



Amir congratulates Chinese leader on Asian Games success

— Details Page 16 —

45 KUWAITI MPs VOICE SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE



Left: People stand outside a mosque destroyed in an Israeli air strike in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Sunday, Oct 8, 2023. Right: Palestinian relatives mourn over the body of Ahmad Awawda, 19, who was killed in clashes with Israeli troops near the city of Nablus the previous day, during his funeral in the West Bank city of Jenin, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023. The Hamas militants broke out of the blockaded Gaza Strip and rampaged through nearby Israeli communities, taking captives, while Israel's retaliation strikes leveled buildings in Gaza. (AP)

NewsWatch

WASHINGTON: Two Russian diplomats have been expelled from Moscow's embassy in Washington, the US State Department confirmed.

The expulsion is in response to Russia's "specious expulsion of two US Embassy Moscow diplomats" last month, a spokesperson said, adding that "the State Department reciprocated by declaring persona non grata two Russian Embassy officials operating in the United States."

"The Department will not tolerate the Russian government's pattern of harassment of our diplomats," the spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

"The Department's actions send a clear message that unacceptable actions against our Embassy personnel in Moscow will have consequences." (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: Türkiye to resolutely continue anti-terror operations in Iraq and Syria, the Turkish Foreign Minister affirmed.

"As an ally of Ankara, Washington must also stop working with PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Syria," Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a phone call today as reported by the official Anadolu News Agency.

Regarding the US forces shooting down of a Turkish drone in Syria, they agreed on the need for effective deconflict mechanism for air operations in Syria without hindering the fight against terrorism.

They also discussed the issue of NATO expansion. (KUNA)

ROME: Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani voiced pessimism at prospects of restoring peace to war-hammered Ukraine however he affirmed Rome's support for any efforts aimed at attaining this purpose.

Tajani, in televised remarks, said he is not optimistic, however "we should not give up," for there is a need for substantial resolve to establish peace "and I always leave the door open" for it.

Tajani indicated that the international community could not tolerate witnessing "daily massacres," but he stressed the solution must not be in Ukraine's surrender to Russia.

"We are not at war with Russia but we are defending Ukraine's right for independence," he elaborated. (KUNA)

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

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

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

Israel, Gaza toll mounts

ME conflict tests Biden



Mourners pray by the bodies of Salem Abu Quta's family members, a Hamas fighter, during a funeral after they were killed in an Israeli strike on their house in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023. (AP)

Civilians pay staggering cost

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (Agencies): Forty-five members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly signed a joint statement to reaffirm support to the Palestinian people's right to respond to the recurrent Israeli aggressions and violations.

The Zionist entity escalated their vandalism of the Islamic sanctities in Jerusalem and incursions into the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque in the last few weeks, reads the statement posted to the social media accounts of the signatories.

"Thousands of Jewish extremists repeatedly broke into the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque yards under patronage of the police forces and the right-wing government of the Israeli occupation.

"The Israeli occupation forces also have taken part in the attacks on Palestinian male and female worshippers, and in the desecration of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as Al-Haram Al-Ibrahimi (Sanctuary of Abraham) in Al-Khalil (Hebron) town in the West Ban," according to the statement.

The Israeli occupation forces have also escalated their incursions into the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank since the beginning of this year, which left hundreds of casualties among the Palestinian residents.

Anger

"All of these crimes took place under the eye of the international community which failed to respond, thus fueling anger among the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinians had no choice other than to defend themselves against such aggressions and violations with all means at their disposal, using their right to self-defense enshrined in all international laws and conventions," the statement noted.

Accordingly and based on the firm popular and official stance of the State of Kuwait, the National Assembly members affirm support to the right of the brotherly people of Palestine to respond to the malpractices of the Zionist entity.

The ongoing incidents are a normal response to the crimes of the Israeli occupation and a legitimate act of self-defense, the parliamentary statement argued.

The Kuwaiti MPs urged the Arab and Muslim nations to shoulder their responsibilities for backing up the Palestinian people's struggle against the repeated crimes of the Zionist entity.

Appealing for the governments of the Arab and Muslim countries to support Palestine and boycott Israel, they concluded by saying, "We, as representatives of the Kuwaiti people, are firmly opposed to normalization of relations with the Zionist entity, for Jews usually renege promises."

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers battled Hamas fighters in the streets of southern Israel on Sunday and launched retaliation strikes that leveled buildings in Gaza, while in northern Israel a brief exchange of strikes with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group raised fears of a broader conflict.

There was still some fighting underway more than 24 hours after an unprecedented surprise attack from Gaza, in which Hamas militants, backed by a volley of thousands of rockets, broke through Israel's security barrier and rampaged through nearby communities. At least 600 people have reportedly been killed in Israel - a staggering toll on a scale the country has not experienced in decades - and more than 300 have been killed in Gaza.

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Kuwait expresses sympathy

Afghan quakes kill over 2,000

ISLAMABAD, Oct 8, (Agencies): Powerful earthquakes killed at least 2,000 people in western Afghanistan, a Taliban government spokesman said Sunday. It's one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

The figures couldn't be independently verified, but if correct, the toll would eclipse that of an earthquake that hit eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, striking a rugged, mountainous region, flattening stone and mud-brick homes and killing at least 1,000 people.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit a far more densely populated area, near Afghanistan's fourth largest city, Herat. It was followed by strong aftershocks.

Elsewhere, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry expressed sympathy and solidarity of the State of Kuwait with the people of Afghanistan following the earthquake that hit the western country, killed more than 2,000 people, and left thousands injured.

In a statement Sunday, the ministry extended its sincere condolences and sympathy of the State of Kuwait to the Afghan people and the victims' families, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Herat city. It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

On Sunday, people attempted to dig out the dead and injured with their hands in Herat, clambering over rocks and debris. Survivors and victims were trapped under buildings that had crumbled to the ground, their faces grey with dust.

One video, shared online, shows people freeing a baby girl from a collapsed building after being buried up to her neck in debris. A

hand is seen cradling the baby's torso as rescuers ease the child out of the ground. Rescuers said it was the baby's mother. It is not clear if the mother survived.

Abdul Wahid Rayan, a spokesman at the Ministry of Information and Culture, said Sunday the death toll is higher than originally reported. Villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of civilians are buried under the debris, he said while calling for urgent help.

"Besides the 2,060 dead, 1,240 people are injured and 1,320 houses are completely destroyed," said Rayan. At least a dozen teams have been scrambled to help with rescue efforts, including from the military and nonprofit organizations like the Red Crescent.

The United Nations migration agency deployed four ambulances with doctors and psychosocial support counselors to the regional hospital. At least three mobile health teams were on their way to the Zenda Jan district, which is one of the worst-hit areas.

Doctors Without Borders set up five medical tents at Herat Regional Hospital to accommodate up to 80 patients. Authorities have treated more than 300 patients, according to the agency. UNICEF dispatched thousands of supplies, including winter clothes, blankets and tarpaulins as temperatures dropped.

Irfanullah Sharafzai, a spokesman for the Afghan Red Crescent Society, said seven teams were busy with rescue efforts while others were arriving from eight nearby provinces. They set up a temporary camp for the displaced, Sharafzai said.

Teams from the aid group described the destruction near Herat as much worse than initially feared, with entire villages flattened.

Photographer Omid Haqjoo visited four villages in Zenda Jan

on Sunday morning. He reported seeing bodies under collapsed houses and locals waiting for help, lacking shovels to dig out bodies. Some aid groups, like the World Food Program, were already on the scene with essential items.

Later Sunday, people from surrounding villages brought equipment to support rescue efforts.

The first quake was the strongest, causing the most damage and casualties, Haqjoo said, quoting survivors.

"Most people were shocked ... some couldn't even talk. But there were others who couldn't stop crying and shouting," he told The Associated Press by phone from Herat.

Save the Children said the scale of the damage was horrific. "The numbers affected by this tragedy are truly disturbing - and those numbers will rise as people are still trapped in the rubble of their homes in Herat," said the aid group's country director for Afghanistan, Arshad Malik.



An Afghan man holds his cat, as he sits in the courtyard of his destroyed home after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district in Herat province, western Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023. (AP)

Ministry cites 'shortage'

MoH reviews options to rehire 100 expat doctors

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Health is reviewing the possibility of rehiring approximately 100 expatriate doctors who were previously employed in various hospitals and primary health care centers, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Knowledgeable health sources have confirmed this consideration, emphasizing the ministry's need for their services due to the shortage of doctors.

These doctors had their services terminated months ago upon reaching the legal retirement age, and several of them had collected their outstanding dues, including consultant-level ratings, in different medical specialties.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:26	Asr	14:56
Sunrise ..	05:44	Maghrib ..	17:26
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:43

Local

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 08-28 km/h.

By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather

with light to moderate northwest-erly wind to light variable wind with speeds of 06-26 km/h.	Abdaly	42	23
	Jahra	42	27
	Salmiyah	39	29
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	40	29	30
Kuwait Airport	41	24	27
	Wafra	41	23

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

MP Al-Azmi readies grilling against Minister Al-Aiban

Oct 16 meeting called to discuss legislative priorities



Speaker of the National Assembly, Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun, with a number of representatives of Kuwaiti NGOs.

KUNA photo

Parliament Speaker receives NGOs representatives

National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun received on Sunday in his office a delegation that included representatives of a number of Kuwaiti None-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The delegation included the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Women's Cultural and Social Society, Lulwa Al-Mulla, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Social Association, Abdullah Al-Radwan, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Graduates Association, Dr. Mohammad Al-Faili, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Economic Society, Mohammad Al-Joan, and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National

Society for Child Protection, Dr. Siham Al-Furairh.

The delegation also included the Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association for Information Security, Dr. Safaa Zaman, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Entrepreneurship Development Society, Ghadeer Al-Juma, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Kuwaiti Society for Supporting Inventors, Dr. Fatima Al-Thaleb, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Society for the Development of the Educational System, Dr. Saleh Al-Enezi, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Writers' Association Hamidi Al-Mutairi. (KUNA)

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: MP Hamdan Al-Azmi revealed that he is preparing the format for a grilling motion that he will file against the Minister of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Al-Aiban.

He affirmed that the grilling motion concerns important issues including conflict of interests, misuse of authority, and administrative and financial violations.

MP Al-Azmi submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, asking about the number of mosques in Kuwait, the number of mosques in each governorate and area, and the number of mosques under construction.

He asked for details about the mosques under construction including the address, the date when the plots were allocated, and the date of construction contracts showing their term, value, percentage of achievement, and name of the contractor, as well as if any contracts are delayed as per the scheduled plan.

Al-Azmi asked about the procedures taken by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs against the violating contractors, and if any lawsuits have been filed by the ministry in this regard.

He said he wanted to be provided with copies of all the contracts signed by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs with contractors for the maintenance of mosques from 2018 till date, and the amount of fines collected from the violating contractors, if any.

The lawmaker asked if monitoring institutions had recorded any violations on the mosques' maintenance contracts that were signed after 2018. If any, he wanted to know the procedures taken by the ministry to address those observations. If they have not been addressed, he wanted to know the reasons.

MP Al-Azmi also wanted to know the number of engineers assigned by the ministry to monitor the execution of construction and maintenance contracts, as well as their nationalities.

Meanwhile, MP Hassan Jawhar sent invitations to his colleagues to attend a coordinating meeting scheduled to be held on Sunday, October 16 in the presence of the National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun.

MP Jawhar said the meeting is aimed at discussing the legislative priorities for the upcoming parliamentary term, and approve them in a final form in a prelude to be referred to the joint parliament-government coordinating committee.

Furthermore, MP Dawoud Marafie submitted parliamentary questions to the

Minister of Social Affairs and the State Minister for Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Fares Al-Sabah, asking about the number of workers in the ministry who have been appointed on contract basis, their wages, and details about how many among them are Kuwaitis, children of Kuwaiti women, illegal residents (Bedoun) and expatriates.

He wanted to know the specific demands of the ministry for Kuwaiti workers, and how many of them have been appointed since 2020.

MP Marafie asked if there are any vacancies of supervisory positions, and if yes, he wanted to know the procedures taken by the ministry to fill them.

The lawmaker also wanted to know the number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti consultants working in the minister's office, undersecretary's office and the offices of the assistant undersecretaries.

Also, MP Abdul Kareem Al-Kandari submitted a proposal to grant a national labor subsidy to Kuwaitis working in companies owned by the government without cutting any part of their current salaries.

He explained that the proposal is aimed at enhancing justice. Kuwaiti employees in the companies owned by the government are covered by the private sector labor law but are not subject to the regulations of the Civil Services Commission (CSC), due to which they obtain lower salaries compared to their colleagues working in the public sector. They also do not obtain a national labor subsidy like their colleagues working in the private sector.

In addition, the National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Saadoun received the Ambassador of Kuwait to Tanzania Mubarak Muhammad Al-Sehajjan. He also met with a delegation representing a number of public profit organisations. The delegation included the President of the Women's Cultural Social Society Lulwa Al-Mulla, Chairman of Kuwait Social Association Abdullah Al-Radwan, Vice Chairman of Kuwait Alumni Association Muhammad Al-Filli, Vice Chairman of Kuwait Economic Society Muhammad Al-Jawa'an and the Chairperson of National Society for Child Protection Seham Al-Fraih. The delegation also included the President of the Kuwait Society for Information Security Safa'a Al-Zaman, the Chairperson of Kuwait Initiators and Entrepreneurs Association Ghadeer Al-Jumaa, the Chairperson of the Kuwait Society for Inventors Support Fatima Al-Thaleb, the Chairman of the Kuwait Association for Educational System Development Saleh Al-Anzi and the Chairman of the Kuwaiti Writers Association Humaidi Al-Mutairi.



Al-Azmi



Al-Aiban

MC joint panel to meet

Construction works on agenda

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Municipal Council's joint committee comprising of the technical, legal and financial committees, headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal, will tomorrow discuss the amendment to the construction works regulations and the timeline attached to it, in addition to the Real Estate Union's observations regarding the proposed amendment to the regulations.

Meanwhile, the Jahra Governorate Committee of the Municipal Council, during its meeting on Wednesday, headed by Abdullah Al-Enezi, will discuss several transactions and items, the most prominent of which is the letter submitted by the Ministry of Public Works regarding the allocation of sites for construction of temporary offices in various areas in Kuwait.

He requested a second location for the National Data Center for Business Continuity and Disaster Management. He also requested the reorganization of the Sulabiya

Agricultural Area and to hand it over to the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR).

In addition, the committee will discuss the request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate overhead line paths from both Kazma station B and SWDC station A to Jaber Bridge station in Subbiya.

It will also discuss canceling the Municipal Council's decision taken on January 10, 2022, due to the lack of the need to establish an airport in the northern region.

In parallel, the Municipal Council's Objections and Complaints Committee, headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal, will review a number of items during its second meeting of the second session on Thursday.

The most important of these items slated for discussion is the complaint submitted by the residents of Abu Al-Hasaniya area regarding the naming of the Abu Al-Hasaniya area, and the complaint submitted by the residents of the Salmiya Block 12, First Street, Avenue 6, regarding the lack of parking. The complaint was submitted by a Kuwaiti woman regarding the municipality's refusal to remove the violations, in addition to the letter submitted by a Kuwaiti man regarding a complaint about multiple floors and irregular awnings in Sabahiya Block 1, Street 1.



Dr. Kamal



Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during the inspection tour of the 1st Protection Brigade.

KUNA photo

NG chief visits 1st Protection Brigade

'Continue exercises, data analysis'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): On Sunday, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard, issued directives to continue exercises and data analysis to keep up with the latest operational technologies and methodologies in the field of protection and security. This directive was conveyed in a statement by Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf, as reported in a press release from the National Guard.

During an inspection tour of the 1st Protection Brigade, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf was briefed on the activities of the 3rd Facilities Protection Battalion responsible for safeguarding the nation's critical infrastructure, including the East and West Doha Electric Power Generation and Water Distillation Stations, as well as the Al-Mutlaa Transmission Station.

Emphasizing the crucial role played in securing these vital sectors, which are the lifeline of the country, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf commended the capabilities and expertise demonstrated in protection, inspection, and public engagement. He noted that these capabilities are a testament to ongoing efforts to enhance the National Guard forces and equip them with the best weapons and equipment.

The statement further indicated that during the tour, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf was briefed on the procedures involved in the security measures, inspection devices, and equipment used at entrance gates. He also learned about the protocols for interacting with vehicles and individuals, as well as the operations of fixed and mobile patrols responsible for securing perimeters and facilities.

Last date Nov 10

17,300 apply for Hajj

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced that the total number of applications registered on the Hajj platform for the 1445 AH season reached 17,300 as of yesterday. The last date for registration is November 10.

In a press statement, the ministry explained that the number of Kuwaiti pilgrims who registered on the platform and expressed their desire to perform Hajj rituals in the 1445 AH season reached 15,511. The number of those registered from the Bedoun category is 1,789.

The number of calls and inquiries made through the hotline number is 11,830. The number of requests to authenticate the "My ID" app for performing Hajj rituals reached 59,870.

In parallel, the Department of Hajj and Umrah Affairs held a workshop for a number of pilgrims and owners of Kuwaiti Hajj expeditions, during which the department explained the central registration system for the 1445 AH Hajj season.

According to the Director of the Hajj Department Sattam Al-Muzain, the workshop aimed at explaining the electronic registration system. The participants were given details about the general procedures and conditions for accepting Hajj applications that should be available to those wishing to perform Hajj.

Mobile unit inaugurated: minister

'Provide best care to elderly people'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Relief campaign for Palestinians

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Director of Public Relations and the official spokesman of the Ministry of Social Affairs Ahmed Al-Enezi announced the launch of an urgent relief campaign for the Palestinian people.

He said, "Based on the instructions of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Firas Al-Malik Al-Sabah and on the current events taking place in the Palestinian territories, a circular was issued to charitable societies to launch an urgent relief campaign for Palestine.

"The charities wishing to participate in the campaign can obtain prior approval as soon as they express their desire through the program to automate the management of charities and foundations."

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Minister of Social Affairs and the Minister of Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Feras Al-Malik affirmed the ministry's keenness to provide the best services of various types to the elderly persons.

In a press statement issued yesterday on the sidelines of the celebration organized by the Elderly Care Department in the ministry's Social Welfare Sector under the slogan of "Their Satisfaction is Paradise" on the occasion of the International Day of the Elderly, Al-Malik said the ministry has recently developed and provided many services aimed at offering the best care for this group.

