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## HOUSING DEBATE INTENSIFIES AS SAUDI RENT FREEZE SPARKS RIPPLES

# Experts seek Kuwait rental shakeup

Safeguarding tenants drives regulatory push

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28:** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's "unprecedented" decision to impose a five-year freeze on annual increases in residential and commercial rents in Riyadh, aimed at stabilizing the real estate market and curbing inflation fueled by rapid econom-

ic growth and rising housing demand, has sparked widespread debate in Kuwait over the need for similar regulatory measures.

Commenting on the decision, Chairman of the Real Estate Association Ibrahim Al-Awadhi described the move as a significant and proactive step to control real estate inflation and reduce financial pressure on citizens. He said Riyadh has witnessed a sharp rise in property prices in recent years, driven by strong economic performance,

which has directly impacted housing costs and increased the burden on residents.

Regarding the situation in Kuwait, Al-Awadhi explained that the local real estate market operates differently from that of Riyadh, with rental relationships primarily governed by supply and demand. Kuwaiti law already provides some protection for tenants by prohibiting rent increases within the first five years of a lease agreement, offering a level of stability that helps protect tenant rights.

However, further regulatory development is necessary.

Additional mechanisms such as the standardization and electronic documentation of lease contracts, similar to systems already in place in Saudi Arabia, must be implemented, which would enhance transparency, reduce disputes, and contribute to better regulation of the real estate market.

Al-Awadhi called for the establishment of an independent real estate authority responsible for monitoring and regulating the market.

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### Opinion

■ Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

## North and South Kuwait need multipurpose farms

THE vision of the Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi to transform Kuwait into a tourist destination is achievable but requires several essential steps. The most important among these is adopting a realistic strategy that enhances the private sector's role in contributing to the tourism industry, which has become a major source of income for several Gulf countries that once relied heavily on oil.

Kuwait has already made positive strides, such as opening its borders with new visa policies. However, these measures alone are not enough. Existing decisions, particularly those restricting the use of agricultural, craft, and industrial land plots allocated by the state to beneficiaries, do not contribute to the promotion of tourism.

For example, agricultural plots suffer from a shortage of fresh water, and even treated water is not always available. As a result, farmers are often forced to buy expensive water tankers. At the same time, the relevant authorities refuse to allow plot owners to allocate a portion of their land for investment in agricultural tourism.

In contrast, Abu Dhabi has transformed agricultural tourism into a thriving sector that revitalizes farms. Emirati farms have become important contributors to tourism activities.

This concept has been adopted by all Gulf countries, creating valuable entertainment and leisure opportunities for both citizens and residents.

There is no doubt that Kuwait lacks many of the elements that encourage tourism. Creating a thriving tourism environment requires a lot of effort, including supporting and encouraging creative ideas and rescinding decisions that hinder their progress. The goal is to diversify national income, increase the gross domestic product, and reduce government interference in people's livelihoods.

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## Kuwait Amir's upcoming Russia visit to bolster relations: Amiri Diwan Minister



Cultural connections resonate as the Moscow Symphony Orchestra performs at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. Inset: Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah attends the Moscow Symphony Orchestra's performance, accompanied by Russian Ambassador to Kuwait, Vladimir Zheltov.

Photos by Olga and Mohammad Morsi

### 'Hosting Moscow Seasons serves as cultural bridge'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): The Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah said that the upcoming visit by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Russia will focus on boosting historic ties.

This announcement came in a statement by the minister, while attending the performance of the Moscow Symphony Orchestra late Saturday at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center (JACC).

His Highness the Amir will head to Russia on October 15 to attend the Russia-Arab Summit, said the Minister, adding that the two countries will be seeking ways to boost ties on all possible domains and will touch on regional and international developments.

Returning to the orchestra performance held within the "Moscow Seasons in Kuwait", the Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister affirmed that the hosting of the event was a "cultural bridge" allowing Kuwaiti citizens to

view Russian culture, music, and arts.

