrons are really the workforce in everywhere," Nobel Committee member Mats Larsson said. "Once you can control and understand electrons, you have taken a very big step forward."

L'Huillier is the fifth woman to receive a Nobel in physics.

To understand how an electron travels, the scientists had to look at an extremely short time period - one quintillionth of a second known as an atto-

second - just like a photographer uses a quick shutter speed when photographing a hummingbird.

How small is it? "Let's take one second, which is the time of a heartbeat," Nobel Committee chair Eva Olsson said. To get the realm of the attosecond, that would have to be divided by 1,000 six times.

Physicist Mark Pearce, a Nobel Committee member, said "there are as many attoseconds in a second as there are seconds which have passed since the Big Bang, 13.8 billion years ago. So it's an extremely short period of time."

Experiments

But even when they "see" the electron, there's only so much they can view.

"You can see whether it's on the one side of a molecule or on the other," L'Huillier, 65, said. "It's still very blurry."

"The electrons are much more like waves, like water waves, than particles and what we try to measure with our technique is the position of the crest of the waves," she added.

The scientists' experiments "have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules," according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which

announced the prize in Stockholm.

At the moment, this science is about understanding our universe, but the hope is that it will eventually have many practical applications in electronics, diagnosing diseases and basic chemistry.

But L'Huillier, of Lund University in Sweden, said her work shows how important it is to work on fundamental science regardless of future applications because she spent 30 years on it before possible real world uses became more apparent.

L'Huillier said she was teaching when she got the call that she had won. She joked that it was hard to finish the lesson.

"This is the most prestigious and I am so happy to get this prize. It's incredible," she told the news conference announcing the prize. "As you know there are not so many women who got this prize so it's very special."

Swedish news agency TT reached Krausz, 61, of the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, by phone in Germany, where it is holiday.

"My colleagues are enjoying their day off, but I hope that we will meet tomorrow and then we will probably open a bottle of champagne," he was quoted as saying.



Marmontel



Lima

dry. Ayan Fleischmann, the Geospatial coordinator at the Mamiraua Institute, said the drought has had a major impact on the riverside communities in the Amazon region.

"Many communities are becoming isolated, without access to good quality water, without access to the river, which is their main means of transportation," he said.

Fleischmann said water temperatures rose from 32 C (89 F) on Friday to almost 38 C (100 F) on Sunday. (AP)

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## SPORTS

# Much-awaited Kuwait Badminton Challenge lives up to billing

## Donetsk play Antwerp

## Félix flourishing at Barca as he returns to Portugal to face youth club FC Porto

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 3, (AP): It has taken João Félix several years and a couple of false starts, but the creative forward who left Portugal to aim for greater heights in Spain has finally found a team where he can flourish.

Or so it seems after a handful of games with

Barcelona, the team he joined in August just hours before the transfer window closed after a frustrating stint at Atletico Madrid.

Félix is now heading back to Portugal when Barcelona face FC Porto in their second game of the Champions League group stage on Wednesday.

day. Félix played for Porto as a youngster before eventually joining fierce rivals Benfica at age 15, where he broke out as a teenager and was signed by Atletico in 2019.

But after he repeatedly chafed under Diego Simeone's defend-first, attack-second playing

day signed a new contract through June 2026 that included a one-billion euro (\$1-billion) buyout clause.

Yamal became the youngest player to play for Barcelona at age 15 in April. He then became the youngest scorer in a European Championship qualifier when he debuted for Spain last month.

A game at Porto was the setting for Lionel Messi's debut for Barcelona 20 years ago. While Yamal is still far from reaching the level of the club's greatest player, he has shown flashes of excellence and is already contributing to victories.

He has yet to score for Barcelona despite generating several chances for himself and his older teammates. His most recent clutch contribution was on Friday when he headed pass into the box was inadvertently turned into his own net by Sevilla defender Sergio Ramos to gift Barcelona a 1-0 win.

Barcelona will be without midfielders Pedri González and Frenkie de Jong and forward Raphinha, who are all recovering from injuries.