He revealed that the ministry recently opened an integrated mobile unit to serve the elderly in Hawally Governorate. Al-Malik highlighted the implementation of a development action plan that includes many special services that facilitate the lives of the elderly.

In his speech during the ceremony, Al-Malik said the ministry pays great attention to the elderly through what was stipulated in article 11 of the Constitution, adding that law No. 18/2016 regarding social care for the elderly was accordingly issued.

He explained that this law provides all aspects of medical, social, psychological and recreational care through the services provided by the Elderly Care Department in the Social Welfare Sector through mobile service centers in all governorates, which serve more than 3,500 elderly men and women.

The Ministry of Social Affairs provides adequate housing, health and social care for the elderly, who have no breadwinners, through residential care services. The number of the elderly men and women who benefited from a priority card reached about 31,000.

36 new transformers installed in S. Khaitan

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy revealed the installation of 36 new secondary transformers in the South Khaitan Residential Area project.

They said the stations have four electrical transformers with a capacity of 1,250 KVA in each station, and will be operated according to a time schedule that ends in December 2024.

The sources affirmed that the main 11/132 KV stations in the area have completed the installation process and are awaiting the start of cable work. They indicated that the delivery of power to the area is carried out through tender No. 2020-72-2021 regarding the construction, manufacturing, supply and installation of secondary conversion stations and for extending and welding medium pressure and low pressure cables.

The sources affirmed the completion of all regulatory approvals and the signing of the contract on January 24, 2023 for a period of 36 months from the date of the contract.

They said, "The inclusion of the supply and extension of 132 KV ground cables for connecting the main 11/132 KV substations in the area to the network is within the ministry's Tender No. WKM/2014/2015.100 to supply and extend 132 km voltage ground cables insulated with XLPE and communications cables with their accessories in various areas of Kuwait (Ninth Phase).

Approval for the award was obtained from the Central Agency for Public Tenders and is currently awaiting approval from the State Audit Bureau to complete the procedures for signing the contract with the contractor recommended for award."

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'What's your gain ... when your infrastructure in disrepair?'

"A RECURRENT dialogue, not only among our Gulf compatriots but also within factions among us, can be summarized as follows: 'What have you gained from democracy when your infrastructure is in disrepair,'" expressed columnist **Muzaffar Abdullah** in an article for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"This sentiment reflects a misunderstanding of the political relationship that has existed between rulers and their people since the seventeenth century and persists despite its challenges. Blaming the slow progress of construction and development on democracy and freedoms is an illogical perspective.

"The pace of construction is intertwined with the effective public administration of the country -- a genuine concern in Kuwait that we acknowledge. However, it is unrelated to the constitutional government form that established democratic principles and public freedoms.

"After centuries of democratic practices globally, and Kuwait's own experiences marred by conflicts and struggles, it is erroneous to connect this extensive history to delays in implementing critical projects like a metro or power stations.

"Kuwait's form of relative democracy has granted its people freedom of expression, a robust press, and a strong sense of participation in governance. The nation had a thriving civil society in the early twentieth century, fostering an early wave of economic, educational, and cultural advancements, leading to the establishment of advisory and legislative councils in the 1920s and 1930s, as well as elected professional councils in the 1950s. The 1962 constitution further defined the roles of the three branches of government.

"While Kuwait faces development challenges, every Kuwaiti possesses the ability to voice their concerns, diagnose issues, and hold those obstructing progress accountable -- many of whom have faced legal repercussions.

"They can demand accountability from the executive authority through their parliamentary representatives and express their thoughts without constraint. In Kuwait, we have the liberty to address matters candidly.

"Regarding our infrastructure, services, and development endeavors, they are under the purview of an administrative apparatus for which successive governments are responsible.

"While Kuwaitis have expressed frustration, it's essential to recognize that Kuwait has persisted in a participatory system despite the challenging geographical constraints. Kuwait's experience is far from perfect but demands constructive growth. Hence, freedom aligns with the trajectory of the world -- an inevitable path for humanity."

Also:

"Amidst the swift unfolding of events and the broader political landscape



Abdullah

within the nation, and following a period of parliamentary standstill experienced during the parliamentary summer recess, numerous crucial local and regional matters came to light during this time. This included Iran's demand concerning Kuwait, Saudi Arabia's involvement in the Durra field, and the Iraqi Federal Court's ruling on the unconstitutionality of the maritime navigation agreement in Khor Abdullah, among many others," columnist **Fahd Al-Jabri** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Nevertheless, the nation was overshadowed by parliamentary stagnation and an overarching silence. It remains uncertain whether this inaction stems from political sagacity and shrewdness or from complacency and a lack of responsibility.

"Suddenly, MP Dr. Mubarak Al-Tasha emerged, publicly announcing his intention to interrogate the minister of public works based on four core aspects. While acknowledging the importance of these four aspects, it is widely recognized among those engrossed in political and parliamentary affairs that the focal figure overseeing the Ministry of Public Works is MP Daoud Marafi. He diligently monitors dubious contracts, whether tied to the new airport project, road works, or other initiatives.

"Social networking platforms suggested that these two distinguished representatives were collaborating to submit this interrogation. This prompts one to ponder what motivated Representative Mubarak Al-Tasha to act with such urgency.

"Notably, the inclusion of this interrogation on the Council's agenda is scheduled for the first session of the upcoming term on October 31. The rush raises questions, especially considering preliminary indications hint at the minister's intent to resign before the interrogation date. The mechanism employed for this interrogation seems akin to an open parliamentary infiltration.

"In essence, parliamentary endeavors, whether legislative or oversight, thrive when rooted in parliamentary cooperation, coordination among representatives, and unified teamwork. This approach serves the country and its citizens' best interests. Singular decision-making is detrimental, leading to the erosion of the legislative institution's role.

"Unfortunately, some prevailing political forces indirectly endeavor to diminish political positions in Parliament, favoring select representatives deemed suitable by their own standards. On the other hand, it is acknowledged that the government aims to vet its members. However, this vetting process should not come at the expense of Parliament, turning it into a platform for government retribution.

"In conclusion, lead roles should not be arbitrarily assigned. If the Ministry of Public Works matter is resolved today, three ministers are currently on the vetting list. The days ahead will reveal how these matters are handled."

□ □ □

"First of all, let us understand the meaning of privatization. Privatization simply means transferring the ownership of a state asset to the private sector, and converting assets into cash flow that goes to the State Treasury," columnist **Wael Al-Fisam** wrote for **AlJarida** daily.

"I was surprised by the letter sent by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies, which was published in **Al-Rai** newspaper a while ago, requesting a study on the privatization of cooperative societies!

"What caught my attention was that cooperative societies are not owned by the state in order to be allocated. Their capital is not public money that falls under the government's general budget, but rather it is private capital of citizens who contributed to these cooperative societies, each region separately.

"Here I wonder how the Ministry of Commerce and Industry does not know that cooperative societies are private properties, not public properties. Where are the officials and department directors in the various state ministries, such as the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Social Affairs that did not correct this mistake to the Ministry of Commerce? Is it not necessary to consider the budgets and ownership of cooperative societies when preparing such an allocation proposal?

"In order for the citizens to understand the situation of cooperative societies in Kuwait, we can say that the ownership of cooperative societies is like that of local banks for example. They are owned by shareholders who put in their own money to build capital and work to serve the community. The banks follow the policies and laws of the Central Bank of Kuwait, but it does not mean that the Central Bank of Kuwait owns these banks and has the right to sell them or "privatize" them. In the same vein, cooperative societies, whose capital comes privately from the citizens' pocket, operate within geographical boundaries, serve limited residential areas, and follow the policies and laws of the Ministry of Social Affairs. However, this does not mean that they are the properties of the Ministry of Social Affairs or the government.

"So the question we ask here is - Why does the government or the Ministry of Commerce want to change the ownership of cooperative societies? Is the sector going through a loss? Don't their sales reach one billion dinars annually? I hope that cooperative societies and their managers will respond to the letter of the Ministry of Commerce, and clarify to government agencies that cooperative societies are private, and not public properties that can be allocated. I also ask the members of Parliament, whose duty is to protect the rights of citizens and their private properties, to defend the ownership of cooperative societies and protect the profits and capital of contributing citizens from loss."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Other Voices

When Badr talks about Muslim Brotherhood

By Ahmad Al Sarraf

It required the solidarity of several countries, led by America, to find a vaccine to eliminate the Covid virus, before it wiped out humanity. Perhaps it will require the Arab countries to come together, under the leadership of their largest, to eliminate the Muslim Brotherhood virus.

In a distinguished article written by colleague Badr Al-Bahr for **Al-Qabas** daily, he wondered why the Gulf states were aware of the danger of Islamic groups, especially the Muslim Brotherhood, and classified them as terrorists, and issued death sentences on their members, while Kuwait stood in the opposite direction, and even brought its members closer to decision-making centers, and what is more dangerous than that is what he has come to believe. Some of those who aspire to reach the decision-making power say that an alliance with the Brotherhood may be the way to achieve their goals, without realizing the reality of these people's affiliations abroad.



alsarraf

The colleague went on to say that our government had previously allied with the Brotherhood, after the rigging of the 1967 elections, to help it fight the national movement, so it brought them into the ministry and allowed them to establish their financial empire, and enabled them to control some of the most important state institutions, and the wealth under its control, and enabled them to exploit the funds of associations to finance their political activities, and it turned a blind eye to the famous fatwa permitting the use of the money it collected to finance the campaigns of its supporters in the parliamentary elections, and gave them the reins to dispose of hundreds of millions through various associations and committees, as a means of completing the application of Sharia, but as soon as the government needed them to calm the Kuwaiti street, during the Arab Spring wave, until they broke their promises and betrayed them, and boycotted the elections in order to destabilize the state, as it seems with orders they received from abroad.

As a former Muslim Brotherhood leader previously confirmed, in an interview with a fellow newspaper, 4 years ago, that the Kuwaiti Muslim Brotherhood are the most dangerous in the Gulf, and that they have established three organizations in Kuwait, for citizens, for Egyptians, and a third for others.

They also made Kuwait a refuge for the group, bringing in thousands of their members. They provided work for them, and made Kuwait their central bank. Their danger also lies in the extent of their deployment and alliance with countries that threaten the security of the Gulf, such as Iran, for which they have repeatedly declared their support.

Message

Colleague Al-Bahr ended his article with a message to the government, saying that the matter can no longer be postponed, and we must catch up with the Gulf process, and begin excluding party members from any political scene or ministerial or leadership position, so that we do not appear more like an intersection with the policy of the Gulf states.

It is natural that colleague Al-Bahr's article caused the Brotherhood extremists to be upset about it, because of the facts he presented, and because of the writer's credibility, good conduct, and well-known religiosity, so instructions were issued to confront

him, as one of them rose, and another returned from his isolation, to write two weak responses to him, as usual.

They did not hide their hatred for everyone who attacked them, and they did not hesitate to lie and change history, to distort the image of others, and this has been their habit since their group was founded 85 years ago, denying the facts, describing the colleague's article as lacking objectivity and credibility and far from scientific honesty, and even from good address!

Someone also accused him of saying that "the people of Kuwait" are aware of the truth and the reasons that made him tend toward dangerous exclusionary rhetoric, and they are aware of his goals and directions at this political stage! I do not know why they were silent about mentioning the writer's goals and directions, if they were illegal?

One of them also denied that the late Youssef Al-Haji belonged to the Brotherhood, as he was the head of their party and a member of it for years. So how can the movement, which is the most dangerous and secretive in its work, allow someone who is not from the Brotherhood to lead it?

Charitable

It was also funny what one of them mentioned, and it is a claim that was repeated by them many times, that charitable work is subject to the oversight of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and this did not happen except in the past few years, after the intervention and oversight of the US Treasury Department. However, before that, and for half a century, the funds of these associations were unsupervised.

He says, returning to his article" and perhaps just to respond to his colleague, that he knew him as a good, decent human being, proud of his independence, and refusing to follow and imitate others!! Then he began to challenge it, and that he had become an imitator of liberal penmen, raising suspicions against the Islamic movement, and often hinting to me, forgetting that he was repeating verbatim what he wrote in his article published in April 2020, in which he used the same method of 'flattery, pleading... and stabbing'.

The response was, in general, ridiculous, full of slander against the colleague, and all because the latter confronted with literary courage their deviations, gave new evidence of the truth of his words, and accurately described the images of the Brotherhood's corruption and their loyalty to the outside, and this, it seems, pained them greatly.

In conclusion, he called on our colleague Al-Bahr to follow his thought and approach, and not imitate others in their sterile approaches, who believe that contravening the Islamic trend would lead them to fame, glory, and acceptance among the Mu'azib (!!!)

He also asked him to take a lesson from some of his neighbors, and perhaps he means me, who for forty years have been criticizing the religious movement and questioning its intentions, and have reaped nothing but disappointment, while his criticism of the Islamists has increased their solidarity and spread!!

Of course, this is ridiculous and puzzling talk at the same time. If attacking them strengthens them and spreads their ideas, why don't they leave us alone, so that they can become more solid?

A final note: The emptiness of these parties can often be identified by the emptiness of those who stand up to defend them.

□ □ □

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Company 'sealed' for using rotten meat to make meals

Arab woman caught with drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Inspectors from the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has administratively closed the main office and warehouse of a food supply company, because it used expired food products to prepare meals, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to reliable sources, "The Ministry inspectors have seized quantities of meals unfit for human consumption at the company's headquarters and warehouse, ready for use, display, and sale to restaurants and the general public."

The sources indicated that "the meat used to prepare meals is of unknown origin, had been thawed and had expired last August. To add insult to injury no commercial data was available for the seized products."

The sources added, "The seized ingredients also showed that the company used expired cheese, including different types. The seized list also included a pomegranate molasses product."

The sources said, "The company employees were caught in the act of preparing kebab, tikka, and ribs made from spoiled meat."

The sources disclosed "the violator face the charges of commercial fraud, and accordingly, the oversight inspectors decided to close the company's headquarters and warehouse, and legal procedures are expected to be completed soon following which the file will be handed over to the Public Prosecution.

The "Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mohammed Al-Aiban, has instructed the inspectors and emergency teams at the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Sector to intensify their field visits to markets to confront and contain violations in prices and/or quality."

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Woman caught with drugs: An Arab woman has been arrested by law enforcement officers for possessing a mixture of drugs, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source the expatriate woman had previously been detained on multiple occasions and was released due to humanitarian considerations.

The source went on to say that the arrest was made follow-



Meals being prepared from spoiled ingredients.

ing information received by the Directorate-General for Drugs Control, indicating that the woman was involved in drug consumption and trafficking.

Subsequently, security authorities obtained a search and arrest warrant from the Public Prosecution, leading to the woman's arrest. During the arrest, law enforcement confiscated five sachets of shabu and five sachets of chemicals from her possession.

It remains uncertain whether the woman will be promptly deported from the country or if her 'special circumstances' will pose a hindrance to this course of action.

□ □ □

Drugs found on expat: The Ahmadi Security Directorate has arrested an unidentified expatriate for possessing drugs, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source said the expatriate was arrested on the Fahaeel Road for violating a traffic law and while issuing a citation police discovered he was under the influence of drugs.

Judicial team to visit in Nov

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that a high-level Indonesian judicial delegation headed by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia Professor Muhammad Sharifuddin will visit Kuwait in November, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a recent press statement, the ministry revealed that the delegation will discuss various aspects of cooperation in the judicial field during the visit; in addition to signing a memorandum of understanding between the Kuwaiti Court of Cassation and Indonesian Supreme Court.

The ministry said acting President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Vice President of the Court of Cassation Judge Dr Adel Buresli had a meeting with Counselor at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait Minister Radin Arif and Head of the Consulate Dasti Adriani to arrange the visit of the judicial delegation.



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Such gatherings provide an opportunity to share experiences: Al-Ansari

'Kuwait consumer protection measures hailed amid pan-Arab talks'

CAIRO, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait's commitment towards consumer protection policies was acknowledged as officials from across the wider Arab region assembled for talks to discuss such measures, praising Kuwait's precedent-setting experiences on the matter, a Kuwaiti official said

on Sunday. Such gatherings provide an opportunity for participants to share their experiences with one another, which bodes well for efforts to bolster consumer protection measures in the region, said Faisal Al-Ansari, the chief of the Kuwaiti Commerce Ministry's

consumer protection and inspection department. On these measures, he cited efforts to regulate the prices of goods in the local market, in addition to the ministry's commitment to clamp down on price gouging, both of which were experiences Kuwait

intends to "share" with its regional counterparts, he underlined. The talks will revolve around policies and measures pertinent to consumer protection efforts, which includes an idea pitched by Egypt to form a comprehensive web portal on the matter, he added.



KUNA photo Chief of Kuwait's Commerce Ministry's Al-Ansari during the gathering.

Fifteen govt agencies meet to discuss plans for rainy season

Panel members thoroughly examine MPW plan, specific tasks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Public Works is actively preparing for the impending rainy season, collaborating closely with relevant authorities, particularly Civil Defense and the General Fire Force, along with multiple organizations forming the Rain

and Floods Consequences Committee, reports Al-Rai daily. Reliable sources within the Ministry of Public Works informed the daily that "last week, the Rain and Floods Consequences Committee, comprising 15 agencies, convened to discuss the readiness of these entities for the upcoming rainy season."

During this meeting, the committee members thoroughly examined the ministry's plan and the specific tasks it will undertake. Each entity will execute their respective responsibilities in the event of heavy rain surpassing the drainage system's capacity.

The sources further elaborated, "It was agreed that the emergency switchboards of the relevant authorities will be interconnected with the civil defense switchboard, ensuring seamless coordination of tasks among the involved parties."

They emphasized that "the ministry is currently engaged in activities such as cleaning manholes and drains, removing sediments and plankton that can obstruct rainwater drainage in certain areas."

Additionally, they highlighted, "The ministry will liaise with the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport to guarantee the secure operation of tunnel pumps, aiming to prevent any congestion, particularly during intense rain occurrences."



KUNA photo Kuwait information minister in a group photo during the GCC tourism meeting in Oman.

Kuwait info minister partakes in GCC tourism meet in Oman

Minister of Information, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi took part in the seventh meeting of the GCC tourism ministers hosted by Oman.