He affirmed that both countries were deeply connected through their historic ties dating back to 1901, when the first Russian expedition visited Kuwait.

He asserted that both countries would continue to seek venues for cooperation as a reflection of the strong bilateral relations.

— See Also Page 12

### Kuwait a true believer in Palestinians' rights

## Amir Representative advances Kuwait's UNGA diplomacy

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): In nine days and nearly 50 activities, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Representative, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, bolstered Kuwait's international status during his participation at the 80th UN General Assembly held in New York City.

His Highness the Amir's Representative had an effective participation at the grand international event, meeting with world leaders and attending a variety of functions, marking Kuwait's keenness on collective global action.

Chiefly among His Highness the Amir Representative's focuses was highlighting the Palestinian cause and finding a

peaceful solution, which would lead to the two-state solution.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled took part in the high-level international conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, chaired by Saudi Arabia and France on the sidelines of the 80th UNGA.

His Highness the Amir Representative delivered a speech on behalf of the GCC at the emergency session of the UNSC focusing on the situation in the Middle East especially the Palestinian cause.

The speech condemned the heinous Israeli occupation violations against the Gaza Strip and Palestine as a whole, saying that the Israeli occupation unright-

eous actions had extended to harm to fellow GCC country member Qatar in a flagrant act of aggression.

His Highness the Amir Representative stressed the need for a sustainable and just peace in the region via the two-state solution, which would ensure the rights of the Palestinians.

His Highness the Amir Representative also delivered Kuwait's speech at the 80th UN General Assembly with this participation stressed the need to reform the Security Council to achieve justice, peace, and transparency.

The speech also highlighted national issues of concern including the agreement to organize navigation in the Khor Abdullah waterway and the security cooperation

protocol signed with Iraq on amending negotiations on maritime boundaries with Iraq beyond the 162 mark in accordance with international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) without affecting documented lands, Islands, and high water areas.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also expressed support for Lebanon and Syria to enable both Arab countries to build bright, prosperous futures on their respective lands.

He also expressed concerns over the situation in Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Libya, calling for political dialogue to resolve all points of contention and differences.

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### Kuwait reinforces role as diplomatic bridge

## Gulf-EU talks in Kuwait mark new milestone



Ambassador Nawaf Al-Enzi in a group photo with the Ambassadors of the GCC countries to the EU with the Ambassadors of the Political and Security Committee of the Council of Europe.

BRUSSELS, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Belgium and head of its missions to the EU and NATO Nawaf Al-Enzi said Sunday that upcoming Gulf-EU meetings in Kuwait in early October would mark a new milestone in strengthening regional security and international cooperation.

In remarks to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Al-Enzi noted that Kuwait would host the second High-Level Forum on Regional Security on October 5, the 29th Joint Ministerial Council on October 6, and the Gulf-EU Business Forum on November 5.

He said the events would provide opportunities to deepen cooperation in political, security, and economic fields, reflecting Kuwait's active diplomatic role as a bridge between the two regions.

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Department of Customs photo  
The Director General of Kuwait's General Department of Customs Yousef Al-Nuwaif and Deputy Director General for Research and Investigation Saleh Al-Omar, inspect Shuwaikh Port and Failaka Island.

### Checks reinforce readiness

## Kuwait's Customs chief urges teamwork across departments

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Director General of Kuwait's General Department of Customs Yousef Al-Nuwaif on Sunday urged closer teamwork among the customs departments to keep cargo moving and stop smuggling.

In remarks following an inspection of Shuwaikh Port (Northern Ports Customs) and Failaka Island with Deputy Director General for Research and Investigation Saleh Al-Omar, Al-Nuwaif commended customs inspectors for supporting the country's security and economy, Kuwait Customs said in a statement.

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## Report violence, teachers told

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Head of the Child Center at the Kuwait Lawyers Society Hawra Al-Habib says any teacher who witnesses violence between students and turns a blind eye is actually breaking the law.