Porto beat Shakhtar 3-1 last month when they played in Hamburg, Germany, where the Ukrainian champions have been forced to play since Russia's invasion of their country. Porto's Brazilian winger Galeno struck two goals in that victory.

Porto had won six and drawn one in the Portuguese league before they lost at Benfica 1-0 on Friday. They also lost to Benfica in the Portuguese Super Cup in August.

The match comes after Barcelona's 16-year-old Lamine Yamal on Monday.

### SOCCER

style, Félix eventually fell out with Atletico's coach and spent the second half of last season on a disappointing loan stint at Chelsea.

On returning to Atletico in the offseason, Félix did what he could to force a move to Barcelona by publicly stating that he wanted to play for Xavi Hernández's side. He then accepted a pay cut to help fit within Barcelona's wage limits, which were already strained.

The move has so far paid off for both player and team.

The 23-year-old Félix has scored three goals and meshed well with his teammates since he joined Barcelona. Two of those goals came against Antwerp in Barcelona's 5-0 rout in their Champions League opener last month.

The game at Estádio do Dragão is billed to be the toughest game of the group phase for Barcelona. Both clubs have three points atop Group H. Antwerp and Shakhtar Donetsk have zero before they meet in Belgium also on Wednesday.

The match comes after Barcelona's 16-year-old Lamine Yamal on Monday.

Event trophy won by team '5.30', after 5 previous attempts

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3:** The much-awaited Kuwait Badminton Challenge 2023 hosted by the Indian Badminton Association - Kuwait (IBAK), lived up to its top billing as the 3-day event got off to a grand opening on Sept 27, 2023. The tournament was inaugurated by the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika.

An hour-long inaugural ceremony which included some cultural events, started with the speech by Anesh Mathew, President of IBAK.

In his welcome address he thanked the Indian envoy for gracing the event and the special invitee Vice-Principal of Saad Al Awzi School for their presence.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Swaika, who was treated to a visual spectacle like 'never before' in Kuwait, thanked the association for the efforts exerted by IBAK to organize such a mega event saying events such as these will help keep away the youngsters from their gadgets and spend more time on the badminton court and develop their talents and sporting skills.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Santhosh from IBAK.

The top 20 ranked Indian players and many international stars including Sumeet Reddy, an Indian Olympian put on an excellent badminton spectacle for all badminton lovers of Kuwait.

### BADMINTON

The event trophy was won by team '5.30', after 5 previous attempts. Team IBAK Xcite Challengers were the runners-up. IBAK All Stars and IBAK Torpedoes were the semi-finalists.

The individual event winners were awarded custom made medals, the official mascot, "KEDI" the teddy and a sash commemorating the Kuwait Badminton Challenge tournament.

Men's Singles (Open to All) -- Winner: Raghu Mariswamy, Runner-up: Bhargav Somasundra Semi-Finalist 1: Parth Soni, Semi-Finalist 2: Muhammad Zakaria

Flight 1 -- Elite Men's Doubles: Winner: Sumeet Reddy/Nithin H Vadamurthy, Runner-up: Muhammad Ariffin/Mohammed Ashraf Semi-Finalist 1: Deep Rambhaya/Akshan Shetty Semi-Finalist 2: Sayooj Ajayakumar/Saurabh Sharma

Flight 2 -- Professional Men's Doubles: Winner: Sayooj Ajayakumar/Syed Akbhar Shah, Runner-up: Mohit Jaglan/Parth Soni; Semi-Finalist 1: Dhruva Bharadwaj/Abdul Jabbar Semi-Finalist 2: Muhammed Sanusi/Dr. Manimara Chozhan

Flight 3 -- Men's Advance Doubles: Winner: Joby Mathew/Ajay Varghese, Runner-up: Wilson George/Raju Itten, Semi-Finalist 1: Shiroj Joseph/Jolly Ni; Semi-Finalist 2: Manoj Markose/Naseeb P.