The Ministry of Information said in a statement on Friday

that the meeting, held at "Oman abr alzaman museuem," (Oman Across Ages Museum) in the district of Minh, on Thursday, addressed issues for serving the joint GCC tourism, namely resolutions that had been issued by

the GCC supreme council, the GCC tourism statistics website and the GCC tourism guidelines. The conferees discussed tasks of the joint team assigned to carry out the GCC tourism strategy and the joint tourism visas. (KUNA)

Crown Prince receives top officials

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, Sunday, at Bayan Palace Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Ta-

lal Khaled Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



Dr Swaika with Minister Dr Jassem Al-Ostad.

Indian envoy calls on Minister Dr Al-Ostad

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on the Minister of Electricity and Water HE Dr Jassem Muhammad Abdullah Al-Ostad today.

Given that India has one of the largest renewable energy programs, the discussions centered on potential bilateral cooperation in the field of renewable energy and agriculture.

MoH reviews

Continued from Page 1

These sources have clarified that reengaging these doctors will not incur additional costs for the state, as they would be rehired under specific enlistment terms that do not entitle them to severance or similar benefits. Moreover, health regions where these doctors had previously served have communicated their need for their services to the ministry, prompting a careful evaluation of whether to utilize their expertise in the coming days.

Conversely, Dr. Atal Al-Lafi, the Head of the Dermatology Department at the Asaad Al-Hamad Center and the Ministry of Health's Dermatology Departments, highlighted the substantial patient traffic at the Asaad Al-Hamad Center, averaging approximately 120,000 visitors annually.

During a speech commemorating World Pharmacist Day, Dr. Al-Lafi emphasized the center's dedication to enhancing the competency of its staff through informative lectures to match the rapid advancements in the medical and pharmaceutical domains.

He underscored the pivotal role pharmacists play within the healthcare system, emphasizing their vital responsibility in educating patients about treatment types and precautions, extending beyond merely dispensing medications.

Israel, Hamas

Continued from Page 1

The militants also took captives back into the coastal Gaza enclave, including women, children and the elderly, whom they will likely try to trade for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told CNN's "State of the Union" that the U.S. is working to verify reports that "several" Americans were killed or are missing.

The high death toll, multiple captives and slow response to the onslaught pointed to a major intelligence failure and undermined the long-held perception that Israel has eyes and ears everywhere in the small, densely populated territory it has controlled for decades.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country was at war and would exact a heavy price from its enemies. His Security Cabinet officially declared the country at war in an announcement on Sunday, saying the decision formally authorizes "the taking of significant military steps."

The implications of the announcement were not immediately clear. Israel has carried out major military campaigns over the past four decades in Lebanon and Gaza that it portrayed as wars, but without a formal declaration.

Yohanan Plesner, the head of the Israel Democracy Institute, a local think tank, said the decision is largely symbolic, but "demonstrates that the government thinks we are entering a more lengthy, intense and significant period of war."

A major question now was whether Israel will launch a ground assault into Gaza, a move that in the past has brought intensified casualties. Netanyahu vowed that Hamas "will pay an unprecedented price." But, he warned, "This war will take time. It will be difficult."

Civilians paid a staggering cost for the violence on both sides. Several Israeli media outlets, citing rescue service officials, said at least 600 people were killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers, while officials in Gaza said 313 people had died in the territory. Some 2,000 people have been wounded on each side. An Israeli official said security forces have killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

Israeli TV news aired a stream of accounts from the relatives of captive or missing Israelis, who wailed and begged for assistance amid a fog of uncertainty surrounding the fate of their loved ones. In Gaza, residents fled homes near the border to escape Israeli strikes, fleeing deeper inside the territory after warnings in Arabic from the Israeli military.

In neighboring Egypt, a policeman shot dead two Israeli tourists and an Egyptian at a tourist site in Alexandria, the Interior Ministry said. Egypt made peace with Israel decades ago, but anti-Israel sentiment runs high in the country, especially during bouts of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The flare-up on Israel's northern border also threatened to draw into the battle Hezbollah, a fierce enemy of Israel's which is backed by Iran and estimated to have tens of thousands of rockets at its disposal. Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets and shells on Sunday at three Israeli positions in a disputed area along the border and Israel's military fired back using armed drones. Two children were lightly wounded by broken glass on the Lebanese side, according to the nearby Marjayoun Hospital.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military official, told reporters the situation at the northern border was calm after the exchange. But he said fighting was still underway in the south and that there were still hostage situations there.

He said troops had moved into every community near the Gaza frontier, where they planned to evacuate all civilians and scour the area for militants.

"We will go through every community until we kill every terrorist that is in Israeli territory," he said. In Gaza, "every terrorist located in a house, all the commanders in houses, will be hit by Israeli fire. That will continue escalating in the coming hours."

Hamas said that overnight it had continued to send forces and equipment into "a number of locations inside our occupied territories," referring to Israel.

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Omani Artist Majed Al-Rwahi besides two of his sculptures.



Omani Artist Hatem Al-Sheili holding one of his sculptures.



Inauguration of 'Oman in the Heart of Kuwait' exhibition.



Oman Ambassador to Kuwait Saleh Al-Kharusi during a tour to the exhibition.



The opening of the exhibition with artworks.

Artistic collaboration highlights cross-cultural art harmony

'Oman in the Heart of Kuwait' exhibition celebrates deep historical ties: Ambassador

Kuwait contributes \$2 million to UNRWA for Palestinian refugees

Reinforcing unwavering commitment

AMMAN, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri on Sunday handed out Kuwait's contribution of USD two million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).



KUNA photo Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri delivers to UNRWA Director of External Relations Tamara Alrifai Kuwait's annual contribution to the agency.

with UN organizations and cooperate constructively with them in order to achieve the development goals of communities.

On her behalf, UNRWA Acting Director of External Relations Tamara Alrifai said that with additional contribution, Kuwait shows Palestine refugees that its long-standing support is still firm.

Sufficient funding

Kuwait's sufficient funding to UNRWA will enable it to carry out its mandate and maintain all critical services, contributing to the wellbeing and feeling of stability of Palestine refugees, Alrifai added.

"UNRWA is truly grateful to Kuwait's government and people for their generosity and solidarity and the constant contribution is very welcome and will hopefully encourage other partners to come forward," she added.

The Agency serves Palestine refugees across its five field of operation in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza and the West Bank.

Speaking to KUNA, the Ambassador affirmed that Kuwaiti aid is in "accordance with the permanent directives of the high political leadership and on the instructions of the Kuwaiti government, stressing the 'firm' position of the State of Kuwait on supporting the Palestinian cause and committing to support the humanitarian situation of Palestine refugees in the region."

He praised the Agency's role and efforts in providing basic services such as health and education

to Palestinian refugees in its areas of operations, noting the affirmation of Kuwait's efforts to partner

By Shahd Kamal

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Oman Ambassador to Kuwait Saleh Al-Kharusi said the art exhibition "Oman in the Heart of Kuwait" highlights the importance of coordination among the cultural and artistic institutions of the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Kuwait.

The exhibition reflects the deep-rooted historical relations between the two countries, he told KUNA after inaugurating the event.

The exhibition, which opened at the Kuwaiti Syndicate of Media and Artists on Saturday under auspices of Ambassador Al-Kharusi, gathered nearly 50 Omani artists.

Building bridges

Chairman of Kuwait's Syndicate of Media and Artists Dr. Nabil Al-Failakawi reaffirmed the Syndicate's support to arts inside and outside Kuwait, saying "We are keen building bridges of cooperation and communication with all artists in the Arabian Gulf region."

The agenda of the exhibition includes an art show, a poetic symposium tomorrow, Sunday, and a music seminar on Monday, Dr. Al-Failakawi noted.



KUNA photos The opening of the 'Oman in the Heart of Kuwait' exhibition with artworks that embody the depth of relations between the two countries.



Left: Kuwait's Minister of Oil Dr. Saad Al-Barrak taking part in MENA Climate Week. Right: Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman delivering the inaugural speech.

MENA Climate Week kicks off in Riyadh

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week kicked off Sunday in Riyadh in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat.

Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman in his inaugural speech asserted the need to work hard and ensure the success of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28).

The Saudi Minister noted that Saudi Arabia will soon have the first hydrogen-powered train in the Middle

East. The event discussed the issues, challenges, and opportunities related to climate change, that are scheduled to be addressed at (COP28).

Kuwait's Minister of Oil and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Saad Al-Barrak participated in the event alongside several global officials, policymakers, private sector firms, youth campaigners, and other key stakeholders in the climate change and sustainability sphere. (KUNA)



International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) inaugurates project to address learning difficulties for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

IICO launches project for Syrian refugees in Jordan



KUNA photos Project to address learning difficulties for Syrian refugees launched in Jordanian Yarmouk University.

IRBID, Jordan, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwaiti-based International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) launched on Sunday a project to address learning difficulties for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

In remarks to KUNA Sunday, the project's Supreme Committee Head, Bader Al-Sumait, said that the USD two-million project stemmed from the strategic vision of the organization, which succeeded over the past three years to implement more than 210 educational projects in 58 countries.

Al-Sumait pointed out that the current stage of project, inaugurated today, focused on training teachers and produce good results.

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World News Roundup

Europe

4 hurt in Vienna shooting

UK Labour on verge of 'regaining' power

LONDON, Oct 8, (AP): Members of Britain's opposition Labour Party gather in Liverpool on Sunday for their annual conference with an unfamiliar feeling: optimism.

The party has been out of power for 13 years, and in the last national election in 2019, voters handed Labour its worst drubbing since 1935. But with an election due next year, polls put Labour as much as 20 points ahead of the governing Conservative Party, and Labour scored a morale-boosting special election victory in Scotland last week.



Corbyn

Power is within the party's grasp - as long as it doesn't mess things up.

"It was a big step in the right direction, an important one," Labour leader Keir Starmer said Friday after the special election result. "But we accept this humbly. This is a step on the journey."

Labour's landslide 1997 election victory under Tony Blair - the peak of its popularity - was a quarter-century ago, and the party has suffered four straight election defeats.

The Conservatives have been in power nationally since 2010, years that saw austerity following the world banking crisis, Britain's divisive decision to leave the European Union, a global pandemic and a European war that has triggered the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades.

Those upheavals left both Britain's main parties in turmoil - and both responded by picking populist leaders. Labour members elected the veteran left-wing lawmaker **Jeremy Corbyn** in 2015. The Conservatives, after years of division and wrangling over the country's EU exit, chose brash Brexit-booster Boris Johnson and won a thumping election victory over Corbyn in 2019.

Corbyn quit after that defeat, and amid criticism that he'd allowed antisemitism to fester in a party that sees itself as proudly antiracist.

Starmer won a party leadership contest in 2020, vowing to restore relations between the party and the Jewish community. He also has steered the social democratic party back toward the political middle-ground after the divisive tenure of Corbyn, a staunch socialist who advocated nationalization of key industries and infrastructure.

Actions

Starmer's actions angered some grassroots Labour members who want a bolder agenda, but it has revived the party's poll ratings. In a sign that corporate Britain is preparing for a change of government, Labour says companies have been queuing up to buy stands in the conference exhibition hall and to attend a business forum with Starmer and other senior party leaders.

In a speech opening the gathering, Deputy Leader Angela Rayner plans to accuse the Conservatives of presiding over "national decline" and being too consumed with internal political chaos to sort out the country's problems.

"With five prime ministers in seven years and constant chaos and instability, Britain's future has been left to take a back seat," she will say, according to extracts released by Labour.

The Conservatives, who held their own, rather muted conference in Manchester last week, have not given up hope. Conservative officials argue that voters are not sold on Starmer, a lawyer and former chief prosecutor with a cautious, managerial style. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has depicted himself as a force for change, with Starmer as the face of the status quo.

But Sunak's party has a big gap to close. The Conservatives are losing support across the country, from affluent southern voters turned off by Brexit to working-class northern voters who switched from Labour in 2019.

Labour is also gaining ground in Scotland, where its former dominance had been obliterated in recent years by the pro-independence Scottish National Party. Labour won an emphatic victory over the SNP in a special election Thursday for the parliamentary seat of Rutherglen and Hamilton West, near Glasgow. Starmer hailed it as a "seismic result."

Also:

BERLIN: Two German states hold elections on Sunday at the halfway mark of Chancellor **Olaf Scholz's** unpopular national government, with polls showing the center-right opposition well ahead and Germany's interior minister facing an uphill struggle in a bid to become governor of her home region.

About 9.4 million people are eligible to vote for the new state legislature in Bavaria and around 4.3 million in neighboring Hesse, a region that includes Germany's financial capital, **Frankfurt**. Both states are led by the country's main opposition Union bloc, made up of the Christian Democratic Union and the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union.

The outcome could increase tensions in Scholz's three-party coalition, which has become notorious for infighting, and offer pointers to who might challenge Scholz in the 2025 national election.

BERLIN: A man has been arrested in western Germany after his 3-year-old daughter died while apparently locked in a basement room, and he threw her body into a canal, authorities said Sunday.

The 40-year-old German went to a police station in his hometown of **Dinslaken** on Friday and told officers that his daughter had died and he had then thrown her body - loaded down with weights - into the canal in nearby **Oberhausen**, police and prosecutors said in a statement.

Investigators said they believe that the man had shut the girl in a basement room of an apartment building for a few days, possibly as an "educational measure."

VIENNA, Austria: Austrian police say four people were wounded Saturday evening in a shooting on a street in the capital, Vienna.

The shooting happened in the city's **Floridsdorf** district, Vienna police said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Police said that four people were shot in the street and that the gunmen fled in cars. The conditions of those injured weren't immediately clear.

Austria's public broadcaster said police later seized two cars and arrested four suspects, all Bosnian nationals.

The news site Kronen said the shooting appeared to be linked to a feud between criminal gangs.

Police didn't immediately release any information about a possible motive.



Britain's Deputy Labour leader Angela Rayner and Labour Party Party leader Keir Starmer, arrive, ahead of the Labour Party Conference starting on Sunday, in Liverpool, England on Oct 7. (AP)



Katharina Schulze of the Allianz90/The Greens casts her ballot at a polling station in the Neuhausen district, in Munich, Germany Oct 8. Two German states hold elections on Sunday at the halfway mark of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's unpopular national government, with polls showing the center-right opposition well ahead and Germany's interior minister facing an uphill struggle in a bid to become governor of her home region. (AP)



Butts



Fleming

America

Shooting kills 2 in LA: Two men were killed and three others were wounded when they were shot in a parked car near Los Angeles Saturday afternoon, authorities said.

Ingleswood Mayor **James Butts** said the shooting may have been a targeted attack, KABC-TV reported.

Paramedics responded around 4:30 p.m. to a commercial area of Ingleswood and transported the five victims to a hospital with gunshot wounds, the Los Angeles County Fire Department said.

Butts said the men in their 50s were inside the vehicle in a parking lot when a shooter pulled up and opened fire, although it was unclear if there was more than one shooter, KABC reported.

One of the surviving victims was in critical condition, KABC reported.

The Ingleswood Police Department closed several surrounding blocks at the scene about 10 miles (16 kilometers) southwest of downtown Los Angeles. (AP)

Man acquitted in slaying: A man acquitted in the shooting death of a western Pennsylvania police officer eight years ago has been convicted of assaulting a deputy sheriff as law enforcement officers were trying to serve an arrest warrant nearly two years ago.

Jurors in Westmoreland County deliberated for more than three hours before convicting Ray Shetler Jr., 39, of New Florence of aggravated assault, attempted disarming of a law enforcement official and resisting arrest in the violent confrontation in St. Clair Township in December 2021. He was acquitted of another count of aggravated assault.

Shetler was on probation on theft-related convictions in 2018 when he failed a drug test and did not appear at a probation hearing, after which an arrest warrant was issued. State troopers and county sheriff's deputies found him hiding in a friend's trailer and a violent confrontation ensued in which officers testified Shetler aggressively resisted arrest. (AP)

Retired dean shot to death: Vermont State Police are asking the public, businesses and hunters near a state university campus to review their surveillance sys-

Politics

Nevada must hold GOP presidential primary

Trump asks lowans to help him 'win big'

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Oct 8, (AP): Donald Trump on Saturday called for a show of strength in Iowa, arguing before big audiences that dominating in the Republican presidential caucuses in January would signal to voters around the country his strength in the November election next year.

"We have to win big," Trump told about 2,500 in a downtown Cedar Rapids hotel ballroom on his second of stops, part of a fall push to lock in supporters. "I think we're in great shape in the primary. But it sets a tone for the general election."

Trump's afternoon stops in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids were his third and fourth in a little more than two weeks, part of a stepped-up campaign schedule as the opening contest for the 2024 Republican nomination approaches. Late-summer polls of likely GOP caucus attendees showed Trump well ahead of his opponents.

Trump, who has drawn big audiences to eastern Iowa events in recent weeks, is expected to return again in mid-October, as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis hopes to reignite attention with a stepped-up Iowa campaign and as former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley seeks to seize on new interest since the two GOP presidential debates with a built-out Iowa operation.

Trump drew 1,700 people in Waterloo for an event aimed at encouraging attendees to pledge to support him in the caucuses, which are scheduled for Jan. 15. Hundreds more people waited outside, a sign of his advantage in the state and nationally.

Attorney General Letitia James, whose office is pursuing a civil fraud case currently on trial. Trump called James "grossly incompetent" and "an evil person."

James has accused Trump of grossly inflating the value of his assets in making business deals and securing loans. A judge ruled last month that Trump had committed fraud and the ongoing trial is to determine potential penalties.

Campaign advisers have said they expect Trump to win the caucuses, which are precinct-level, party-run meetings where party members also register the first votes of the 2024 GOP

campaign.

Other campaigns are trying to cut into his lead in Iowa.

DeSantis' team announced this past week that it was moving roughly 20 of his Florida-based national campaign staff to Iowa, emphasizing the effort to beat Trump there. DeSantis was scheduled to campaign in Iowa Saturday, while Haley, who is also the former ambassador to the United Nations, was scheduled to campaign in Iowa Sunday and Monday.

Retired childcare provider Frances Peters from Eldora, Iowa, said she was fully committed to Trump, "because he did what he said he'd do," using an oft-repeated line of his supporters. She pointed, as many evangelical conservatives in Iowa do, to Trump's selection of US Supreme Court justices who helped overturn the 1973 precedent in Roe v. Wade, which had recognized a federal right to abortion for almost 50 years.