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Armenia seeks  
Kuwaiti investment  
as bilateral  
relations enter  
new era



KFH adds QR code  
to trade finance  
transactions &  
letters of guarantee

Boursa Kuwait  
extends trading  
session



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:20	Asr .....	15:04
Sunrise ..	05:39	Maghrib ..	17:38
Zohr .....	11:39	Isha .....	18:55

# Local

## Shaping regional energy

### Kuwait leads Gulf dialogue on electricity and water security

**By Mohammed Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Fatima Hayat, the official spokesperson for the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, announced that Kuwait is hosting the 31st meeting of the Electricity and Water Cooperation Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on Monday.

In a statement issued on Sunday, she explained that the Undersecretary of the ministry Dr. Adel Al-Zamil will chair the meeting under the auspices of the GCC General Secretariat.

The meeting will take place at the St. Regis Hotel in Kuwait, with the participation of high-level delegations including undersecretaries of ministries and heads of electricity, water, and energy agencies and institutions from the GCC countries.

The meeting is part of the ongoing

Gulf efforts to enhance cooperation and integration in the fields of electricity and water. It aims to advance joint projects that support electricity and water security and sustainability, keeping pace with the region’s rapid population and economic growth.

The meeting also provides an opportunity to exchange visions and experiences and to discuss current and future challenges, especially in light of global trends toward energy transformation and reducing carbon emissions.

Hayat said Kuwait’s hosting of the meeting reflects its commitment to achieving water and electricity security for the countries of the region.

The timing of the meeting also aligns with national efforts to develop public-private partnership projects in electricity, water, and renewable energy, and strengthen Kuwait’s role as a platform for regional dialogue and coordination.

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 15-55 km/h causing rising dust.  
**By Night:** Rather hot to mild and dust will subside gradually with light to moderate freshening

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	37	30
Kuwait Airport	41	26
Abdaly	42	23

Weather			
at times over coastal areas north-westerly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h.			
Bubyan	33	19	
Jahra	41	27	
Failaka Island	35	23	
Salmiyah	35	30	
Ahmadi	35	25	
Nuwaisib	37	26	
Wafra	40	24	

## Partnership aims to advance marine sciences co-op

### KISR, Coast Guard explore joint projects

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Ministry of Interiors General Directorate of Coast Guard discussed ways to strengthen cooperation by launching joint research projects serving national objectives in marine sciences and environmental protection.

This came in a KISR press statement Sunday following a visit by Coast Guard Director General Brig. Gen. Mubarak Ali Al-Yousef Al-Sabah and his delegation to the institutes research vessel Al-Mustakshif.

KISR said Director General Dr. Faisal Al-Humoudan, Acting Executive Director of the Environment and Life Sciences Research Center Dr. Abdullah Al-Enezi, and Coastal and Marine Resources Program Manager Dr. Turki Al-Saeed received the visiting delegation.

The statement added the delegation was briefed on the advanced capabilities and equipment of Al-Mustakshif, one of the largest and most modern research vessels in the Arabian Gulf region.

KISR officials provided explanations on



KUNA photo  
An inspection tour by a delegation from the Coast Guard and officials from the Research Institute on the deck of the Explorer ship.

the vessels construction phases, technologies, and role in conducting marine surveys and collecting samples across the Arabian Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The visit also addressed the vessels technical support for high-quality marine research, fisheries management, joint efforts to protect the marine environment and sustain its resources, as well as studies related to climate change.

## Armenia seeks Kuwaiti investment as bilateral relations enter new era

### Visa-free entry and short travel time boost appeal

**By Fares Ghaleb**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Arsen Arakelian says the number of Kuwaiti tourists and residents visiting Armenia is steadily increasing.