Flight 4 -- Intermediate Doubles (IBAK Players): Winner: Justin Manuel/Sajeesh Kumar, Runner-up: Naji Hameed/Sadiq Muhammed; Semi-Finalist 1: Santhosh R/Vijay Kumar, Semi-Finalist 2: Jubey George/Jeswin Jose

Men's Doubles -- 50 years and above: Winner: Markose Bristow/Jaison Xavier, Runner-up: Xavier Raphael/Maran T; Semi-Finalist 1: Barry/Dr. Manimara Chozhan; Semi-Finalist 2: Alex Koshy/G n a n a s a m b a n t h a m Thirunavukkarasu

Mix Doubles: Winner: Nithin H Vadamurthy/Maneesha Kukkapalli, Runner-up: Ashith Surya/Amrutha Pramuthesh; Semi-Finalist 1: Deep Rambhaya/Pranjal P Chimulkar, Semi-Finalist 2: Chandra Gopinadh/Neha Susan Biju

IBAK thanks all the sponsors, players, supporters and all the officials who made IBAK KBC 2023 a grand success.



Team 5.30



IBAK Xcite Challengers



IBAK All Stars



IBAK Torpedoes



Sumeet Reddy in action



Dr Manimara Chozhan in action



Bhargav Somasundhara in action

## Fiorentina move level with Napoli

MILAN, Oct 3, (AP): Fiorentina moved level with third-place Napoli in Serie A with a 3-0 win over bottom club Cagliari.

Nicolás González netted his sixth goal of the season to set Fiorentina on the way to victory and see them join the defending champions and Juventus. They're four points behind Serie A leaders AC Milan and Inter Milan.

It all got even bleaker for Cagliari and manager Claudio Ranieri even at this early stage of the season. The Sardinian team have just two points from their opening seven matches back in the top flight.

Fiorentina, which have lost just one match, got off to the perfect start as they took the lead with barely two minutes on the clock.

Cagliari goalkeeper Boris Radunović misjudged Nikola Milenković's free kick and could only flap at the ball, allowing González to slot it into an empty net. Fiorentina were dominating but

needed another bit of fortune to double their lead in the 21st minute. Some great play from Michael Kayode saw the Fiorentina right back weave his way into the area and his cross was turned into the back of the net by Cagliari defender Alberto Dossena.

Cagliari improved in the second half and almost got back into the match but Andrea Petagna hit the crossbar, although he was probably offside in any case.

M'Bala Nzola extended Fiorentina's lead in stoppage time when he raced onto a long ball from Rolando Mandragora and dinked it over Radunović.

Monza halted a four-match winless run with a 1-0 victory at in-form Sassuolo.

Lorenzo Colombo scored a delightful solo goal in the 66th minute to give Monza their second win of the season. The young forward could have had another late on but it was ruled out for offside.

## Las Palmas 'rally' late to beat Celta

MADRID, Oct 3, (AP): Las Palmas scored two late goals to come from behind and beat Celta Vigo 2-1 for its second win of the season in the Spanish league.

Celta opened the scoring through Anastasios Douvikas in the 67th minute, but the hosts rallied with Jonathan Viera converting a penalty kick in the 84th and setting up Marc Cardona's winning goal seven minutes into stoppage time at Gran Canaria Stadium.

The result extended Las Palmas' unbeaten streak at home to four matches this season. They had lost three in a row against Celta in the league.

Celta dropped into the relegation zone with the loss, their fifth in eight matches. The team coached by Rafa Benítez also relinquished leads in their last two matches, against Alaves and Barcelona. They were leading 2-0 until the 81st against Barcelona.

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## 'Value of NBA teams continues to grow year to year'

# Mavs, T-wolves play in Abu Dhabi as Gulf region's influence with NBA grows

LONDON, Oct 3, (AP): The NBA returns to Abu Dhabi this week as Arabian Gulf countries increasingly use their wealth to establish a foothold with the league.

The Dallas Mavericks and Minnesota Timberwolves play Thursday in the first of two preseason games in the United Arab Emirates capital, but most of the real action is taking place off the court.

Qatar's sovereign wealth fund is buying a minority stake in the Washington Wizards with the move coming less than a year after the league's Board of Governors opened the door to such institutional investors.