Organized

After Trump's loosely organized Iowa campaign produced a second-place finish in Iowa in 2016, his team says it is now running a more disciplined, data-driven campaign in the state. At his rallies, people are directed to a text number that tracks their interest in supporting the candidate, as well as representing him at the caucuses and volunteering for the campaign.

Trump had planned to host a Des Moines kickoff organizing event in May where advisers expected a crowd of roughly 5,000, but that appearance was scrubbed at the last minute due to the threat of severe weather.

The Nevada secretary of state's office will hold a presidential primary for Republican voters, despite the Nevada GOP saying they'll only honor the results of their party-run caucus to choose the Republican presidential nominee.

A second longshot Republican presidential candidate cast their name on the presidential primary ballot Friday, triggering a 2021 state law that requires the Nevada secretary of state's office to hold a presidential primary for the party.

Two presidential nominating contests are now scheduled over the span of three days in February, which could result in widespread confusion for Republican voters.

"I don't have the ability or the opportunity to determine which law or regulation I'm going to follow," Nevada Secretary of State **Cisco Aguilar** said. "That's not my job as a regulator."

The Nevada Republican Party's decision to hold a caucus in spite of the state law has elicited criticism - even from within its own ranks - stemming from potential voter confusion and concerns the state party is attempting to tilt the scale for former President **Donald Trump** over other candidates.

Still, the caucus rules were approved in a vote by the state party's central committee members late last month.

One of the rules approved by the Nevada GOP bars any candidate from the Feb. 8 caucus if they participate in the Feb. 6 state-run primary, setting up an ultimatum of sorts for Republican candidates trying to decide between a primary that is purely symbolic or a caucus that many say is tilted toward Trump.

Nevada GOP Chairman **Michael McDonald**, a fake elector in 2020 who tried to keep Trump in power after his election loss, has repeatedly defended the decision to run a caucus and maintained the rules were not set to benefit the former president. He also criticized lawmakers in Nevada's Democratic-controlled Legislature for rejecting Republican Gov. **Joe Lombardo's** proposed election laws, particularly one that requires proof of identification at the ballot box, instead of just when registering to vote.

"It gives each candidate the opportunity to perform. It's about getting their people out," McDonald said of the caucus in an interview after the state party approved the rules last month. "... And my job, as well as my goal, is to have the candidates get to know all our counties."

So far, Trump and businessman **Vivek Ramaswamy** are the only two debate-eligible candidates to commit to the caucus.

tems after a retired dean and professor who was married to best-selling author Ron Powers was found shot to death on a rail trail this week.

Police said Friday night an autopsy

showed that **Honoree Fleming**, 77, of Castleton, died from a gunshot wound to the head on Thursday afternoon. She was found on the Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail about a mile (1.61 kilometers) south



People wait in line to vote at a polling place on June 14, 2022, in Las Vegas. The Nevada secretary of state's office will hold a presidential primary for Republican voters, despite the Nevada GOP saying they'll only honor the results of their party-run caucus to choose the Republican presidential nominee. (AP)

of the Castleton campus of Vermont State University, which was closed.

"The campus will reopen Monday morning, providing a supportive environment for those who wish to come together," Vermont State University spokesperson Sylvia Plumb said in an email Saturday. Monday events such as an admissions open house were canceled. Regular class schedules were expected to resume Tuesday. (AP)

Man held in death of girl: A man has been charged with murder in connection with the Christmas Day death of a 3-year-old girl, Maine State Police said.

Tyler Witham-Jordan, 29, of Edgcomb, was arrested Friday in the death of Makinlee Handrahan, police said in a news release.

Police said they received a 911 call the morning of Dec. 25, 2022, in Edgcomb, saying that the child was not breathing. She was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

The medical examiner's office in Augusta ruled the death a homicide, but police said Friday that the cause of death is being withheld at this time.

Witham-Jordan was the boyfriend of Makinlee's mother at the time, police said. He was jailed in Wicasset.

His attorney, James Howanec, told The Associated Press on Saturday that he expects Witham-Jordan to be brought into court on Tuesday. (AP)

Asia

Avalanches kill 2 in Tibet: American mountaineer **Anna Gutu** and a Nepalese guide Mingmar Sherpa were confirmed Sunday dead after avalanches struck the slopes of a Tibetan mountain, while two others remained missing, according to Chinese media reports.

The avalanches struck Tibet's Mount Shishapangma on Saturday afternoon at 7,600 (about 25,000 ft) and 8,000 meters (about 26,000 ft) in altitude, according to state-owned Xinhua News Agency.

Two others, American climber Gina Marie Rzcicldo and a Nepalese mountain guide Tenjen Sherpa went missing, the news agency said. Sherpa was one half of a duo who shattered the record for the fastest climb of the 14 mountains more than 8,000 meters (about 26,000 feet) high in July this year. He wanted to become the youngest climber to scale all 14 peaks twice.

The avalanches also seriously injured Nepalese mountain guide Karma Geljen Sherpa, who was escorted down the mountain by rescuers and is currently in stable condition.

A total of 52 climbers from various countries including the U.S., Britain, Japan, and Italy were attempting to summit the mountain when the avalanches hit, Xinhua said.

Climbing activities on Shishapangma have since been suspended due to snow conditions.

Shishapangma is the 14th-highest mountain in the world, at over 8,027 meters (26,335 ft) above sea level.

October is a popular time to trek the Himalayas as it's after the rainy monsoon season, but experts have cautioned that climate change has increased the risk of avalanches in the region. (AP)

HK cancels scores of flights: Scores of flights in Hong Kong were canceled Sunday as Tropical Storm Koinu neared the southern Chinese city after leaving one dead and over 300 injured in Taiwan.

Koinu was expected to skirt about 70 kilometers (43 miles) from Hong Kong on Sunday night, dumping heavy showers, the Hong Kong Observatory said. The storm is forecast to move across the coastal waters of neighboring Guangdong province on Sunday and Monday.

Koinu was packing maximum winds of 90 kph (55 mph) and gusts of up to 122 kph (76 mph), according to the observatory.

Hong Kong on Sunday raised its No. 8 storm signal, effectively shutting the city down with shops and schools closing and reducing frequencies of public transport.

Scores of flights to and from Hong Kong were canceled and the main Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge closed temporarily, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Koinu had earlier battered Taiwan with heavy winds and strong rain but later the typhoon had weakened into a tropical storm on its way to southern China.

It comes a month after southern China and Hong Kong were lashed by Typhoon Saola, which triggered Hong Kong's highest storm signal on a scale of 11. A week later, Guangdong province and Hong Kong were hit with the heaviest torrential rains in almost 140 years. (AP)

Agriculture min resigns: Indonesia's agriculture minister resigned as the country's anti-graft commission ramped up an investigation into alleged corruption at his ministry.

The Corruption Eradication Commission, known as KPK, has alleged that there has been bribery linked to job promotions at the Agriculture Ministry as well as fraudulent projects involving private vendors, but it has not disclosed details.

Agriculture Minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo, though not yet been formally named as a suspect, said Thursday that he was resigning to focus on the case against him, and that he hopes the public will assume he is innocent until there is a court verdict.

"Don't judge me first. Let the legal process proceed, and I'm ready to face it," Limpo told a news conference in Jakarta.

Limpo was on working visit to Italy and Spain when the KPK searched his official residence in Jakarta last week. He returned to Jakarta late Wednesday.

KPK's spokesperson Ali Fikri told a news conference shortly after the search that investigators had discovered about a dozen firearms and banknotes worth approximately 30 billion rupiah in several currencies (\$1.9 million) at Limpo's residence. They also had seized several documents. (AP)

Ex-judge rebuts opponents: A former High Court chief justice and dozens of legal academics on Friday rebutted key arguments used in the public campaign against Australians creating an advocacy body for the Indigenous population.

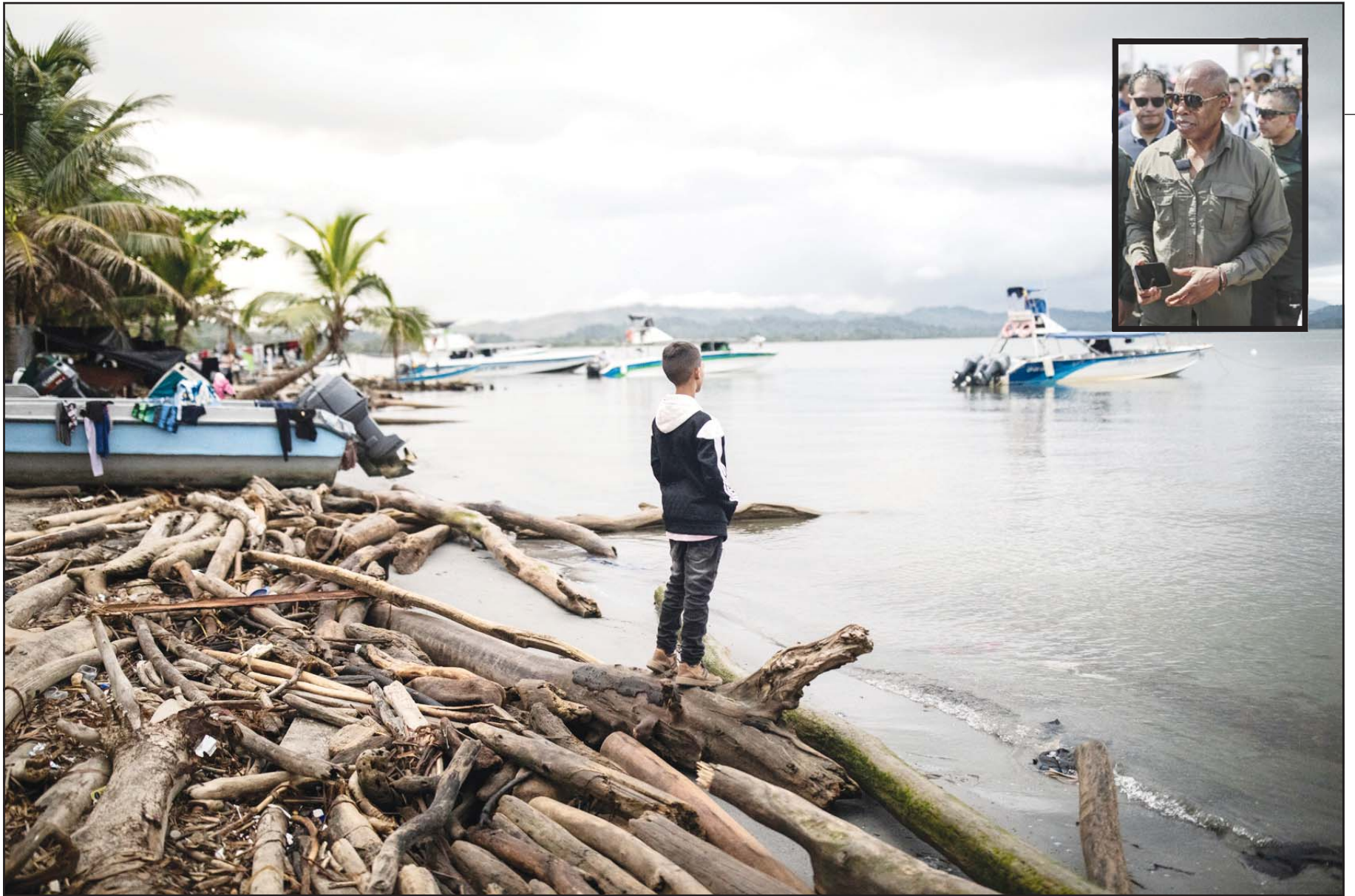
Robert French, who retired as Australia's most senior judge in 2017, used a speech to the National Press Club to urge Australians to vote to enshrine in the constitution a so-called Indigenous Voice to Parliament at an Oct 14 vote, the nation's first referendum in a generation.

The Voice is aimed at giving Australia's most disadvantaged ethnic minority more say on government policies that affect their lives.

"A vote in favor of the Voice is a new beginning and something in which this generation and generations to come should be able to take justifiable pride," French said.

Separately, 71 Australian university teachers of constitution law and other fields of public law signed an open letter published Friday that rebutted the argument that the Voice would be "risky."

"We know that the vast majority of expert legal opinion agrees that this amendment is not constitutionally risky," the letter said. (AP)



A migrant child observes the sea, in Necocli, Colombia on Oct 7. New York City Mayor Eric Adams (inset) has capped off a four-day trip to Latin America with a visit to the northern Colombian city where thousands of migrants start the perilous trek across the Darien jungle, as they head to the United States. (AP)

Lat/Am

New York City mayor wraps up Latin America trip

Adams calling for migrants' 'right to work'

NECOCLI, Colombia, Oct 8. (AP) — New York City Mayor Eric Adams capped off a four-day trip to Latin America on Saturday by calling for a "right to work" for migrants in the United States.

He spoke during a visit to Necocli, the northern Colombia town where thousands of migrants start the perilous trek across the roadless Darien jungle into Panama, as they head for the U.S.

Speaking from a dock where migrants take boats toward the jungle, Adams said countries in the region need to "come together" to find solutions to the immigration crisis being felt across the Americas as well as in cities in the United States, including New York.

He called on the U.S. government to find pathways for migrants and asylum seekers to work legally in the United States.

"When you look at Colombia they have really shown how to absorb individuals into their societies, and one of the most important ways to do it is to allow people to work," Adams told reporters in Necocli. "Nothing is more humane and, nothing is more American than your right to work, and we believe that is a right we should extend."

New York City has struggled to provide emergency accommodation to tens of thousands of migrants who have arrived in the city this year, with Adams and other city leaders calling on the federal government to speed up work authorizations for those who are already in the city.

A unique rule dating from the 1980s requires New York to provide shelter to anyone in need. Adams has said the cost of supporting migrants could climb to \$12 billion in the following three years, and this week challenged the statute that obliges the city to provide migrants with shelter.

The mayor also went to Ecuador and Mexico during his whistlestop tour, where he visited shelters for migrants and spoke to local legislators.

After stopping in Mexico's Puebla state, Adams said his city is "at capacity."

"Our hearts are endless, but our resources are not," Adams told reporters. "We don't want to put people in congregate shelters. We don't want people to think they will be employed."

In Colombia, Adams said his goal is not to tell migrants what they should do, but to

learn about their motives and find solutions to the immigration crisis.

The South American country has received 2.8 million migrants from Venezuela over the past seven years, and enabled them to apply for 10-year residency permits that also give them access to health and education services.

But despite the effort to regularize Venezuelan migrants, many are heading to the United States after struggling to rebuild their lives in Colombia and other South American countries, where economies are still reeling from the pandemic.

According to Panama's National Immigration Service, more than 200,000 Venezuelans crossed the Darien Gap this year on their way to the United States. Many are moving for the second or third time, after living in South American countries like Colombia, Chile and Peru.

Deportations

This week the Biden administration struck a deal with Venezuela's socialist government to resume direct deportations flights to Venezuela and said that Venezuelans who do not qualify for asylum will be returned to their homeland.

In Necocli, some Venezuelan migrants headed north said they would persist in their trek to reach the U.S. border despite the new policy.

"Getting in (the US) is also a matter of luck," said Miguel Ruben Camacaro, a Venezuelan migrant travelling with his two children and sleeping on a tent at Necocli's beach. "We will chase the dream, until there are no other options."

At a news conference later in Bogota, Adams said countries like Colombia need more support with programs that incorporate migrants so people don't make the dangerous trek north.

The mayor described the visit as an eye opener, saying he was saddened to see dozens of families with children sleeping on the beach at Necocli in tents while they gather enough money to take boats toward the Darien jungle.

"What I don't want is what I saw on the beach area of Colombia to play out in the streets of New York City," Adams said. "We all want to help as many people as possible, we want to uphold our values as a city

of immigrants. But to do that we need to stabilize the situation."

Also:

QUITO, Ecuador: A seventh man accused in the August assassination of an Ecuadorian presidential candidate was killed inside a prison in Ecuador's capital, authorities said Saturday, a day after six others allegedly linked to the crime were slain in a different lockup.

The killing of the seven suspects happened a little more than a week before Ecuador holds a presidential runoff election and as officials struggle to explain how this was possible.

The prison system said in a press release that the man killed was being held at a prison in Quito, Ecuador's capital. It released no details of how it happened and identified him only as "Jose M.," without giving his nationality.

Six Colombian men charged in the Aug 9 assassination of **Fernando Villavicencio** were killed Friday inside a prison in **Guayaquil**.

President **Guillermo Lasso** called an emergency meeting of his security Cabinet, which decided to move the remaining six suspects in the assassination to a different prison, a government statement said. It didn't identify the prison to which they were sent for security reasons.

The government also fired the prisons system director and the police chief of investigations, the presidential communication office said in a press release.

The killings came as the Prosecutor's Office is expected to announce soon the conclusion of the investigation stage into the killing of Villavicencio, who was gunned down while leaving a political rally.

The 59-year-old politician had not been considered among the front-runners for the election's first round on Aug. 20, but his killing in broad daylight was a shocking reminder of the surge in crime gripping Ecuador. He had reported being threatened by affiliates of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, one of the many international organized crime groups operating in Ecuador.

Ecuador is holding the runoff presidential election Oct 15 pitting the two top finishers in the August vote - leftist **Luisa González** and former lawmaker **Daniel Noboa**, who is the son of a banana tycoon.



Travelers look at a flights information display which shows some of the flights have been canceled due to the super typhoon Koinu, at Hong Kong International Airport in Hong Kong on Oct 8. Scores of flights in Hong Kong were canceled Sunday as Tropical Storm Koinu neared the southern Chinese city after leaving at least one dead and over 300 injured in Taiwan. (AP)



Kiir Ouattara

Africa

Ouattara removes PM: Ivory Coast President **Alassane Ouattara** has removed the country's prime minister and dissolved the government, a senior public official announced Friday, in yet another major reshuffle in the West African nation.

Prime Minister Patrick Achi is being removed alongside the members of the government after the president signed a decree terminating their roles in exercising his constitutional powers, the presidency's secretary-general, Abdourahmane Cissé, said in a statement.

Ivory Coast, which is preparing for an election in 2025, has had three prime ministers since 2020. Achi succeeded Hamed Bakayoko, who died of cancer in March 2021. Bakayoko's predecessor had also died in office because of illness.