Speaking at a reception held for investors, business representatives, media, and travel agencies, Ambassador Arakelian affirmed that Armenia will become the top destination for Kuwaitis in 2025. He encouraged everyone to visit Armenia during the winter season to enjoy skiing, festivals, family-friendly activities, and the vibrant restaurant and café scene.

The ambassador highlighted that the Armenian people hold Kuwaitis in high esteem and welcome them with warmth and open hearts.

He noted that the travel time from Kuwait to Armenia is less than two hours, making it a convenient and attractive destination for both Kuwaitis and residents.

Regarding visa regulations, the ambassador explained that Kuwaiti citizens can enter Arme-



Armenian Ambassador Arsen Arakelian speaking during the reception.

nia without a visa. Residents of Kuwait with a valid residency permit of at least six months, as well as holders of Schengen, U.S., or Gulf visas, are also granted visa-free entry without any fees. Other nationalities are subject to standard visa procedures, either upon arrival at the airport or through Armenian embassies.

The ambassador emphasized the growing mutual interest between Armenia and Kuwait in governmental, institutional, and corporate

sectors, adding that joint investment and trade initiatives are being developed, along with increased cooperation on official delegations and visits.

He affirmed his country’s commitment to strengthening bilateral relations in various fields.

Regarding the Armenian community in Kuwait, the ambassador stated that its population is estimated at around five thousand people, who enjoy full rights and benefits on par with Kuwaiti citizens.

He highlighted the active role Armenians play in Kuwait’s development process and referred to longstanding requests to allocate land for building a church and a school, which are institutions the Armenian community considers vital for preserving its identity. However, the details of these requests are being handled by the community’s representatives.

The ambassador concluded by affirming that the relationship between the Armenian and Kuwaiti peoples is rooted in mutual love and respect.

He emphasized that Armenia views Kuwait as an important strategic partner in tourism, investment, and humanitarian relations.

## Other Voices

### Industrialists’ concerns

**By Ahmad alsarraf**

NEWSPAPERS have lately been filled with news and reports about the state’s increasing efforts to strengthen cooperation with China on infrastructure and major development projects.

There is no doubt that such news brings joy to anyone who loves their country. China has proven to be a global economic partner with industrial and technological capabilities that cannot be underestimated. However, what will remain for Kuwait after these projects are completed? Will we be content with inauguration photos, press releases, and a few contract records, or will we succeed in turning these agreements into a real opportunity to build a stronger local industrial base?

Kuwait is not lacking in industry, as some might think. We have factories producing metals, petrochemicals, building materials, and electrical products. Our national workforce includes approximately 11,000 Kuwaitis, contributing an added value of KD 1.8 billion.

Many of these factories operate below their actual capacity. We have an excess of factories that could contribute significantly to state projects instead of being sidelined. The greatest risk does not lie in cooperation with China itself, but in the fact that this cooperation often ignores Kuwaiti manufacturers, both individuals and companies, despite their financial strength and extensive expertise.

Relying on foreign factories could harm local industry and eliminate job opportunities that would benefit citizens. This approach risks increasing dependence on foreign investment rather than promoting self-sufficiency.

What we need today is integration. Chinese companies should bring their capabilities, but in partnership with our national factories. Local industry must be given the chance to be part of the supply chain and to benefit from their accumulated expertise.

By doing so, we create real added value, accelerate project implementation, reduce costs, and build a balanced and sustainable economy.

Kuwait needs a clear industrial vision, not just international agreements. Local factories can provide accurate data on their production capabilities and capacities, enabling them to participate directly in major projects, either independently or in partnership with foreign collaborators.

Cooperation with China presents a golden opportunity, but it can also be a double-edged sword. We can either use it to build a strong local industry or settle for being mere consumers of projects led by others, leaving us to question what remains for us.

This is an important issue that requires the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Public Authority for Industry, especially in light of recent restrictions on the disposal of industrial plots and the suspension of their development.

In addition, the revocation of citizenships from some former industrialists has added further uncertainty to the overall situation.