LeBron James recently visited Saudi Arabia on a trip that came a couple of months after the Los Angeles Lakers star joked on social media that he'd accept the kind of astronomical figures that the Saudis are paying to lure soccer stars.

The Milwaukee Bucks and Atlanta Hawks played preseason games in Abu Dhabi a year ago after the NBA signed a multiyear partnership with the emirate's department of culture and tourism. It was the first time the league had staged games in the oil-rich Arabian Gulf.

"We felt that bringing the live NBA experience to fans in Abu Dhabi was the next step in our ongoing efforts to grow the game in the region," said Mark Tatum, NBA deputy commissioner and chief operating officer.

The league's board of governors

decided in November 2022 "to permit passive, non-controlling, minority investments in NBA teams by institutional investors, including university endowments, foreign and domestic pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds, subject to a set of policy guidelines adopted at that time," the NBA said in a statement.

### BASKETBALL

Those investors would then be subject to league review and NBA Board approval.



New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson poses for a portrait during the NBA basketball team's media day in New Orleans. (AP)

Qatar Sports Investments, which has majority control of French soccer club Paris Saint-Germain, is buying a roughly 5% stake in the parent company of the Wizards, the NHL's Washington Capitals and the WNBA's Washington Mystics. The NBA confirmed that the deal has been approved.

Similar agreements in the future seem likely.

"The value of NBA teams continues to grow year to year, helped by the value of live sports and the global reach of our league," Tatum said. "We anticipate our teams will receive continued interest from institutional investors around the world."

"Playing games internationally is a critical part of our year-round efforts to engage our passionate international fans, many of whom may not otherwise experience an NBA game in-person," Tatum said, noting the league has staged games - mostly not regular-season ones - in more than 20 countries outside the United States and Canada.

Saudi Arabia, through its sovereign wealth fund, muscled its way into professional golf before spending heavily to recruit soccer players, including Cristiano Ronaldo.

Both preseason games will be at Etihad Arena on Yas Island - where the league opened an NBA Store last year. The second game is Saturday.

The Mavericks then travel to Spain for a preseason game against Real Madrid next Tuesday.



Al-Sharida and Al-Adwani welcome Michael Adams.

## Kuwait triumph over Al-Muharraq

### Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/ArabTimes Staff

In the ongoing 35th Arab Club Championship held in Doha, Qatar, Kuwait Club, the reigning Arab Championship titleholders, secured an impressive victory over Bahrain's Al-Muharraq, with a final score of 82-61, during their first group match.

With this win, Al-Abyad (White), as they are fondly known, notched their first two points in the tournament, claiming the top spot in the group

alongside Qatar's team, which had previously defeated the Palestinian team in the opening match. On the second day of the competition, Al-Seeb from Oman triumphed over Al-Ahly from Qatar with a score of 75-58. Degla Al-Jamaa of Iraq outplayed Majd Tangier of Morocco, securing a 95-74 victory. Al-Ittihad of Alexandria from Egypt dominated against Algeria's Al-Ittihad, winning 89-53. Salé from Morocco emerged victorious over Al-Wahda Sana'a of Yemen with a final score of 96-

64, and Al-Ahly from Egypt bested Libyan Union with a score of 65-55. Today, Al-Abyad will face off against Qatar in their second tournament match at 6:30 pm.

On a separate note, Al-Nasr American player Michael Adams arrived in the country. Khaled Al-Sharida, Chairman of the Club's Board of Directors, welcomed Adams, along with Treasurer Mutlaq Al-Adwani, Al-Nasr Club Basketball Director Mansour Jalawi, and "Al-Annabi" Captain Youssef Oqab.

# India & Pak on track for cricket gold medal showdown at Asiad



Davlat Boltaev of Tajikistan and Han Xuezheng of China compete during men's boxing 80-92kg final at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Hangzhou. (AP)

## China continue dominance

**HANGZHOU, China, Oct 3, (AP): India and Pakistan moved closer to a potential Asian Games showdown for the gold medal in cricket after picking up victories on Tuesday in the quarter-finals.**

Any match between Pakistan and India draws a massive television audience and will be influential as the International Olympic Committee ponders cricket being added to the program for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The cricket final on Saturday, however, could be overshadowed

### ASIAN GAMES

by the start of the Cricket World Cup in India, which opens on Thursday.