"The president expresses his gratitude to Prime Minister Patrick Achi and to all members of the government for their commitment to serving the nation over the past years," Cissé said. The outgoing officials will continue to function until later this month when a new government will be set up, he said. (AP)

Explosive device kills 15: At least 15 people were killed in eastern Congo after a group of children brought home an explosive device that they had found while they were playing, a community leader said Saturday.

The tragedy took place Friday evening in the village of Kyangitsi, located in Masisi territory in North Kivu province.

"At around 8 pm local time, while some of the residents were trying to find out what it was, the bomb exploded," said Telesphore Mitondeke, a member of a Masisi grouping of civil society organizations.

For the past two weeks, the region has been the scene of hostilities between local armed groups vying for control of villages.

Many localities already have fallen under the control of the "Wazalendo" patriot self-defense forces. According to local community leaders, part of the strategic town of Kitshanga is now in the hands of the young patriots, who have managed to dislodge the M23 rebels. (AP)

S.Sudan accused of violations: The UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan accused the country's National Security Service of threatening media and civil society and undermining prospects for a democratic transition.

A new report — based on the UN commission's independent investigations in 2023 — was released and gave details about attacks on journalists and members of civil society, both within and outside the country.

Journalists have been subjected to surveillance, intimidation and human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, according to the UN report.

"Independent media and a vibrant civil society represent critical voices in developing accountable governance, and the democratic processes required to enable peace and ensure human rights," said Yasmin Sooka, the chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.

South Sudan is going through a political transition period after a civil war that wracked



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Mount Shishapangma is seen from Baikou Lake in Xigaze, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region on Sept 2. American mountaineer Anna Gutu and a Nepalese guide Mingmar Sherpa were confirmed dead Oct 8, after avalanches struck the slopes of a Tibetan mountain, while two others remained missing, according to Chinese media reports. (AP)

the country from 2013 until 2018, when a peace agreement was signed by President **Salva Kiir** and his rival turned Vice President Riek Machar. (AP)

Nurse suspect in MohBad death: A nurse was identified on Friday as the "principal suspect" in the mysterious death of a Nigerian Afrobeat star, which triggered dayslong protests by thousands demanding justice.

Investigations into the death of Ilerioluwa Aloba, better known as MohBad, in the commercial hub of Lagos have pointed to the nurse who treated the late singer before his death, Lagos police chief Idowu Owohunwa told reporters on Friday.

The nurse was invited to treat Aloba for an unknown illness at his Lagos residence where she "administered three different injections which are believed to have occasioned the chain of reactions that directly resulted in the death of the singer," Owohunwa said.

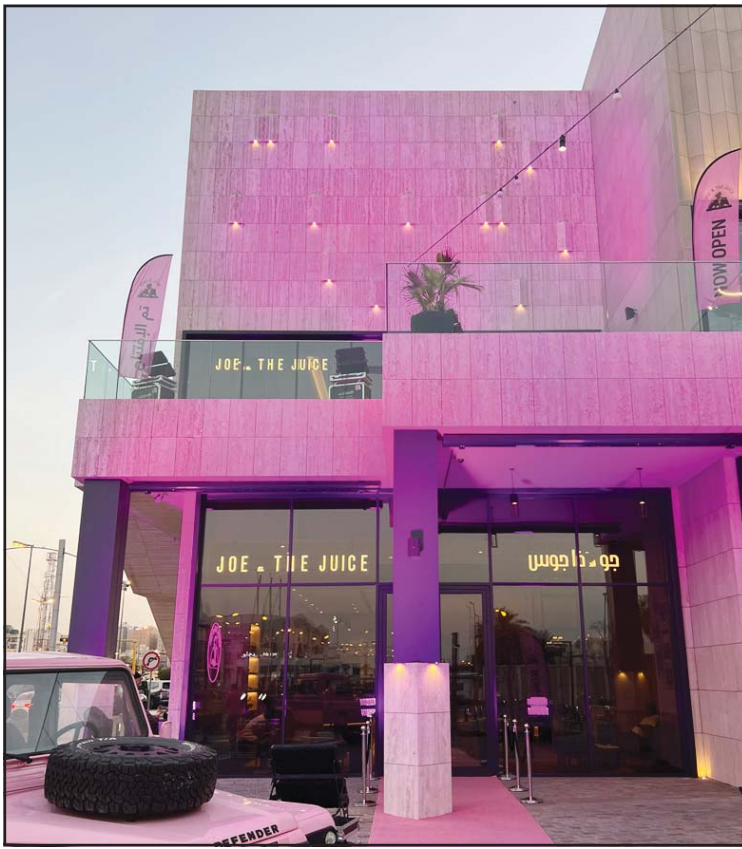
The nurse is in custody, but there has been no arraignment and no formal charges have been brought.

The police statement came after a closely-watched investigation that prompted Aloba's body to be exhumed for an autopsy as authorities searched for answers to what killed the 27-year-old on Sept. 12.

Widely known as one of Nigeria's fastest-rising young pop stars, Aloba was confirmed dead at a Lagos hospital in unclear circumstances. Questions about the cause of his death prompted protests, rallies and grief spilling onto the streets across the West African nation.

His death also drew many to his songs, where he mostly spoke about life growing up and his quest for a better life. (AP)

What's On



Joe & The Juice store in Al Andalus.



JOE & THE JUICE - SAHARA

جواند ذا جوس - محاربي

Joe & The Juice new store in Sahara Golf Resort, Subhan.



Joe & The Juice's first drive-thru service in Al Andalus Mall in Hawally.

New Al Andalus store is the largest and first to offer a drive-thru service globally

Joe & The Juice opens three new stores in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Light Food, a subsidiary of Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW) has announced the opening of three additional Joe & The Juice stores in Kuwait, bringing the total to six. This expansion comes just six months after the world renowned Danish chain's debut in the country, highlighting the increasing demand for healthy dining options. The three new stores are in Al Andalus Mall in Hawally, The Warehouse Mall in South Subahiya, and Sahara Golf Resort in Subhan.

Joe & The Juice debuted in Kuwait in

March 2023 with the opening of its first branch at the Argania Complex in Shuwaikh. Since then, the company has been executing an expansion plan to bring the brand closer to all customers. This expansion is driven by the high demand for Joe & The Juice, reflecting both the diversity of the Kuwaiti market and the growing need for healthier and lighter food options.

All new Joe & The Juice stores feature an inviting interior design that seamlessly blends Danish aesthetics with a modern touch. The Al Andalus store is the largest Joe & The Juice store in Kuwait and

the first to offer a drive-thru service globally, ensuring convenience for all customers. With its spacious interiors, including a glass elevator, the store provides an inviting ground-floor outdoor seating area and an upper-balcony seating option.

Joe & The Juice locations include the Argania Complex store in Shuwaikh, the Argan Square store in Salmiya, The Walk store in Ardiya, Al Andalus store in Hawally, the Warehouse in South Subahiya, and Sahara Golf Resort store. All stores offer free Wi-Fi, allowing customers to remain connected while enjoying their visit.

The Conversation

Engaged parents and committed school curriculum can help

Millions of US kids have low reading skills

By Shayne Piasta

The Ohio State University

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



Reading ability among US students remained low in 2022, with 37% of fourth graders and 30% of eighth graders scoring below the basic proficiency levels for reading set by the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Although the COVID-19 school shutdowns are responsible for some of the learning loss, the numbers weren't particular good prior to the pandemic, either - reading scores for US students have been low for decades.

SciLine interviewed Dr. Shayne Piasta, a professor of reading and literacy at The Ohio State University and a faculty associate at the Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy. Piasta discussed the various methods of reading instruction and how to get kids to love it.

Below are some highlights from the discussion. Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Question: What is meant by the 'science of reading'? And what are the misconceptions?

Shayne Piasta: The science of reading refers to the accumulated knowledge base we have from scientific research about the reading process, its components, how reading skills develop and how we can best support those who are learning to read.

One of the misconceptions I see is that the science of reading is equated with phonics instruction.

But the science of reading is a knowledge base, not a specific approach. Phonics instruction is a specific approach, whereby one is explicitly and intentionally teaching children all of those important links between letters and sounds, both at an individual letter level - like learning the alphabet - and at higher skill levels, such as learning about some complex spelling conventions that we have in the English language.

Although phonics instruction is a necessary component in learning to read, phonics instruction alone, without attending to other key reading

components, such as language, comprehension, and concept and background knowledge, is insufficient.

Q: What critical components are needed for a reading curriculum to be successful?

Shayne Piasta: First and foremost, I would expect a reading program to have a scope and sequence, meaning there is predetermined content of what's going to be covered. And then that it's in a particular order, often building from more simple skills or concepts to more complex ones.

This might apply to phonics instruction, where we're going from simple letter sound correspondences and building up to more complex associations between letters, spelling patterns and how words are pronounced.

Any successful reading program should have a scope and sequence. It should definitely have it for the phonics component, but it should have it for other components as well.

Q: What role does background knowledge play in learning to read?

Shayne Piasta: We're learning more and more about how critical concept knowledge and background knowledge are for successful reading.

To understand the meaning being conveyed by text, which is the ultimate goal, children use the information they already know to make sense of text. A famous example involves a study in which children read a written passage about baseball. Children who knew a lot about baseball best understood the passage, regardless of reading ability.

This highlights the role of concept and background knowledge as foundations for understanding text meaning, and thus, reading comprehension.

Any reading curriculum should have opportunities for children to build those skills - to learn about our world, to make connections with the world, to make connections across different sources and types of information. This is particularly important given the diversity of classrooms. Educators cannot assume that children share certain knowledge or backgrounds.

Teachers need to provide opportunities to discuss

and learn about concepts that children will read about. This includes topics like baseball as well as academic concepts like photosynthesis. And then they bring that conceptual and background knowledge with them when they're going to read a new piece about a certain topic so they can actually make sense of it.

Again, it's not phonics only. It's phonics and these opportunities to support knowledge building as well as language skills.

Q: Are any approaches especially effective for children from marginalized backgrounds?

Shayne Piasta: There are many evidence-based practices for building language for both children who speak English only and those who are English learners. This includes exposing children to more complex grammar during conversations and using routines to improve awareness of new vocabulary words.

The science of reading applies to all learners. Most practices that we would recommend are going to be helpful for students from a range of different backgrounds. That being said, it's important to be able to identify the strengths and the learning needs of individual children.

Q: How can parents support kids who are learning to read?

Shayne Piasta: For parents, I would recommend focusing on creating positive literacy environments at home. That is, having children see you reading, having children see you writing, and being clear about how literacy plays a role in your everyday life - not just having storybook time together or reading together, but doing activities like making grocery lists together.

Or maybe you could point out, "Hey, I'm reading these instructions so I can put together this piece of Ikea furniture." So you're really highlighting all of the important roles that literacy plays in daily life. In doing so, you can help children build positive connections with those reading opportunities so that it's fun, engaging and something they want to do. (AP)

Promote diversity, inclusion

AUK appoints alumnus as vice president for student affairs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) has appointed Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Farhan as the Vice President for Student Affairs, becoming the first AUK alumnus to ascend to a senior management position within the institution. His unique perspective, having traversed the path from student to alumnus to faculty member, will provide an enriching dynamic to the University's administration that will positively reflect on AUK's diverse student body.

Within his new role, Dr. Al-Farhan will assume leadership over key university departments, including the Counseling Center, Office of Student Life, Academic Advising Center, and the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

Dr. Rawda Awwad, AUK president, reflected on Dr. Al-Farhan's achievement and newfound responsibilities, "Dr. Al-Farhan embodies the University's dedication to nurturing a dynamic, inclusive, and student-centric campus environment. His vision encompasses the promotion of diversity and inclusion, the enhancement of student life, and the assurance that crucial resources are readily accessible to empower AUK students."

Dr. Al-Farhan earned his Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) in Finance in 2011 from AUK. He moved on to complete his Master of Arts (M.A.) in Arabic Literature in 2012, and earned his Ph.D. in Near East and Middle Eastern Studies from the prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK.

In 2017, Dr. Al-Farhan returned to AUK as an Assistant Professor of Near and Middle Eastern Studies. His dedication to scholarship, coupled with his exceptional teaching abilities, propelled him to the position of Associate Professor this year. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Al-Farhan has contributed



Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Farhan, AUK Vice President for Student Affairs.

significantly to the University's academic community. He served previously as the Department Chair of Arabic and Foreign Languages and as the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

AUK takes immense pride in its alumni, viewing them as integral members of its vibrant community. The University pays close attention to their achievements, celebrates their successes, and provides unwavering support in their professional journeys. The institution's unwavering commitment to its alumni goes well beyond graduation, recognizing them as an integral foundation of AUK's identity.

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

Students transform their drab dorm rooms into comfy living spaces

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (AP) - From \$300 studded headboards and \$100 coffee table books to custom-made cabinets to disguise your mini-fridge, students are spending big bucks to decorate their dorm rooms, adding yet another layer to the soaring costs of college.

Some are even going so far as to hire interior designers to beautify their 12 feet by 20 feet of space.

Lesley Lachman, 18, planned her furnishings for her dorm room with her roommate immediately after deciding to attend the University of Mississippi back in May. The Rye, New York resident scoured websites like Pinterest and designed her room herself - with hues of pink, purple and green culled from a mix of pricey brands like Essentials with Eden as well as less expensive items from Ikea and Facebook Marketplace. Total cost for the design? About \$3,000, covered by her parents.

"There's so much work that had to be done because it felt

lackluster. It didn't feel homey," said Lachman, who posted a "before" and "after" video of her room on TikTok.

The "before" video shows stark yellow cinderblock walls, a mustard-colored built-in desk and an open closet. The "after" video shows a complete makeover, with lacey curtains to cover the closet, embroidered pillows and a cushy white headboard to dress up her bed, and customized framed art of hearts.

"I'm so in love with the room," Lachman said after her redesign. "I want to leave the door open and want everyone to stop by and admire it."

Overall, the back-to-college season is big business, with families expected to spend an average of about \$1,367 per person, up 14% from a year ago, according to an annual survey conducted this summer by the National Retail Federation and market researcher Prosper Insights & Analytics.

Spending on big-ticket items such as electronics and dorm furnishings as well as necessities like food accounted for more than half of the increase, NRF said.

Meanwhile, the total cost of college - including tuition, fees, room and board - almost doubled between 1992 and 2022, rising from an inflation-adjusted average of \$14,441 per year to \$26,903 across all types of universities, according to National Center for Education Statistics, the statistical branch of the Education Department. Dorm costs saw a similar spike over the same time span, rising from \$3,824 to \$7,097.

Sara Hunt, 19, a sophomore at New York University from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, wanted her dorm room to look cozy but her budget was \$100. That's because she's footing 30% - or nearly \$30,000 a year - of NYU's annual college bill. Financial aid picks up the rest.

"I definitely try to work on being positive and not compar-

ing myself to other people because I'm so lucky for what I have. But it is really stressful," said Hunt, who worked more than 60 hours last year and took a job as a pastry chef this summer to help pay for her college expenses.

For her dorm décor, Hunt scoured Goodwill stores, Dollar Tree, T.J. Maxx and Five Below for deals on neon lights, wall paper decals and beddings. She also rummaged through bins of returned items from major retailers at a discount bazaar in her hometown.

Jamel Donnor, a professor at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia, and a leading expert on inequity in education, said the big divide in dorm furnishings marks an "unspoken reality of the have and have nots." He noted that the stark differences in dorm decorating between those who have money and those who don't can make some students wonder if they should even be at their college.

'New book is an eclectic group of everything'

McEntire on teaming with Parton, and living 'Not That Fancy'

LOS ANGELES, Oct 8, (AP): Want to live like Reba McEntire? You're in luck.

On Friday, the country music and entertainment icon will release a new album to partner with her new book, "Not That Fancy: Simple Lessons on Living, Loving, Eating, and Dusting Off Your Boots."

The book, which arrives Tuesday, is a collection of recipes, memoir, photos, and lifestyle tips. The "Not That Fancy" album is a collection of acoustic covers of McEntire's biggest hits, with a few surprises thrown in. Like Dolly Parton, who takes the place of Linda Davis on "Does He Love You."

The book, McEntire explained over the phone, is "about things not having to be so fancy or structured. Whether it's a dinner party or going out to eat, having friends over. If you don't have your brand-new couch in, you've got to cover your old couch, that's fine. People don't care. They just want to get together and have fun."

Re-recording some of her most recognizable songs in an intimate fashion just felt like the perfect partner for a book that already crosses mediums. "It's not just a cookbook. It's not just a photo album. It's not a storybook. It's an eclectic group of everything," she explains.

"And I had to proofread it, so I went through it several times and never got bored with it. And I have the attention span of a 3-year-old, so for me not to get bored with it is a huge compliment to the book."

McEntire spoke to The Associated Press about her new album, book, and dressing "tough sexy."

This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

McEntire: We had done (the compilation album) "Remixed, Revised and Revisited," and so we pulled some of those songs. Working with (producer) Dave Cobb, that was an album that was stripped down, that we wanted to pull from. And we added some more songs to it, brand new songs, which is our new single called "Seven Minutes in Heaven." And it just worked out really good to be "not that fancy."

McEntire: Well, we were picking out the songs for the album, "Does He Love You" came up and we were all like, "Well, if we did it again, who we like to have sing with you?" We all started pitching names and put them in the hat. When somebody said "Dolly," everybody just said, "Oh, absolutely, we got to ask Dolly." And she said, yes.

McEntire: I hope not, anyway!

McEntire: We all got in the studio together. Of course, Dolly and I didn't get to record together because of the pandemic, but Ronnie (Dunn) and Kix (Brooks) came in and we love to perform and sing together. We're good friends. So, it was a great day hanging out at the studio.

They are terribly notorious for being pranksters. When we first started our tour in the early '90s, that was my first rule: No pranks. We do not like pranks. And so when Kix and myself, when we were singing "Cotton Fields," he kind of kept spitting on me. We got off the stage, of course, and we walked back to the dressing room. I said, "Would you please quit spitting in my face?" And that's when he gave me a big yellow rain slicker the next night.

McEntire: You get used to hearing something a certain way, and

then when it is stripped down to just a few instruments, you got to get comfortable with it again. You kind of have to relearn it. And some of the songs we slowed down, changed the tempo, and it just made it a totally different song. So, I thought it was a great idea and a great way to give the fans something different.