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## PAHW denies claims of developer withdrawal

**By Mohammed Al-Enezi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has denied reports circulating on some electronic news platforms about real estate companies withdrawing from the pre-qualification meeting for real estate development projects.

In a statement released recently, PAHW explained that the promotional event held on Wednesday for real estate development pro-

jects was a great success. The event was attended by Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari, along with a large number of private sector companies. Attendees included local, Gulf, and international firms, as well as financial and investment institutions.

All relevant information related to the proposed projects was presented, and inquiries from participating companies were addressed.

PAHW noted strong interest from the private sector in participating in these projects.

During and after the conference, many representatives of major companies praised the proposals and PAHW’s approach, describing it as one of the first steps in supporting the improvement of work in developing the local housing sector.

PAHW called for accuracy and responsibility when sharing news and emphasized the importance of relying on official sources.

## MoCI approves Hajj pilgrimage as freelance activity

**By Marwa Al-Bahrawi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm” published on Sunday Ministerial Decision No. 175/2025 issued by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel, adding the activity of Hajj pilgrimage organization to the list of approved freelance business activities in the country.

The new decision is issued as an addendum to Ministerial Decision No. 168/2025, which included 120 activities, reflecting the ongoing expansion of freelance business in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Industry closed two industrial plots in Mirqab and South Amghara, and imposed an administrative penalty on a waste treatment company for serious violations, including failure to utilize the facility, constructing workers’

housing without a license, and operating an unlicensed industrial activity.

The authority warned that harsher administrative penalties would be imposed if the violations are not addressed.

Plot 1, located in the Mirqab Industrial Area, Block 1, Plot 3, was given a one-month grace period from the start of the closure. Plot B 6, located in the South Amghara area, Plot 1, was given only one week.



KUNA photo  
Representatives of the official bodies participating in preparing the 14th relief flight within the second airlift for brothers in Gaza.

## Kuwait sends 14th aid plane with ten tons of aid for Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): The 14th humanitarian aid plane, part of Kuwait’s second air bridge, departed on Sunday from Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base, carrying 10 tons of food supplies to Arish Airport in Egypt, en route to Gaza.

The flight is part of the “Kuwait by Your Side” campaign and falls within the broader “Fazza for Gaza” relief initiative, organized by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in collaboration with local charities and co-ordinated with the Ministries of Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Defense.

KRCS Board Member and flight coordinator Youssef Al-Zabin told KUNA that the aid mission reflects the directives of Kuwait’s leadership to support the Palestinian people

amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

He emphasized Kuwait’s commitment to continuing the air bridge until aid reaches those in need within Gaza, adding that the shipment demonstrates national solidarity and the generosity of Kuwaiti society.

The aid includes essential food items, to be delivered via Egyptian border crossings in coordination with Kuwait’s Embassy in Cairo and the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

Al-Zabin noted the successful operation of the air bridge is due to strong cooperation among KRCS, governmental bodies, and charitable organizations, expressing gratitude to all contributors.

To date, Kuwait has delivered 260 tons of locally sourced food aid to Gaza.

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (KUNA): The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Al-Budaiwi confirmed on Friday that the GCC countries are the fourth largest donor to relief and humanitarian aid in the world, having provided USD 14 billion in official humanitarian aid between 2020 and 2025.

A statement by the GCC General Secretariat said that the remarks came during a speech delivered by Al-Budaiwi at the Doha Forum for Peace and Development event, “A Common Path to Stability,” on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Al-Budaiwi added that peace and development are two inseparable sides of the same coin, noting, “the absence of development makes peace fragile and fleeting, while the absence of peace makes development an impossible goal.”

He emphasized the GCC countries’ belief in peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

The GCC chief noted in this regard that GCC countries have been and continue to be at the forefront of humanitarian and reconstruction work, having provided approximately USD 14 billion in official humanitarian aid between 2020 and 2025, making them the fourth largest humanitarian donor globally.