The IOC has given no clear timetable when a decision about cricket will be made.

Cricket appeared in the Olympics for the only time at the 1900 Paris Games.

Baseball and softball are also in the running to again be included in the Olympic program.

India managed a 23-run victory over Nepal on Tuesday. Yashasvi Jaiswal scored a century from 49 deliveries to help India reach 202-4 from its allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

"I'm really proud and really happy and grateful," Jaiswal said of getting the century. "It was a

great feeling. It's a proud moment whenever you represent your country, especially India. I'm just so glad and happy to represent India and proud of myself for going out there to express myself and my game."

Nepal was restricted to 179-9 in reply, with Avesh Khan and Ravi Bishnoi each taking three wickets for India.

Pakistan put up a 68-run victory over Hong Kong in another quarter-final match. Pakistan reached 160-10 and Hong Kong was limited to 92-10.

China has won every gold medal at the Asian Games through seven of 10 diving events.

Quan Hangchan won the wom-

en's 10-meter platform to produce the seventh, edging out Chinese teammate Chen Yuxi. Pang Pandeleda Rinong of Malaysia picked up the bronze.

Quan briefly trailed Chen, but she said her mind was elsewhere.

"I didn't notice that I was behind, but I was happy when I saw the score (after the fifth round)," Quan said. "Chen Yuxi and I did not communicate during the competition, but we will communicate afterwards."

China won seven of the eight gold medals two years ago at the delayed Tokyo Olympics.

Everywhere you look, China dominates. China won nine of 12 medals in canoe sprint, which

wrapped up on Tuesday. This is typical of the way the Asian Games host finds athletes to excel across a vast array of Olympic sports.

Canoe sprint athletes were also primed after appearing in the sport's world championships in August in Duisburg, Germany, which served as the main qualification event for next year's Paris Olympics.

"All four of us are very happy because we have been working hard for a long time," said Zhang Dong, a member of the winning 500-meter men's kayak four team.

"Including qualifying for the Olympics at the world championships, I really feel it's not easy," Zhang added. "We have already been preparing for two years, just to qualify for the Olympics, and to win the gold medal at this Asian Games, I'm so happy."

Three-time Olympic medalist Olga Zabelinskaya of Uzbekistan won the women's time trial in 24 minutes, 35.99 seconds. Zabelinskaya was a silver medalist at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and won two bronze medals at the 2012 London Games.

The silver medal in the 20-kilometer race went to Eri Yonamine of Japan, who was 59.60 seconds behind. Rinata Sultanova of Kazakhstan took bronze.

Alexey Lutsenko of Kazakhstan won the men's race in 48:05.75. Xue Ming and China took silver and Vincent Lau Wan Yau of Hong Kong won bronze.

# Ronaldo gets 1st Asian CL goal as Al-Nassr top Istiklol

ABU DHABI, Oct 3, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goal in the Asian Champions League in Al-Nassr's 3-1 win over Istiklol.

Al-Nassr took control against Tajikistan's Istiklol in the second half at Riyadh. Ronaldo, who joined the club in December, equalized with a delicate chip midway through the second half. Senin Sebai had put Istiklol ahead just before the break.

Ronaldo scored for the seventh successive game, and then two goals in quick succession from Brazilian forward Anderson Talisca gave Al-Nassr the win.

Al-Nassr, still searching for a first continental championship, is top of Group E with six points from two games, three above Persepolis. The Iranian club beat Al-Duhail of Qatar 1-0.

Elsewhere, Nasaf Qarshi of Uzbekistan maintained their perfect start in Group B with a 3-1 win over Qatar's Al-Sadd, while Al-Faisaly lost 1-0 at Sharjah.

Only the 10 group winners and the six best-performing runners-up will progress to the next stage.

### SOCCER

Lionel Messi was on the practice field with Inter Miami on Tuesday, though it remains unclear when or if the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner will play with the team again this season.

Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata" Martino declined to provide any timetable regarding Messi when he spoke with reporters before the practice session.