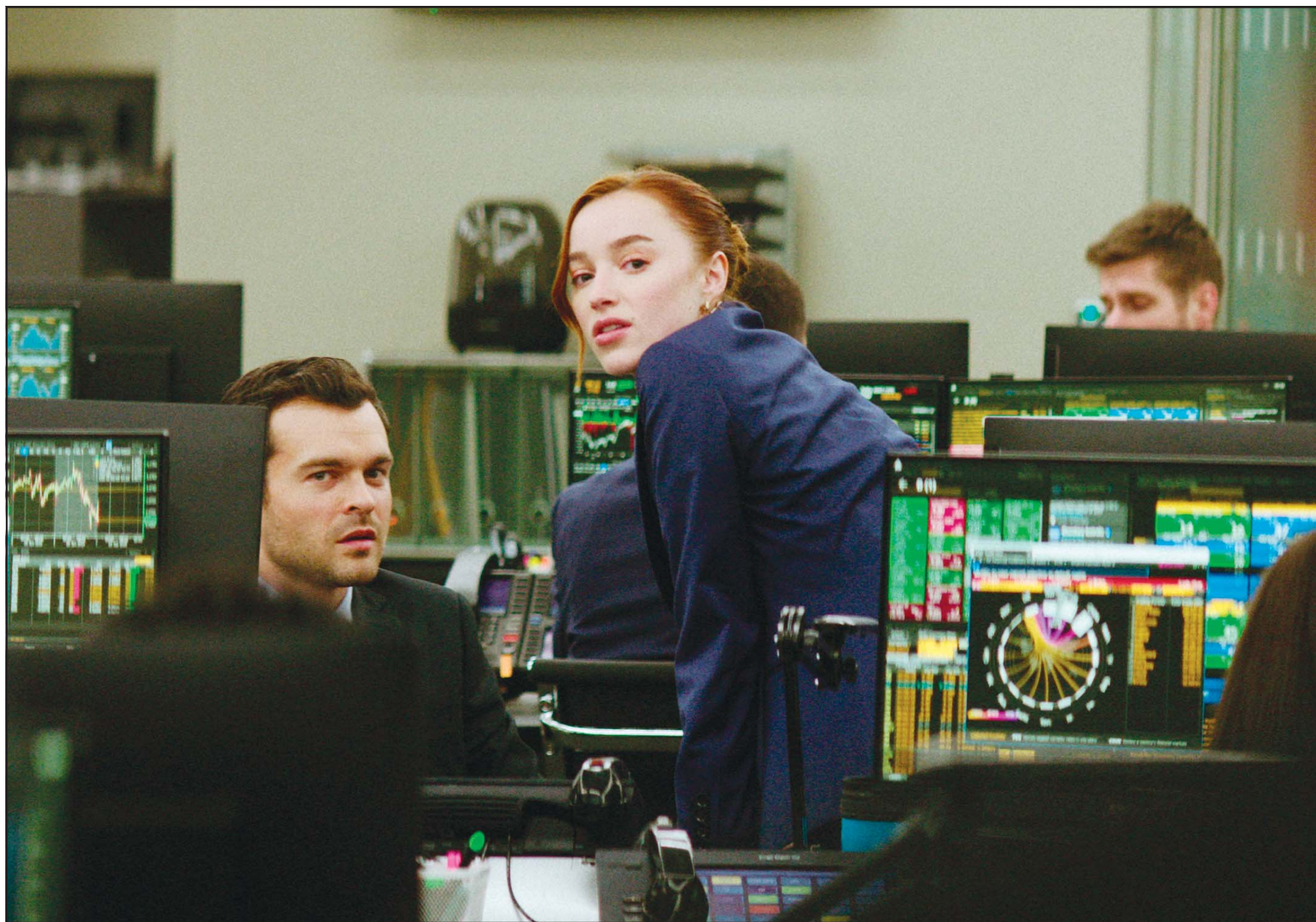
McEntire: I'm a tomboy at heart. I grew up on a working cattle ranch. I worked outside with my older sister Alice and my older brother Pake and little sister Susie. We had to do the chores with the men and then come in and us girls had to take care of things with Momma. So, I always considered myself a tomboy, but I still like to dress up and be sparkly with rhinestones and glitter and fringe and all that kind of stuff. So "tough sexy," to me, when they say, "How do you like to dress?" "I like tough sexy." "Well, what's that?" "In my cowboy clothes with a sexy side of it." That's my interior design, also.

McEntire: I pass on the best advice I'd ever gotten from a good friend of mine who's not with us any longer, a billionaire. He said, "Overall, have fun."

And also, don't sweat the small stuff. Don't worry that you don't have eight glasses that match. Use Solo cups or paper plates, whatever you want to use, but have your friends over. Do not postpone a get together because you don't have the perfect set up in your house, or maybe the house cleaner didn't come, or maybe you didn't feel like cleaning your house. Don't worry about it. They just want to see you.

Books

Variety



This image released by Netflix shows Alden Ehrenreich, (left), and Phoebe Dynevor in a scene from 'Fair Play.' (AP)

Film

Costner returns to the big screen with 'American Saga'

In 'Fair Play,' a tale of love, betrayal on WS

LOS ANGELES, Oct 8, (Agencies): The disquieting root of Chloe Domont's sleek, slick feature debut "Fair Play" lies in the face of Luke (Alden Ehrenreich) as he learns that his fiancée Emily (Phoebe Dynevor) has been given the promotion at their Wall Street hedge fund he thought was his.

"Congratulations," he says with a grin that looks more like a grimace. "That's amazing."

Ehrenreich, a cunning actor here given a part to chew on, conveys the moment with the just right mix of support for Emily and shattering woundedness. Up to this point, we've seen Emily and Luke as only a swoon-worthy romantic pair deeply in love with one another. In the film's breezy opening moments, they slip away from a party to have some private time. After, Luke kneels to propose.

But the engagement ring lies ominously on the counter when both dress in the morning for work in their their Chinatown apartment at the same high-powered hedge fund in downtown New York. They've left some inner version of their selves at home; at the office, they must keep their relationship a secret for the sake of company policy and their own career ambitions.

Work-life balance gets more than a little wobbly in "Fair Play," which debuted Friday on Netflix, and so do traditional gender roles. Luke initially puts up a good front, but his alpha male persona (and his libido) takes a beating when Emily's meetings with the sexist boss Campbell (Eddie Marsan) go past midnight and banter around the office turns to his fiancée. In "Fair Play," the supportive male may just be a facade.

Since its hit arrival at the Sundance Film Festival, "Fair Play" has been hailed for reviving the long-dormant-but-often-missed erotic thriller. While there are bits of that in Domont's film, "Fair Play" is neither especially erotic nor much of a thriller. What it is, though, is often gripping battle of the sexes set in a toxic, misogynist corporate world where power and sex are inextricably linked currencies.

The movie is brilliant and breezy at first but sputters just as its catching fire. It may, in fact, be wrong

to call this a battle of the sexes - Luke turns out to be not really up for a fight. He transforms into an emasculated and increasingly volatile wreck and "Fair Play" lurches toward a lurid and overcooked third act. For Emily - and surely countless women just like her - "Fair Play" is more of a horror movie, and an accurate one at that.

But for a while, Domont's film is electric thanks to its lead actors. Dynevor is especially terrific playing a woman whose first thought when she's promoted isn't pride for herself but concern for the hurt feelings of Luke.

At its best, "Fair Play" feels like a demented game where everything in high finance comes down to how you project yourself, man or woman. Emily knows when meeting the boss to switch her drink order from a Diet Coke to Macallen 25, neat. It's in sly moments like these that Domont is at her most playful. Double entendres fly. Coming home drunk one night, Emily tries to cajole a tired Luke into sleeping with her. "C'mon," she says, "I'll do all the work."

"Fair Play," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for pervasive language, sexual content, some nudity, and sexual violence. Running time: 113 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Also:

BURBANK, Calif.: Academy Award-winning filmmaker **Kevin Costner** marks his return to feature film directing with New Line Cinema's vast "Horizon: An American Saga," a multi-faceted chronicle covering the Civil War expansion and settlement of the American West. A story of Americana and patriotism too big for one film, this true cinematic event also stars Costner, who co-writes with **Jon Baird** ("The Explorers Guild") and produces through his Territory Pictures. Warner Bros. Pictures will distribute, announcing that not one, but films will be released in theaters next summer-the first on June 28, 2024, followed quickly by the second on August 16, 2024.

In the great tradition of Warner Bros. Pictures' iconic Westerns, "Horizon: An American Saga" explores the lure of the Old West and how it was won and lost-through the blood, sweat and tears of many. Spanning the four years of the Civil War, from 1861 to 1865, Costner's ambitious cinematic adventure will take audiences on an emotional journey across a country at war with itself, experienced through the lens of families, friends and foes all attempting to discover what it truly means to be the States of America.

Costner stars alongside an impressive ensemble cast that includes **Sienna Miller, Sam Worthington, Jena Malone, Owen Crow Shoe, Tatanka Means, Ella Hunt, Tim Guinee, Danny Huston, Colin Cunningham, Scott Haze, Tom Payne, Abbey Lee, Michael Rooker, Will Patton, Georgia MacPhail, Douglas Smith, Luke Wilson, Isabelle Fuhrman, Jamie Campbell Bower, Alejandro Edda, Wasé Winyan Chief, Michael Anganaro, Angus Macfadyen, Jon Beavers, Alex Nibley, Kathleen Quinlan, Etienne Kellici, Amos Jason Charging Cloud, Bodhi Okuma Linton, Gregory Cruz, James Russo, Jeff Fahey, David O'Hara, Chris Conner, Leroy M. Silva, Bernardo Velasco, Tom Everett, Glynn Turman, Giovanni Ribisi** and more.

Jeff Goldstein, President, Warner Bros. Pictures Domestic Distribution, offered, "Together with Kevin, his team and his phenomenal cast, and our partners at New Line Cinema, we intend to make 'Horizon' the theatrical event of the summer. As vital a part of cinema's history as 'Dances With Wolves' is, we believe Kevin only scratched the surface of that period, and we are thrilled to see him present an even deeper, more expansive view with these powerhouse stories."

Costner returns to directing for the first time since his 2003 critically acclaimed hit "Open Range," and revisits Civil War-era America, the setting for his 1990 blockbuster and directorial debut, "Dances with Wolves," which won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director.

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.: Defense attorneys for rapper **YNW Melly** say **South Florida** prosecutors committed felony obstruction of justice by not revealing that the lead detective in the rapper's double-murder case had been previously accused of being willing to lie as he gathered evidence.

Attorneys for Melly, whose legal name is **Jamell Demons**, on Friday asked **Broward** Circuit Judge **John J. Murphy** to remove the Broward State Attorney's Office from the case and potentially dismiss it entirely, the Sun Sentinel reported. Jury selection in the retrial of the 24-year-old rapper was set to start next week, but the judge pushed it back a week on Friday and set hearings for next week to deal with the obstruction allegations.

The request from the defense attorneys comes after Assistant State Attorney **Michelle Boutros**, who works for the Broward office, testified Friday that she overheard Miramar Police Detective **Mark Moretti**, lead investigator in the case against Demons, ask a Broward County deputy to lie about being present when Moretti executed a search warrant outside his jurisdiction last October, forcibly seizing a phone from Demons' mother as part of a witness tampering investigation.

Defense attorney **Jamie Benjamin** said that information that should have been turned over to the defense because they could have used it to discredit Moretti during Demons' recent murder trial, which ended in July with a hung jury.

Prosecutors say the exchange between Moretti and the deputy was a joke, pointing to the fact that an attorney for Demons' mother was present when her phone was taken and would have known the deputy wasn't there.

Assistant State Attorney **Kristine Bradley**, lead prosecutor on the Demons case, testified Friday that the deputy gave a flippant response when asked about being in the room when the warrant was executed. (AP)

OMAHA, Neb.: Billionaire investor **Charlie Munger**, who's been **Warren Buffett's** right-hand man for more than five decades, has made a \$40 million gift to a **California** museum that he's supported in the past.

Munger gave 77 Class A Berkshire Hathaway shares to the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Museum in **San Marino, California**, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. At Thursday's closing price of \$523,545.06 a share, that made the gift worth more than \$40.3 million.



Buffett



Melly

A decade ago, he gave the Huntington museum nearly \$33 million worth of Berkshire stock to help pay for a new education and visitors center. Huntington spokeswoman **Susan Turner-Lowe** said this latest donation will be used to build more than 30 residences for visiting scholars to use while they spend time at the museum doing

research.

Turner-Lowe said scholars often spend a school year studying at the Huntington and the expensive rental market in **Los Angeles** has made that difficult to afford. She said this is "a long-time dream that is in the process of being fulfilled in a major way."

Munger's fortune never rivaled

his best friend Buffett's, but it was still sizeable. At one point Munger did lose his billionaire status as he steadily gave away his fortune, and roughly \$1 billion of his stock went into a charitable trust in 2010 after his wife died. But he is a billionaire today because the value of his Berkshire stock has continued to increase over time. (AP)

Features

ARABO TIMES

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People & Places

Music

'1st 'NIGHT' must fall'

Maxwell hints album with teen-era songs

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (AP): Maxwell has been celebrated and admired for forging his own path and going against the popular music grain ever since he set the R&B world on fire with his 1996 debut album, "Urban Hang Suite." And while fans are awaiting the release of his upcoming studio album, "blacksunners'NIGHT," Maxwell revealed he's working on a follow-up project that will include songs from his teenage years.

"I just have to finish the ("blacksunners'night") trilogy part, and then we're going to move into some stuff that happened before I was even 17," said the "OFF" singer. "(It will also include) lots of songs from the 90s that never got on the albums... it's a different time - I'm so grateful." (The other albums in the trilogy are BLACKSUMMERS'night and BlackSUMMERS'night.)

But "blacksunners'NIGHT" is up next, and it will be his first album since 2016. (He didn't give a release date.) Though hesitant to give details about the album that will follow it, the excitement on his face while talking about giving the world songs from his musical infancy couldn't be hidden.

"The next one (with early songs) is stuff that I used to do when I was 16, 15, when I had pretty much barely any equipment. And it's interesting to see your first steps - well, I wouldn't say first steps, I would say crawling."

The three-time Grammy winner revealed the news to The Associated Press while promoting his Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite Cruise, a four-night Norwegian Pearl ocean voyage that will take place Feb. 10-14, 2024. The cruise will make stops at Great Stirrup Cay and Nassau in the Bahamas.

"It's wild - I'm doing a cruise, bro! I guess you turn 50 and that's when you start doing cruises," laughed the 2021 Soul Train Legend award recipient.

Not only will he have two performances, but Grammy winners Robert Glasper and Ledisi will also hit the stage during the voyage, as well as Musiq Soulchild, Leela James, Sabrina Claudio and Gallant. Maxwell said the theme of the Valentine's week cruise will be romance, a throughline "NIGHT" will also carry.

Vulnerability

"It's (NIGHT)'s a journey into true intimacy. It's a journey into vulnerability, and it just ties up the Trilogy in a way that represents eroticism in a very mature way. Because I see a lot of eroticism happening, but I don't necessarily feel like those people make me feel like they're sexy - they make me feel like they're sex objects," explained Maxwell, who said the album was written between 2002 until now and has been partially delayed due to the unexpected death of his longtime engineer, Mike Pela. "If you want to write lyrics that are very graphic...do what you want to do. I don't do that - I believe in romance."

Passion and seduction have been synonymous with the Brooklyn native ever since the sex symbol label was thrust upon him after the release of "Urban Hang Suite." A pioneer of the '90s neo-soul movement with contemporaries like Erykah Badu, D'Angelo and Jill Scott, he crafted feel-good, two-step hits like "Ascension (Don't Ever Wonder)."

"Sumthin' Sumthin'," and "Matrimony: Maybe You" and soulful ballads like "Fortunate,"

"Whenever Wherever Whatever," "Pretty Wings" and his popular rendition of the Kate Bush classic, "This Woman's Work."

Always seemingly ignoring what was crowding the music charts, the artist has consistently focused on what his own ears gravitated toward. Known for his keen writing ability, Maxwell has crafted timeless songs by staying true to his art.

Confuse

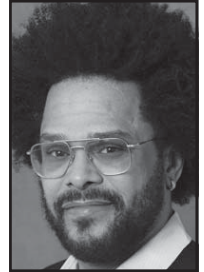
"I try to stay away from things that confuse people about what I do... I do see, in watching all of the current artists, that there's so much shock and awe... There's a lot of clickbait music," said the "Lifetime" crooner. "I'm grateful that I wrote enough songs that it doesn't really matter if I have an album tomorrow or the next day...the goal was get to a point where you do not need to keep being relevant for people for them to care about you, because it's unsustainable."

While Maxwell makes it clear that his personal Ten Commandments would include not judging the art others make, he says there can be a price to pay for the type of art created.

"What do you do when the music doesn't last? And your kids are 15 or 30, and you've got to go on stage and sing lyrics that really make absolutely no sense to who you are in the given moment?" questioned the 50-year-old. "As artists mature, they forget that the choices that they make creatively have to withstand time because time is gangster. And what you look like 20 years ago is not what you're going to look like (in the present) - I don't care how much plastic surgery you get, we're all getting old."

Maxwell serenaded sold-out crowds last month at Los Angeles's Hollywood Bowl and is preparing for a four-show stint at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center next week with the National Symphony Orchestra. He says he's still taken aback when he learns fellow celebrities and everyday fans have loved his music. He's thankful for the inclusivity and diversity of his audience, but he's most proud that his music is championed by Black culture.

"I love that...I'm in Black homes, that when I look out (in the audience), I see myself," said Maxwell. "When you see people who look like you out there, and I'm talking about people who went to the show on a first date and are now married and they're showing me their kids, I mean, it's just like, wow," adding that he's "extremely blessed to have had this incredible journey."



Maxwell



Lucinda Williams performs at the MusiCares Person of the Year tribute honoring Tom Petty in Los Angeles, Feb. 10, 2017. (AP)

Music

Singer hopes for return of 'folk rock'

Williams hits the road after stroke

LOS ANGELES, Oct 8, (AP): A little too country for rock 'n' roll, and a little too rock 'n' roll for country, Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams has always played by her own rules.