KUNA photo  
Group photo during the event.

He added that the GCC countries ranked first among the countries of the Global South as the largest humanitarian donor, according to data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for 2024, noting that the total contributions of the GCC countries last year amounted to USD 3.04 billion.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Seven sins of modern manners:  
From missed calls to moral fails

“THOSE who miss a call because they are busy or asleep can be excused. However, those who deliberately ignore a call have no such excuse. It is understandable if someone doesn’t see a missed call because it was buried under a list of other calls. But if the same caller has tried more than three times at different times, ignoring the call is no longer justifiable,” columnist **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Similarly, if someone fails to answer a call from someone who asked about them through mutual friends, that forgetfulness may be excused. But if they remember and still choose to delay responding until they happen to run into the person by chance, then that delay cannot be justified.



Sheikh Ali

“The request to provide “wizar” (wrap-around cloth) in mosques serves no purpose other than encouraging some worshippers to wear shorts inside the mosque. Therefore, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs should kindly ban the presence of wizar in mosques. Those who wish to pray there must respect the sacred space and attend in appropriate clothing.

“An elevator has two buttons - one to go up and one to go down. As a user, you should press the button corresponding to your desired direction. Pressing both buttons at the same time causes the elevator to stop unnecessarily on empty floors, inconveniencing others.

“Be optimistic, because you alone have the power to make or break your life. If you want happiness, replace pessimism with optimism, and trade your painful past for hope in the future. Make yourself happy with your family and friends. Do not let past events control you. Believe in yourself, and treat your sorrows as your worst enemies. Life is beautiful, and its beauty is created by your own hands, not by the hands of others. If you remain trapped in the same cycle of your past, you will gain nothing from this world but regret.

“Time may change people’s behavior, but it does not change their true nature. A genuine person remains genuine, even in poverty, and a contemptible person remains contemptible, even if they possess billions. O Allah, protect Kuwait, its people, and its leadership from all evil and harm.”

□ □ □

“Al-Shall reports often carry alarming headlines and raise important questions about the state’s financial health, the national economy, and both local and foreign investment. In contrast, statements from senior officials tend to be reassuring but not overly optimistic. At the same time, major headlines highlight development and various achievements. As a result, citizens are left confused about who is actually being represented in both local and foreign reports, as well as in official statements,” columnist **Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Undoubtedly, those with connections may have a clearer understanding of the reality, the context behind the statements, and the implications, both positive and negative. Therefore, some hesitate between launching a project or waiting for official announcements regarding the budget, expenditures, revenues, the projected deficit, and future plans.



Al-Kharafi

“This state of volatility leaves people uncertain, particularly when it comes to the future of investment, which today serves as the backbone of successful and competitive economies. The situation is further complicated by fluctuating oil prices, which are driven by supply and demand.

“Total reliance on this commodity does not build a sustainable economy; it may support development in the early stages, but it cannot serve as a long-term foundation.

“The state possesses many elements that can serve as tools for economic activity, yet some remain underutilized in Kuwait, either due to inaction or a lack of clear vision.

“While some past visions have fallen short, that does not eliminate the urgent need for a realistic and practical approach to reviving the national economy.

“In the past, we understood the reality of our investment and financial situation through parliamentary discussions on the budget, final accounts, and other matters, as well as

through the publication of the State Audit Bureau’s reports and observations. It is true that some people criticized the performance of previous parliaments, but they served as a mirror reflecting the true face of the state.

“Today, the world has access to information that many countries seeking to strengthen their economies still overlook... information that helps companies and governments develop their strategies and international relations.

“For example, there is now talk of increasing the prices of many services, yet there is no clear explanation offered to the public about the reasons behind them.

“There are no clear answers as to how citizens can improve their circumstances, or whether there is a concrete vision to shift away from our absolute dependence on oil.