The team - which is still trying to make Major League Soccer's playoffs - plays at Chicago on Wednesday. Messi has been listed as day to day for much of the past month and barely has played in that span.

The 36-year-old Messi has missed four of Inter Miami's last five matches, plus another for Argentina in that span because of what was first called fatigue - by both his club and country - and has evolved from there. The only game he didn't miss during that stretch was a 37-minute appearance against Toronto on Sept. 20, and he had to leave that match before half-time because of a hamstring issue.

Messi made an appearance Monday night at the team's stadium to promote the launch of a children's menu bearing his name at some Hard Rock properties around the world. He was not made available for comment to most media outlets that were in attendance at the event, and no update on his injury was provided.

Inter Miami enters the week 13th in the Eastern Conference, four spots and four points out of the last playoff spot from that side of MLS. A loss on Wednesday would not eliminate Inter Miami from the playoff mix, but it would put a sig-



Lis Moyano, 13, of Aventura, Fla., carries a cardboard cutout of Argentine soccer superstar Lionel Messi as a group of South Florida fans waits outside DRV PNK Stadium, home of Inter Miami MLS soccer club, in hopes of catching a glimpse of Messi. (AP)

nificant dent in the team's postseason hopes.

After that match at Chicago, Inter Miami has three MLS games remaining - Saturday at home against Cincinnati, a rescheduled match at home against Charlotte on Oct. 18 and the finale at Charlotte on Oct. 21.

Messi has 11 goals in 12 matches with Inter Miami this season. The team is 8-0-4 when he plays; seven of those matches were on the team's run to winning its first-ever trophy by claiming the Leagues Cup championship and another was in the U.S. Open Cup semifinal.

He has one goal in four MLS matches and has been an instant phenomenon, as would be expected - with his jersey already the best-selling in the league in 2023, even though it wasn't available for sale until mid-July.

Inter Miami is 1-2-2 in its five matches without Messi since he joined the club.

Dutch right back Jeremie Frimpong has signed a new contract at Bayer Leverkusen taking him through the end of the 2027-28 season.

Frimpong still had nearly two years left on his current deal at Leverkusen, where he has played since signing from Scottish club Celtic in 2021.

"A lot has happened since then, we've experienced great things and continually improved as a team," Frimpong said in a statement Tuesday. "It's great fun to be part of this team."

The 22-year-old Frimpong, who was linked with possible moves to Chelsea and Manchester United in the off-season, has been a standout player for Leverkusen this season, contributing two goals and three assists as he helped the team stay unbeaten in eight games in all competitions. He also reached the Europa League semifinals with the team last season.

## Kuwait volleyball championship opens

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3, (KUNA): The 57th edition of Kuwait Volleyball Association Championship (2023-2024) kicked off with four encounters pitting Al-Arabi Vs Al-Tadamoun, Kuwait Vs Al-Sahel, Kazema Vs Al-Shabab, and Qadsia Vs Burgan.

The opening match saw Al-Arabi SC beating Al-Tadamoun 3-0. The

second game ended with Kuwait SC 3-0 victory over Al-Sahel.

The third encounter saw Kazema

### VOLLEYBALL

beating Al-Shabab 3-0 while the Qadsia won the fourth game against Burgan 3-1.





Al-Rabi's Nayef Hamid battles Al-Najma's Louis Khoury for the ball.

# Sports

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## Qatar end Kuwait handball gold hopes

Al-Youha celebrated after historic title

**HANGZHOU, China, Oct 3: The Kuwaiti handball team delivered a heroic performance in the semi-final match of the 19th Asian Games against the Qatari team, despite a 24-29 defeat.**

Kuwait will now compete for the bronze medal, facing the Japanese team at eleven o'clock tomorrow morning, Thursday.

The Japanese team lost their semi-final match to Bahrain with a score of 28-30.

### ASIAN GAMES

The experience of the Qatari national team players played a significant role against the ambition of Al-Azraq, which includes many young players participating for the first time in this continental tournament.

Yousef Najm, a player from our national handball team, stated that the Kuwaiti team had spared no effort in



Athletes prepare for a race in 1500m.