That's never changed - even after November 2020, when she suffered a stroke. Williams underwent grueling rehabilitation, eventually leading to her memoir, "Don't Tell Anybody the Secrets I Told You," and her album, "Stories from a Rock N Roll Heart." The latter, released earlier this summer, features contributions from Bruce Springsteen, his wife Patti Scialfa, Jesse Malin, Angel Olsen, Margo Price, Jeremy Ivey, Buddy Miller, and more.

"The recovery part is really hard because you get impatient," Williams told the Associated Press. "You want it to happen all at once." On Saturday, Williams reached another recovery milestone: her 2023 tour kicked off at the famed Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee.

In a phone interview earlier this year, Williams spoke to the AP about her recovery, collaborating in new ways, and what's in store for the future.

This conversation has been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: You're hitting the road for "Stories from a Rock N Roll Heart," your first album since your stroke. Did the process of writing and recording change?

Williams: I wasn't able to write how I usually write, which is with my guitar, because I haven't been able to play. But I was able to make enough of a chord to make a note, and I'd figure out something in my head. And, you know, my friends jumped in and helped by playing

the chords. It turned into a collaboration, a collaborative effort. So, in a way, it was a mixed blessing. We ended up with songs we might not have otherwise.

It ended up being kind of liberating to work with other people because I hadn't really don't it before, to that extent.

AP: And, I imagine, the chemistry had to be right - like getting to work with some really impressive collaborators in Angel Olsen and Margo Price.

Williams: Margo, we've started to (become) really good friends. She's in the same neighborhood we're in Nashville. We were in the studio and I think (my husband) Tom (Overby) suggested seeing if she wanted to come in and sing some background stuff and she was excited about it. She's just so fun to work with because she's real enthusiastic, and, you know, she's fun to be with. And then, Angel Olsen was in town already. She didn't live here. She's living in Asheville. But she was in Nashville when we were recording, so she came in and added amazingly beautiful, really small little part vocal to "Jukebox," which I think just makes the whole song.

AP: It seems like you were never going to throw in the towel and stop writing and performing.

Williams: People are just amazed. They can't believe I've been going out and playing shows and I'm in the studio. I mean, I'm still doing the same stuff. I can manage things well enough. I've got a lot of great help. I've got a great band, two fantastic guitar players ... they play, and I sing.

AP: Are you hoping to one day play guitar again?

Williams: Yeah. The physical

therapist gave me hand exercises that I do. I kind of stretch my fingers out. I do about 50 of those a day with my left hand. And I do some with my right hand, too, just in case. It's mainly the left side of my body that was affected. But, you know, I just try to think positive. I keep thinking, "Well, I didn't know if I was going to be able to walk across the room without falling down at one point." But I was able to, you know, I overcame that.

AP: At this stage in your career, I have to ask: Do you still feel too country for rock 'n' roll, and too rock 'n' roll for country?

Williams: I think the world's caught up, with Americana, you know, that's exactly what that is. I wish they would bring back "folk rock."

AP: What's next for you?
Williams: Another album. We're already talking about that.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Set It Off." Migos' member Offset's sophomore solo album and first full-length since the death of his bandmate and cousin Takeoff, releases Friday, Oct. 13. It follows Migos' Quavo's second solo album, "Rocket Power," a lively and powerful tribute to Takeoff. "Set It Off" is characteristic Offset - energetic, empathetic trap with a stacked list of collaborators, as evidenced on "Jealousy," which features his wife Cardi B and samples a Three 6 Mafia track. "I've been working on this project for over two years now. This season is personal for me. It marks a new chapter in my life," Offset shared in a statement. "This body of work is healing for me and a letter to my fans and supporters."



Jared Leto of Thirty Seconds to Mars performs during the first weekend of the Austin City Limits Music Festival on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Zilker Park in Austin, Texas. (AP)



Velshi



Takei

Variety

PARIS: The Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay decided on Friday to designate the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as World Book Capital for the year 2025.

"Books are vital vehicles to access, transmit and promote education, science, culture and information worldwide," Azoulay said in a press release.

"Thanks to books, we keep ourselves informed, entertained and are able to better understand our world. This is why, each year UNESCO designates a World Book Capital," she added.

UNESCO and the World Book Capital Advisory Committee commended Rio de Janeiro's demonstration of the importance of its literary heritage alongside a clearly defined vision and action plan to promote literature, sustainable publishing and reading among young people tapping into digital technologies.

This is the first time that a Portuguese-speaking city has been designated World Book Capital.

In line with priorities expressed in the World Book Capital Charter, Rio de Janeiro conceives its project as having the ability to affect social change - through, for example, literacy, education and poverty eradication - and bring sustainable economic benefit linked to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, UNESCO explained.

Cities designated as UNESCO World Book Capital undertake to promote books and reading for all ages and groups, within and across national borders, and to organize a programme of activities for the year.

As the 25th city to bear the title since 2001, Rio de Janeiro follows Madrid (2001), Alexandria (2002), New Delhi (2003), Antwerp (2004), Montreal (2005), Turin (2006), Bogota (2007), Amsterdam (2008), Beirut (2009), Ljubljana (2010), Buenos Aires (2011), Erevan (2012), Bangkok (2013), Port Harcourt (2014), Incheon (2015), Wroclaw (2016), Conakry (2017), Athens (2018), Sharjah (2019), Kuala Lumpur (2020), Tbilisi (2021), Guadalajara (2022), Accra (2023) and Strasbourg (2024).

The UNESCO World Book Capital Advisory Committee comprises representatives of European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF), the International Authors Forum (IAF), the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the International Publishers Association (IPA), and UNESCO. (KUNA)

NEW YORK: "Star Trek" actor and political activist George Takei has a picture book scheduled for next spring that draws upon his early childhood years spent in internment camps for Japanese Americans.

Crown Books for Young Readers announced Wednesday that Takei's "My Lost Freedom," illustrated by Michelle Lee, will be published April 30, 2024. Takei, 86, spent three years in three different camps during World War II. The camps were established after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order in

1942 authorizing the forced removal on the West Coast of those considered security risks, leading to the incarceration of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans.

"My childhood behind barbed wire fences is the reason I became an activist," Takei said in a statement. "It was clear that the story about the injustices Japanese Americans faced should also be told in a way that young children and their caregivers could understand. Especially in today's political climate, my mission is to convey this chapter of American history to children

so that we can all grow up knowing both the fragility and the importance of democracy and our participation in it."

Takei's previous books include "Oh Myyy!: There Goes The Internet," about his substantial social media following, and the autobiography "To the Stars."

Crown Books for Young Readers is an imprint of Random House Children's Books. (AP)

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

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

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

Velshi's previous books include "How to Speak Money." He also edited the recently released "The Trump Indictments," which documents the criminal counts against the former president. (AP)



Shania Twain performs during the first weekend of the Austin City Limits Music Festival on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Zilker Park in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Health

Long-term impact feared

Developmentally delayed toddlers lack vital support

CHICAGO, Oct 8, (Agencies): Alexander, a vibrant 3-year-old from West Chicago, exudes enthusiasm in everything he does, from watching Paw Patrol to showering his baby brother with affection. However, he faces challenges in expressing himself verbally, maintaining balance, and communicating his needs when he feels hurt or frightened.

Hilda Garcia, Alexander's mother, took the initiative to have him assessed, and he qualified for five therapies offered through a US program designed to address developmental delays in infants and toddlers. These therapies were intended to equip Alexander with the necessary tools for a brighter future.

However, the relief of identifying his needs was short-lived. The federally mandated Early Intervention program, established in 1986 to promptly address developmental delays in children, faces chronic staffing shortages across the nation.

This predicament leaves thousands of desperate parents in frustration, knowing their children require support and proven therapies but enduring months-long waits for assistance.

Garcia's relentless pursuit of help included 14 months of phone calls, extensive research, and balancing work and childcare. Eventually, she secured an in-person appointment for early intervention, though she couldn't access all the therapies Alexander needed. The ordeal left her emotionally drained and unsupported.

Early Intervention, funded through federal assistance and accepted by all US states and territories, is obligated to provide services to eligible children under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Nevertheless, a scarcity of providers plagues nearly all states, causing many children to wait for extended periods, with some aging out of the program before receiving any services.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated staffing shortages, as providers hesitated to risk entering homes even after in-person visits became feasible. Concurrently, families were less likely to request in-person assistance during the pandemic. Now, with an increasing number of children seeking services, states grapple with staff shortages to meet their needs.

In Illinois, where Alexander resides, service delays nearly doubled in 2022, accompanied by significant increases in waitlists and a substantial provider exodus. Upon turning 3, children transition from Early Intervention to school districts for special education services. However, these systems are also understaffed and overwhelmed.

Intervention

Delaying early intervention robs children of crucial months of development, while early intervention itself offers cost savings on future special education and other services. Research strongly advocates for early intervention, emphasizing its long-term benefits.

Families with private insurance can opt to pay for therapy outside the Early Intervention program, leaving those without such means at a disadvantage. This disparity contributes to social inequity, as revealed by a report that found disparities in access to services among different racial and income groups.

Attracting more providers requires better wages, but Early Intervention providers in Illinois are government contractors without health benefits or paid time off. They can double their salaries in other settings, causing a steady decline in the Early Intervention workforce.

Governor **J.B. Pritzker's** 10% raise for Early Intervention providers in June provided some relief, but inflation may offset its impact, and wages had remained stagnant for years. Additionally, a retention program was initiated to reward experienced providers, interpreters, and service coordinators.

The effectiveness of therapy is undeniable. Lindsey Faulkner's 2-year-old daughter, Aria, made remarkable progress in speech therapy within a month. However, Aria had been on a waitlist for developmental therapy for over a year, leading to substantial delays in receiving essential services.

The underpayment of Early Intervention providers and service coordinators, who facilitate therapy access for families, remains a critical issue. Some providers, despite their passion for the work, struggle financially due to inadequate compensation.

Hilda Garcia's son, Alexander, qualified for five Early Intervention therapies in 2021 but had to wait over a year for in-person services. Virtual therapy, which commenced six months later, proved ineffective, especially for physical therapy. Finally, an in-person appointment through a private provider was secured, but they remained on the Early Intervention waitlist.

Garcia's advocacy efforts demanded significant time and effort, compounding the challenges she faced while juggling work and childcare responsibilities. Language barriers further hinder many parents, exacerbating the complexity of the process.

The scarcity of providers and the inadequacy of Early Intervention have a profound impact on children like Alexander. The absence of timely therapy may have repercussions on their development and safety, underscoring the urgency of addressing the systemic issues within the program.



Pritzker



An Atlas 5 rocket with Amazon's Project Kuiper Protoflight spacecraft lifts off from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Friday, Oct. 6. (AP)

Amazon launches first test internet satellites to compete with SpaceX

Amazon launched the first test satellites for its planned internet service on Friday as a rival to SpaceX's broadband network.

United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket blasted off with the pair of test satellites, kicking off a program that aims to improve global internet coverage with an eventual 3,236 satellites around Earth.

Amazon plans to begin offering service by the end of next year.

Elon Musk's SpaceX has a huge head start over

Amazon and its founder Jeff Bezos, who has his own rocket company, Blue Origin.

SpaceX flew its first test Starlink satellites in 2018 and the first operational satellites in 2019. It has since launched more than 5,000 Starlinks from Florida and California, using its own Falcon rockets.

Europe's Eutelsat OneWeb also is launching internet satellites, with around 600 in orbit.

Amazon originally agreed to put the satellites on the debut launch of ULA's Vulcan rocket. But with

the Vulcan grounded by problems until at least the end of this year, Amazon switched to the long-established Atlas V.

When licensing the program, the Federal Communications Commission stipulated that at least half of the planned satellites be operating by 2026 and all of them by 2029.

Amazon has reserved 77 launches from ULA, Blue Origin and Europe's Arianespace to get everything up. (AP)

Health

Next-gen Dexcom G7 CGM system effective

iGlucose to help millions manage diabetes



The new iGlucose Essential delivers an FDA-cleared, reliable blood glucose monitor packed with features that make it easy for users to manage their diabetes better.

TAMPA, Fla., Oct 8, (Business Wire): Smart Meter, the No. 1 supplier of devices and data to the remote patient monitoring (RPM) market, will introduce a new cellular-enabled glucometer at the HLTH Conference in Las Vegas starting October 8th. The iGlucose builds on the company's reputation for supplying secure, cellular-enabled RPM TM, vital sign monitors. The new iGlucose delivers an FDA-cleared, reliable blood glucose monitor packed with features that make it easy for users to manage their diabetes better.

The iGlucose is ergonomically designed for patient comfort, is lightweight, and simple to use, all leading to more frequent and regular testing. In addition, it has a large, easy-to-read display screen combined with one-button operation and automatic shutoff that make this monitor incredibly patient-friendly. There is no need to log testing results in a separate journal since the iGlucose is cellular-enabled, so test results are automatically sent to the user's care team. The new glucose meter also includes onscreen alerts for Ketone and Hypo conditions, giving users more control in managing their condition.

"When developing the feature criteria for the new iGlucose, we put the patient's needs first," said Casey Pittock, Smart Meter's CEO. "We know the key

to controlling diabetes is for patients to test regularly so both patient and provider understand blood glucose levels. With these many patient-centric features, we feel testing has never been easier."

Healthcare continues to be a priority target for cyber hackers, costing organizations more than \$10 million a year. One of the main reasons is that healthcare data is considered to be 50 times more valuable than financial data alone.

As with all of Smart Meter's cellular-enabled RPM devices, the iGlucose utilizes proprietary cellular technology to transmit the reading instantly through our Private Data Network, the only one in the United States specifically created for RPM, developed in collaboration with AT&T. This ensures a reliable and secure transmission every time. And unlike unsecured Bluetooth devices, our solutions will only connect and transmit patient data through our network.

"While some healthcare data organizations struggle to always have secure transmissions, Smart Meter made it a priority several years ago," said Smart Meter's Chief Marketing Officer Bill Bassett. "In fact, we were recently recognized with a Systems and Organizations Control (SOC) certification after an independent audit by a member of

the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) verified our multiple layers of robust security."

Smart Meter is the number one supplier of Remote Patient Monitoring ("RPM") solutions to a nationwide network of Smart who are transforming patient care and today are used by over 230,000 patients in the US. Millions of vital health data readings are reliably delivered across our secure platform, enabling Smart to provide real-time, better-informed health care. Our proprietary, patient-friendly, cellular, FDA-approved monitoring devices are connected to an exclusive AT&T IoT Private Data Network to ensure an engaging patient experience for improved adherence.

Also:

BURNABY, British Columbia: Dexcom, Inc., a global leader in real-time continuous glucose monitoring (rtCGM) for people with diabetes, has announced that its next-generation Dexcom G7 Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) System will be available on Oct 10, 2023, for Canadians living with all types of diabetes ages two and older, including those who are pregnant. Its introduction brings the most accurate CGM on the market to Canadians, offering users a new way to gain greater control of their diabetes.

Health

Calif bans chemicals in food: Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has taken action on a slew of bills. He has until Oct. 14 to act on legislation that lawmakers have sent to his desk.

Newsom vetoed some Saturday, including a measure that would have made California the first state in the nation to outlaw discrimination based on caste and another that would have decriminalized the possession and use of some hallucinogens, including psychedelic mushrooms. He also signed several into law, notably a sweeping mandate requiring large businesses to disclose a wide range of planet-warming emissions.

California on Saturday became the first state to ban four chemicals used in well-known candies and other foods and drinks because of their link to certain health problems.

Newsom signed a law banning the red dye No. 3 chemical used as food coloring for products like Peeps, the marshmallow treat most associated with Easter. The chemical has been linked to cancer and has been banned from makeup for more than 30 years. (AP)

Georgia OKs medical pot sales: Georgia soon will become the first state in the US to offer medical marijuana products at independent pharmacies, state officials said.

The Georgia Board of Pharmacy began accepting applications this week, and nearly

120 pharmacies have agreed to provide medication from Botanical Sciences, one of the state's two licensed production companies. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported. It will likely take a few weeks before medical marijuana is available in pharmacies. After they submit applications, inspections will be required before the board grants approval.

Medical marijuana is only available to Georgians with approval from a physician to treat severe illnesses including seizures,



Newsom



Long

terminal cancers, Parkinson's disease and post-traumatic stress disorder. Low THC oil can contain no more than 5% THC, the compound that gives users a high.

"Pharmacists have been fielding questions from patients for years without ever having the ability to do anything about it," said **Gary Long**, CEO for Botanical Sciences. "Finally, they have the ability not just to give people advice but provide them with the therapies they've been seeking." (AP)

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Zain proud of Team Kuwait's champs at Hangzhou games



Bader Al Kharafi honors the team's champions with attendance of Al Aiban, Al Baidan and Jaffar.

Al Kharafi honours medalists during Dawri Zain's Clasico match

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Zain, the proud Official Partner of Team Kuwait at the 19th Asian Games in collaboration with the Kuwait Olympic Committee, has joined in honoring and welcoming a new group of athletes back home from China. The champions recently attained several new medals, bringing up Team Kuwait's total tally to 11 medals.

During Dawri Zain's thrilling Clasico match between Al Qadisiya and Al Arabiat Jaber Al Ahmad International Stadium, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al Kharafi honored the champions in recognition of their outstanding achievements. In attendance were H.E. Minister of Commerce and Industry & Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al Aiban, Public Authority for Sports GM Yousef Al Baidan, and Kuwait Olympic Committee VP Mohammed Jaffar.

ASIAN GAMES

Zain was keen on being among the first to welcome the returning champions at Kuwait International Airport, expressing its utmost pride in the accomplishments of Kuwaiti athletes in the biggest international sporting events.

Team Kuwait's total tally reached 11 medals at the end of the Hangzhou games, with three Golds, four Silvers, and four Bronzes.

Zain welcomed Yaqoub Al Youha, who proudly achieved the gold medal in men's 110m hurdles. The company also welcomed Khalid Al Mudhaf, Abdulrahman Al Faihan, and Talal Al Rashidi, who attained the silver medal in shooting - trap team, men. Al Rashidi also attained another silver medal in shooting - trap individual, men. Zain also welcomed the handball team, who achieved the bronze medal.

Among the latest achievements for Team Kuwait, Fahad Al Ajmi proudly achieved the gold medal in Karate - Kumite, 67kg, while Abdullah Shabaan attained the silver medal in Karate - Kumite, -60kg. Furthermore, Sayed Salman Al Mosawi achieved the bronze medal in Karate - Kata, individual, while also sharing



Zain welcomed the handball team's champions at the airport.