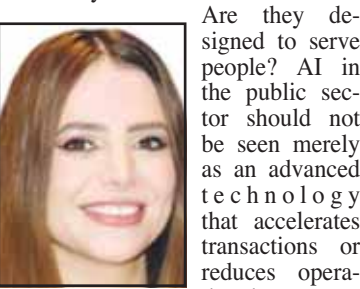
“Many citizens are left wondering: when will they be able to benefit from their country’s wealth while also contributing to the development of a strong economic foundation, without their quality of life being compromised? This isn’t an impossible equation, but it does require thinking outside the box.

“For decades, no prominent economic figure has emerged to lead Kuwait out of its oil-dependent reality, as if this dependency were an unchangeable destiny. This is why many question the accuracy and credibility of the information presented in both local and foreign reports.”

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“Amid the ongoing digital transformations, artificial intelligence (AI) is taking center stage in governments around the world, emerging as a powerful tool for transforming public services,” writer **Eng. Yasmine Al-Rifai** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“However, in our pursuit of modernization, speed, and efficiency, a fundamental question must not be overlooked - Do the systems we build truly understand human nature.



Al-Rifai

means to redefine the relationship between citizens and state institutions. The success of this transformation should not be measured solely by performance, but by the extent to which these systems uphold human dignity, promote justice, and embody the core values of public service.

“First, speed does not necessarily mean quality. While AI can accelerate procedures and reduce the burden on employees, it should never replace human interaction. Citizens want to be heard and understood, not reduced to a mere number in a system. Technology should serve as a facilitator, not a barrier that erodes the relationship between the state and the people.

“Second, modern AI systems are becoming increasingly autonomous. We are shifting from tools that simply execute instructions to systems that can think, plan, and act. This raises the critical need for governance. Who monitors these systems? Who ensures they remain free from bias or misuse? The adoption of AI must not come at the expense of accountability. Decisions that affect people’s lives should still carry a human signature to authorize and validate the process.

“Third, inclusivity is not a luxury. The language and design of AI systems must reflect the diversity of dialects and respond to people from various educational backgrounds. Do electronic systems treat women and people with disabilities fairly? The foundation of any system determines whether it can deliver balanced and equitable services.

“Fourth, AI is not a substitute for smart governance. What we need are not only smarter governments, but more humane ones. Effective technology should free up employees to spend more time listening to citizens and improving their overall experience.

“Finally, the Arab region holds a unique opportunity to lead this transformation. We are not here to imitate global models; we are here to build our own, based on our realities, needs, and values. Despite the challenges, Lebanon has all the ingredients to play an active role in this phase, thanks to its human capital, cultural openness, and adaptability. AI must be founded on the principle that technology exists to serve humanity. If we lose that balance, we risk losing the very purpose of progress.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

New roles and departments approved to boost services

Supreme Council for Family Affairs restructured

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm” published on Sunday Ministerial Decision No. 114/2025, issued by the Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, approving the organizational structure and detailed job roles of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

The decision stipulates the adoption of the organizational structure and its functional authorities of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, in accordance with what was approved by the Civil Service Council. The provisions of the

decision come into effect as of the date of its publication in the official gazette.

The new organizational structure is as follows:

- Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs who oversees the Technical Office and the Office of the Secretary-General.
- Two Assistant Secretaries-General -

- The first is responsible for Family Care Affairs, Advisory Services, and Psychological Counseling, and oversees the Department of Psychological and Social Counseling and the Department of Protection Centers.

- The second is responsible for Legal, Administrative, Financial, and Information Systems Affairs, and oversees the departments of Administrative and Financial Affairs, Legal Af-

fairs, and Research and Planning.

The new structure also includes 11 monitoring centers and 23 specialized departments, centers, and offices focused on systems and services. This enhances the council’s institutional role and streamlines work mechanisms in line with its detailed mandate.