Rajib participating in climbing competitions.

Draw will not affect derby, say Al-Arabi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Al-Arabi's German coach, Toms Berdarcic, and the Al-Najma coach, Paulo Menezes, expressed their dissatisfaction with the outcome of the recent draw between their respective teams in the second round of the third group competitions in the AFC Cup, which took place two days ago.

The match ended in a 0-0 draw at Al-Kuwait Club Stadium. As a result, Al-Akhdar secured 4 points, while Al-Najma earned their first point. Al-Arabi, based on goal difference, took the second position in the group, trailing behind Al-Riffa of Bahrain, who had a 1-1 draw with Al-Zawraa of Iraq.

During the post-match press conference, Berdarcic commented, "A draw may not have been a fair result against Al-Najma, given the scoring opportunities that were available and the potential for a better performance on a different pitch."

The German coach also voiced his concerns about the condition of the Kuwait Club Stadium's pitch, saying, "I must offer a bit of leeway to our young players due to the subpar pitch quality. I would have preferred playing this match at Jaber Stadium."

He added, "This outcome won't affect our players' readiness for the upcoming 'derby' match next Saturday against Al-Qadisia in the fourth round of the Zain Premier League."

Brdaric acknowledged that the team's absences had also played a role in their performance, emphasizing their determination to move past this result and prepare for the upcoming "derby."

their match, leading for most of the game. However, due to some technical errors and the inexperience of the young players, victory was ultimately granted to the Qatari national team.

He emphasized the team's determination to secure the bronze medal and revive some of the historical achievements of the handball team in the Asian Games.

In other events, the journey of Abdullah Al-Muzain, a player from our national squash team, in the individual competition came to a halt in the quarter-finals after losing to his Malaysian opponent, En Yao, with a score of 0-3. Meanwhile, our national athletics team



Kuwaiti is challenged by two Qataris during Asian Games handball match between Kuwait and Qatar.

player, Amal Al-Roumi, concluded her participation in the 800m race qualifiers, finishing in fourth place with a time of 2:13.20 minutes. Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri secured seventh place in the 800m race, with a time of 1:49.05 minutes.

Cyclist Latifa Al-Yassin participated in an individual time trial, finishing 14th with a time of 2:13.20. Nasser Bourjib, a competitor in speed climbing, ranked 23rd and is set to participate in "guided climbing" on Thursday.

Today's competitions feature equestrian events with riders Ali Al-Kharafi, Abdulrahman Al-Fuzaie, Abdullah Al-Awadhi, and Anaz Al-Anaz participating in show jumping. Cyclists Latifa Al-Yassin and Taiba Al-Asfoor aim for a satisfactory outcome in the women's individual road race, starting at five in the morning. Additionally, Abdul Rahman Al-Azmi from our national athletics team looks forward to competing in the javelin throwing competition at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Jiu-jitsu training commenced in the city of Hangzhou in preparation for the players' participation in the tournament.

The jiu-jitsu team includes Nasser Abdul Karim, Yousef Al-Dosari,

Muhammad Ali, Fahd Al-Marri, and Ali Hassan, who will compete in their respective weight classes starting tomorrow.

The Kuwaiti sports delegation, led by the delegation's director, Fatima Hayat, celebrated the triumph of Yaqoub Al-Youha after his historic gold medal win in the 110-meter hurdles race at the 19th Asian Games. Members of the Kuwaiti delegation

warmly welcomed Al-Youha upon his return to the village headquarters following the conclusion of the race competitions.

Bashar Abdullah, Deputy Director of the Public Authority for Sports, visited the headquarters of the Kuwaiti Sports Mission in the Athletes' Village. He encouraged the delegation to continue their dedication and effort in advancing Kuwait's presence in sports.

Fatima Hayat, the mission's director, received Bashar and provided an overview of the progress and measures taken by the Kuwaiti administrative delegation, acknowledging the efforts to support the players and the technical and administrative staff. At the end of his visit, he wished the Kuwaiti athletes success and more achievements in the tournament.