Zain Premier League takes break

Kuwait secure significant victory

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: In the fourth round of the Zain Premier League, the Kuwait Club secured a significant win, bringing smiles to the defending champions.

They now stand alone at the top of the league table with a perfect record of four wins, without any losses or draws.

In the latest round, "Al-Abyad" achieved a well-deserved victory, defeating Al-Shabab with a score of 4-1.

This victory propelled them to 12 points, firmly securing their position at the league's summit.

Their strong start suggests they are on course to claim their nineteenth title, as they are currently five points ahead of their closest competitors, Al-Arabi and Al-Qadisia, who played to a 1-1 draw.

Their performance didn't



A show of sportsmanship.

meet the expectations of the fans, and if they continue in this manner, they may not be considered strong contenders for the championship.

On the other hand, Al-Nasr also benefited from this round, securing their second consecutive victory by defeating Khaitan 2-0. Despite this, they remain in fourth place.

Kazma, despite their 2-1 win over Al Salmiya, maintained their fifth-place position.

However, they have managed to bounce back after a slow start to the season, achieving two consecutive victories.

SOCCER

Khaitan slipped down to sixth place with 4 points, suffering their second consecutive defeat. Al-Salmiya, with 3 points, faced their second loss in a row, securing the seventh position.

Al-Fahaheel, with 2 points, occupies the eighth position, showcasing a performance far from their previous season's standard.

Al-Shabab are currently ninth with two points, while Al-Jahra secured their first point in the competition after a goalless draw with Al-Fahaheel.

The league will take a break until October 20 due to international matches.

shooting, archery, cycling, taekwondo, karate, boxing, kurash, judo, fencing, jujitsu, wrestling, rowing, diving, triathlon, handball, swimming, athletics, sport climbing, rhythmic gymnastics, chess and equestrian.

The Asian Games is a multi-sport event that brings together athletes from across the continent of Asia. It is organized every four years by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) under the supervision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This year, the 19th Asian Games features 483 games in 40 different disciplines.

Zain is proud to support Team Kuwait in this major sporting event in collaboration with the Kuwait Olympic Committee. The company is always keen on shouldering sports programs and local athletes to elevate the Kuwaiti sports scene, as it strongly believes in the role played by the sports sector in progressing national economy.



Company welcomed champions Al Youha, Al Rashidi, Al Mudhaf and Al Faihan.

Intense battles unfold in men's, women's singles at Bowling WC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Men's and Women's Singles events at the "Bowling World Cup," hosted by Kuwait from October 4 to 15, showcased intense competition and remarkable strength across all individual categories.

Notably, players from Germany, Canada, Denmark, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman successfully advanced to the second round in the men's competition.

Similarly, in the women's division, competitors from Korea, Singapore, Colombia, Malaysia, and Germany earned their spots in the next stage of the competition.

Katie Ennis, the Executive Director of the Canadian Bowling Federation, commended Kuwait's warm embrace of the international bowling community and lauded the exceptional organization and superb facilities that contributed to the success of the World Championships for both men and women.



Some of the participants in action.

She expressed her delight at experiencing Kuwait for the first time, highlighting the gracious hospitality, welcoming atmosphere, and the unparalleled spirit

of competition among participating teams.

Katie also praised the splendid opening ceremony, which beautifully reflected the diverse cultures of people from around the world in an enjoyable and entertaining atmosphere, thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees.

BOWLING

Regarding the competition for the position of the International Federation's President, in which Kuwaiti candidate Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad participated, Katie confirmed that the election results unfolded without any surprises, emphasizing the healthy competition.

She further revealed her intention to collaborate closely with the current board of directors and continental federations in the upcoming stages to advance the sport.

Argentina into Rugby World Cup quarterfinals after eliminating Japan

Ireland blitz Scotland to set up quarters with NZ

PARIS, Oct 8, (AP): Top-ranked Ireland confirmed a Rugby World Cup quarterfinal after blitzing Scotland by six tries and 36-14.

Ireland topped Pool B ahead of defending champions South Africa, which they beat 13-8 in a titanic contest two weeks ago.

This one was never close as Ireland cruised to a record-tying ninth straight win - one win behind the tier one world record - and led 36-0 before Scotland's two tries.

The Irish have never passed the quarters and they face three-time champion New Zealand when they return to Stade de France next Saturday.

France face the Springboks here the following day.

RUGBY

Underdogs Scotland had to win and deny the Irish a bonus point to advance at Ireland's expense. Instead, coach Gregor Townsend's side slumped meekly to a record-tying ninth straight defeat against Ireland.

Center Garry Ringrose blew through a gap opened by Tadhg Beirne obstructing George Turner and Mack Hansen sent fellow wing James Lowe diving into the left corner for the first try.

After soaking up some Scottish attacks, a similar wraparound move down the left involving the crafty Sexton and burly center Bundee Aki led to Ireland's second try, neatly taken by Hugo Keenan.

The third try soon after was almost too easy when Iain Henderson picked up the ball after scrumhalf Jamison Gibson-Park was held up on the line, and burrowed over.

A comical moment saw referee Nic Berry almost catch the ball as it was accidentally thrown to him, possibly preventing a try. It came moments later, anyway, when Sexton looped a



Argentina's Mateo Carreras scores a try during the Rugby World Cup Pool D match between Japan and Argentina, at the Stade de la Beauvoire in Nantes, France. (AP)

high ball that Keenan caught off balance before twisting over. Sexton nailed his third conversion.

Magical from Ireland, a horror show from Scotland.

Tempers blew early in the second half after Ollie Smith's attempted trip on Sexton, whose return shove started a melee in which Scotland prop Pierre Schoeman fall over a hoarding with Sheehan. It was Scotland's most even contest and they still lost as only Smith was shown a yellow card.

To rub it in, Sheehan turned into a left winger for the fifth try, which showed off Ireland's depth and clinical ability. Gibson-Park was moved to the wing, moved play to the right corner, and quickly got back in the line. Ringrose was first receiver and Sexton and Keenan got the ball out left to Gibson-Park, who threw a perfect flat pass to an unmarked Sheehan.

Sexton missed the extras and was taken off, followed by other first-teamers with the All Blacks in mind.

Sexton's replacement, Jack Crowley, cross-kicked to an unmarked Garry Ringrose for try No. 6.

The Scots then scored two converted tries in two minutes. Center Sione Tuipulotu fed replacement hooker Ewan Ashman down the right, and Smith came out of the sin-bin to slice through midfield and pass inside to scoring scrumhalf Ali Price.

After Ireland's first try, Scotland's swift backs were held up twice, once on each wing. Then, a menacing Scottish attack lasting 18 phases broke down when flanker Peter O'Mahony, on his 100th test for Ireland, won the ball back.

Argentina secured a return to the quarterfinals and knocked out Japan from the Rugby World Cup after

winger Mateo Carreras' hat trick of tries inspired a 39-27 win in a breathless pool-stage eliminator in Nantes.

The Pumas will face Wales in the last eight in Marseille on Saturday, having finished second in Pool D behind England.

There were eight tries in total in an end-to-end match and none was more outrageous than the one scored by Japan lock Amato Fakatava, who sprinted down the left wing, collected his own kick forward and trundled over the line midway through the first half.

Yet it was Carreras - Argentina's stocky and powerful left winger - who proved to be the match winner, finishing off a flowing team move for his first try in the 28th and adding two more after halftime to finally see off a plucky Japan team that kept coming for more.

His third try was the clincher and came just after Japan reduced the gap to 29-27 with 15 minutes left. Within three minutes, Carreras received the ball at almost a standing start, pushed away Japan center Ryoto Nakamura with a right-hand fend, then burst through the middle with stunning acceleration before finishing with a swan dive over the line.

The Argentines missed out on the quarterfinals in 2019 but are back at that stage for the fifth time in the last seven World Cups. However, they look set to be without flanker Pablo Matera, who was held off in the 23rd minute with a bad right hamstring injury.

Japan were seeking back-to-back quarterfinal appearances after doing so on home soil four years ago but it proved to be the final match under departing coach Jamie Joseph, whose seven years in charge ends after this World Cup.



Kuwaitis wave the national flags during the closing ceremony.

Sports

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HH Amir congratulates Xi on success of Asiad

Kuwait wrap up Asian Games with bronze

HANGZHOU, Oct 8, (Agencies): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable on Sunday to Chinese President Xi Jinping, congratulating him on the success of the 19th Asian Games, hosted by the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

The smooth and seamless manner in which the event panned out depicted China in a positive light, garnering the adulation of the entire world, His Highness the Amir said in his cable, wishing Beijing perpetual prosperity and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to Xi Jinping congratulating him on the success of the 19th Asian Games.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince praised the distinguished capabilities provided by the People's Republic of China during the organization of this major event, wishing him good health and wellness, and the Chinese people more development and prosperity. (end)

ASIAN GAMES

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratulations Sunday to Chinese President , congratulating him on the success of Games.

The Kuwaiti delegation wrapped up its participation in the 19th Asian Games, held in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, with a total of 11 impressive medals. Their final achievement came during the closing ceremony when the national karate team secured a bronze medal in the team kata competition. The Kuwaiti flag was proudly raised at the ceremony by karate player Abdullah Shaaban.

On the last day of the competition, Kuwait had two representatives in action. Dalal Al-Saeed exited the under-50 kg kumite competition after being defeated in the round of 16 by the highly-ranked Japanese competitor, Miyahara. Meanwhile, the karate trio of Sayed Muhammad Al-Moussawi, Sayed Salman Al-Moussawi, and Muhammad Hussein secured third place in the team kata competition. This final medal added to Kuwait's total count of 11 colored medals, including three golds, four silvers, and an equal number of bronzes.

Jaber Al-Hammad, the technical director of the karate team, commended the outstanding performance of the national karate team over the last three days of the tournament. Four of Kuwait's 11 medals were won by karate athletes, including Fahad Al-Ajmi's gold, Abdullah Shaaban's silver, and Syed Salman Al-Moussawi's bronze, along with the bronze in the Kata team event.



Abdullah Shaaban raising the Kuwaiti flag during the closing ceremony of Asian Games.

Al-Hammad expressed his immense satisfaction with the players' exceptional dedication and their commitment to representing Kuwait with honor.

Impressive Representation in West Asia

The 19th Asian Games saw a remarkable presence of Arab countries in Western Asia, with notable achievements in specific disciplines that can serve as a strong foundation for future competitions. At the Olympic Games in Paris, Bahrain excelled in athletics, the UAE in jiu-jitsu, Saudi Arabia in equestrianism, and Qatar in handball and beach volleyball.

Kuwait's standout performance in the Asian Championships was

particularly noticeable in the field of shooting. Abdullah Al-Rashidi secured gold in the individual skeet competition, achieving a perfect score of 60 out of 60 in the final round. Additionally, he earned silver in the mixed team skeet event alongside his teammate Iman Al-Shamaa. The Kuwaiti trap team, composed of Khaled Al-Mudhaf, Talal Al-Rashidi, and Abdul-Rahman Al-Faihan, clinched a silver medal with a score of 359 points, narrowly missing gold by just two points behind the Indian team.

The Asian Games closed their 16-day run on Sunday at the 80,000-seat Olympic Sports Center Stadium with host nation China again in command

said on Sunday. State media reported the spending to prepare for the games at approximately \$30 billion.

Vinod Kumar Tiwari, the acting general secretary of the Olympic Council of Asia, called them "by far the largest ever Asian Games."

The secretary general of the organizing committee, Chen Weiqiang, characterized this version of the Asian Games as a "branding" campaign for Hangzhou.

"The city of Hangzhou has been fundamentally changed," he said. "It is fair to say the Asian Games are a key driver for the takeoff of the city."

These were bigger than any previous Asian Games with almost 12,500 competitors. Next year's Paris Olym-

pic will have about 10,500, similar to the Asian Games in 2018 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the forecast for 2026 when the games move to Nagoya, Japan.

One of the few records China didn't break this time was its overall medal haul of 416 when the 2010 Asian Games took place in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou.

This time, China won 201 gold medals and 383 overall. The next two teams - Asian powers Japan and South Korea - had fewer overall medals combined than China. Of course, their combined population is about one-eighth of China's.

Japan won 52 gold, and South Korea 42. Combined, this was less than half of China's gold total.

Twelve of the 45 nations or territories that entered had five medals or fewer and four - Bhutan, Maldives, Yemen, and Macao - failed to win a single medal.

"How can we rate the performance of the Hangzhou Asian Games?" Wei Jizhong, the 87-year-old vice president of the Olympic Council of Asia, asked rhetorically in a news conference.

"We don't rank Asian Games against others. But in terms of hosting games in China, let's compare them with ourselves. I will give a 99 score. I always believe there is room for further improvement."

The games offered all the traditional Olympic sports, and also a glimpse of one sport that's previewing next year in Paris - breaking, or breakdancing. And another, cricket, which will be included in either the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, or in 2032 in Brisbane.

Esports was an official entry for the first time, and a giant favorite. Esports is not in the Olympics yet, but the IOC is trying to figure out a way to capitalize on its mammoth revenue stream.

The games showcased so-called "mind sports" like chess and contract bridge, and offered some unique entries you won't see anywhere else in a multi-sports event: dragon boat racing, kabaddi, sepakakraw (foot volleyball), 3x3 basketball, and roller skating.

Yasuhiro Nakamori, the acting director general for the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Games, said Japan would build only two new venues, unwilling to splurge as it did for the recent Tokyo Olympics.

Hangzhou is reported to have built 56 sports facilities and 30 training sites as well as major infrastructure investments for the games, which were delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nakamori said the Chinese "hardware was wonderful. We can't pretend those kind of games. Our concept is to use existing venues."

He said the two new venues that were being built are a stadium and an arena. In addition, Nagoya will use the swimming and diving venue in Tokyo built for the 2020 Olympics, and will hold cycling and equestrian events near Tokyo.

Liverpool held in another setback for Reds

BRIGHTON, England, Oct 8, (AP): Brighton and Liverpool traded defensive mistakes before settling for a 2-2 draw in the Premier League on Sunday in another setback for Jurgen Klopp's team.

Lewis Dunk's 78th-minute equalizer rescued a point for Brighton after Mohamed Salah had scored twice late in the first half to help Liverpool overcome an early defensive blunder.

Salah finished off a well-worked counter attack in the 40th minute and then converted a penalty just before the break, but Liverpool had another disappointing finish a week after allowing a last-gasp winner in its controversial loss at Tottenham.

Klopp has called for a replay of that game after VAR failed to award his team a goal that had been wrongfully disallowed for offside and Liverpool finished the match with nine men and conceded a stoppage-time winner.

This time it was a mistake by Liverpool center back Virgil van Dijk that proved costly for the visitors.

Van Dijk's careless pass near his own area was intercepted by Simon Adingra in the 20th minute and the winger rolled the ball past the stranded Alisson Becker in the Liverpool goal from 25 yards out.

But then it was Brighton's turn to make a couple of mistakes to help Liverpool turn the game around.

Dunk's pass in midfield was intercepted and Liverpool launched a quick counterattack that saw Darwin Nunez get the ball on the edge of the box. Nunez rolled it toward Harvey Elli-



Brighton's Simon Adingra (left), challenges for the ball with Liverpool's Luis Diaz during the Premier League soccer match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Liverpool at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, England. (AP)

ott, who smartly let it roll past him to Salah, who slotted a first-time finish into the net.

An even bigger blunder by goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen less than five minutes later led to Liverpool's second. Verbruggen's pass to Pascal Gross in the Brighton box put his teammate under severe pressure as

Dominik Szoboszlai pounced on the ball, and Gross had to drag his opponent down to prevent him having a clear shot on goal.

Salah calmly converted from the spot to give Liverpool the halftime lead.

Adingra had a chance to equalize shortly after the break but drew a good save from Alisson, and Liverpool's Ryan Gravenberch had a great opportunity to extend the lead when the ball

SOCCER

fell to him at the back post after another quick attack at the other end. But with the empty net at his mercy, Gravenberch hit his effort against the bar from close range.

Shortly afterward, Brighton was level. Solly March delivered a free kick from the left and Dunk got behind the Liverpool defenders to poke in the equalizer from close range.

Brighton's Joao Pedro had the best chance to score a winner when the ball fell to him near the penalty spot in the 84th but he blasted his shot over the crossbar.

Mohammed Kudus scored in the 89th minute for his first Premier League goal for West Ham to secure a 2-2 draw against Newcastle.

The Ghana forward, whose involvement has mostly been limited to cameos as a substitute since joining from Ajax, came on as a 76th-minute replacement and slotted home a low finish from the edge of the area.

Gold glory: Al-Shamlan shines at Fencing WC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Yousef Al-Shamlan, a member of Kuwait national fencing team, achieved a remarkable feat by capturing the coveted gold medal in the saber discipline at the "Satellite" World Cup tournament hosted in Kuwait.

In a thrilling final showdown, he triumphed over Italy's national team representative, Gergi Marciano, with a final score of 15-11. Al-Shamlan's victory not only secured his place in history as the first Kuwaiti athlete to claim a gold medal in this prestigious event but also added another significant accomplishment to his impressive record, following his bronze medal achievement at the 19th Asian Games in China.

Abdulkarim Al-Shamlan, the head of the Kuwaiti Fencing Federation, emphasized the significance of the World Cup (Satellite) for saber fencing, as it is a crucial tournament recognized by the International Federation of the sport for its role in accumulating points towards qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics. He noted that the tournament featured 35 of the world's finest fencing talents, hailing from 16 different countries, comprising the elite in the sport. This formidable competition undoubtedly raised the event's level to new heights.

Highlighting Al-Shamlan's outstanding accomplishment, Ab-

dulkarim noted that he is the very first Kuwaiti athlete to secure a gold medal in the World Cup Satellite Fencing Championship, earning a perfect score of 4 points that will contribute to his overall qualification points tally for the upcoming Paris Olympics. He revealed that Al-Shamlan is slated to participate in several upcoming tournaments over the current and subsequent months, with official confirmation of his Olympic qualification expected in December.

Expressing his unwavering confidence in the abilities of Kuwait's fencing team members, Abdulkarim emphasized their potential to continue achieving positive results on the global stage. This success

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serves as a testament to the growth of the sport in Kuwait and underscores the high level of technical expertise attained by the players.



Medalist celebrate on the podium.