Meshal Al-Shamali, the Consul General of Kuwait in the Chinese city of Shanghai, also visited the Kuwaiti mission's headquarters in the Sports Village. During his visit, he praised the collective efforts and performance levels displayed by the Kuwaiti athletes in various sports, expressing his appreciation for everyone's contributions.



Abdullah Al-Muzain returns a shot to En Yao during their quarter-finals match.

### Excitement builds

## Bowling World Cup kicks off

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: The World Bowling Championship kicks off today at the Kuwait Bowling Club Complex, and it will run until October 15th, featuring the participation of approximately 400 players, both male and female, representing 24 men's teams and 12 women's teams.

In the men's competition, the tournament boasts the presence of teams from Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Colombia, Canada, Egypt, and of course, the host nation Kuwait.

On the women's side, the participating teams include those from Korea, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, China, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Denmark, Germany, Colombia, Canada, and Kuwait.

Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the President of the International and Asian Bowling Federations and Chairman of the Championship Organizing Committee, expressed readiness to host this global sporting event. He

emphasized that the club complex is in prime condition to welcome the world's top bowlers.

Sheikh Talal also noted that the participating teams have been arriving in Kuwait gradually, starting their training sessions in the complex's facilities to prepare for the tournament's commencement. Anticipation is high, as the championship is expected to feature fierce competition with the presence of renowned players from around the world. He extended a warm welcome to all participating sports delegations to Kuwait.

### BOWLING

Furthermore, he highlighted that hosting this significant international sports event in Kuwait will firmly establish Kuwaiti bowling on the global sports stage and showcase the nation's civilized image. The tournament's activities will be broadcast on international channels across various continents.

Sheikh Talal revealed that both the male and female players of the Kuwaiti national team are well-prepared for the tournament, having completed their training and preparations. Their participation in the World Bowling Championship is seen as a valuable opportunity to gain crucial experience, particularly as the national team includes promising male and female talents.



Sheikh Talal

### Mudryk and Broja score

## Chelsea edge Fulham to end bad run in Premier League

LONDON, Oct 3, (AP): Chelsea's long wait for another Premier League win came to an end with a 2-0 victory at Fulham.

Two goals in the space of a minute in the first half from Mykhailo Mudryk and Armando Broja secured the points for Mauricio Pochettino's struggling team at Craven Cottage and moved them up to 11th in the standings.

It was Chelsea's first win in the league since Aug. 25 and only their

second in the top flight all season.

"It was a decent performance, maybe not as good as we would like, but the most important thing was three points and we desperately needed that," said Chelsea captain Conor Gallagher.

Mudryk, a \$108 million signing last season, fired Chelsea in front in the 18th minute after controlling Levi Colwill's ball and finishing past Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno.

Broja then doubled the lead a

minute later, with summer signing from Manchester City, Cole Palmer, seizing on a mistake and providing the assist.

### SOCCER

"It's important for us to build our confidence and trust in ourselves," Pochettino said. "I'm so happy for the players and in the end we got

what we deserved."

The victory should give Pochettino something to build on after such a troubled start to the season and comes after his side beat Brighton in the English League Cup last week.

It has not been easy for the Argentine who was hired at the end of last season and charged with the responsibility of returning Chelsea to their glory days. His appointment might have lifted the mood around the club after its worst-ever Premier League season last term, but there has been no instant uplift in form, with Chelsea going into game in 15th place.

Its one win in the league had come against newly promoted Luton and their only other victories had been in the League Cup.

That is despite owners Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital spending big in the transfer market again in the off-season.

But Chelsea looked certain to ensure their first away win of the season after scoring two goals in quick succession in the first half.

After the break, substitute Ian Maatsen was close to adding a third when his side-footed effort came back off the post. Enzo Fernandez tried to convert the rebound, but his shot was blocked by Leno.

Fulham substitute Sasa Lukic had the chance to pull a goal back in the 77th with a shot from around six yards (meters). But he fired straight at Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez.

"It is clear at this level and against these types of teams we cannot make the mistakes we made," said Fulham manager Marco Silva. "We were punished for the mistakes we made."



A file photo of players in action.