The reorganization aims to improve the efficiency of both administrative and technical operations within the council, and ensure better coordination and integration among departments and centers. This will contribute to raising the quality of services provided to Kuwaiti families and strengthening the national system for social protection and family empowerment in the country.

Soldier acquitted, co-conspirators  
get 5 yrs in doctor frame-up case

Executives’ 10-yr sentence upheld

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Court of Cassation acquitted a soldier involved in the case that is widely known in the media as “the drug smuggling case against the Lebanese doctor.”

The court upheld five-year prison sentences for two other soldiers, a Kuwaiti female doctor, and two other defendants. They were convicted of kidnapping the Lebanese doctor and planting narcotics on him with the intent to maliciously fabricate a drug trafficking charge.

In its ruling, the court confirmed that the defendants had deceived the victim. They stopped and searched him, then falsely claimed to have found narcotics in his vehicle. A forged arrest report was issued, and the victim was transferred to the Drug Control General Department, where he was unlawfully detained.

The defendants’ goal was to falsely accuse the doctor and have him deported from the country.

Lawyer Enaam Haidar, who represented the acquitted soldier in court, presented a strong legal argument and urged the court to reject the Public Prosecution’s appeal and uphold the acquittal. The Court of Cassation agreed and confirmed the acquittal.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeal, presided over by Judge Hassan Al-Shammari, upheld the ruling of the Court of First Instance, which sentenced the chairman and two board members of a major company, in which the Public Authority for Minors Affairs has a stake, to ten-year imprisonment with hard labor and a fine of KD 14 million.

The defendants were convicted of deliberately causing harm to the company’s assets and unlawfully benefiting one board member with KD 7 million through a deal to purchase shares in a struggling company.

This case is considered one of the most prominent financial corruption cases brought before the courts this year.

36,303 violations recorded

Security officers survived  
accident on Abdali Road

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 27: Two security personnel survived a traffic accident on Abdali Road while on duty. One of them, Corporal Faisal Al-Enezi, sustained injuries and was admitted to New Jahra Hospital.

In this context, the General Traffic Department reported that Director of the General Department of Rescue Police Brigadier Rashid Al-Hajri visited Corporal Faisal Al-Enezi at New Jahra Hospital to check on his condition after the accident.

Brigadier Al-Hajri conveyed the best wishes of Head of the Traffic and Operations Sector Brigadier Abdullah Al-Ateeqi for a speedy recovery, emphasizing the leadership’s commitment to monitoring the corporal’s health and wishing him well.

Meanwhile, As part of its intensive campaigns in various governorates, the General Traffic Department recorded 36,303 traffic violations last week. It also impounded 99 vehicles and 16 motorcycles, detained 46 individuals, and arrested 29 juveniles for driving without a license. According to the weekly statistics of traffic patrols, 41 wanted vehicles were seized, and 62 individuals were arrested, including those reported as absconding or those with outstanding warrants. Also, 136 residency law violators and six individuals found in abnormal conditions were apprehended. Traffic patrols responded to 1,334 accidents during the week, which resulted in 237 injuries of varying severity.

News in Brief

Police Marathon set for Nov 8

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Police Officers Club announced the organization of the 2025 Police Marathon, in which the Police Sports Union and Safex Company, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event highlights sports as a bridge of communication between security personnel and the community.

The Ministry of Interior stated on its X account that the marathon is held under the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, and the acting Undersecretary Major General Ali Al-Adwani, to strengthen social ties between the ministry and the public.

It announced that the marathon will begin on Saturday, November 8, at 8:00 am from the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Coast Guard Base, crossing the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway in a sporting atmosphere that unites various segments of society in a distinguishing national setting. The marathon is part of the Police Officers Club’s commitment to promoting health awareness and community partnership.

The Police Officers Club invited all interested participants to register for the 2025 Police Marathon by scanning the designated QR code and adhering to the terms and conditions.

□ □ □

**Citizen in 50s dies:** A Kuwaiti citizen in his fifties passed away inside the Palace of Justice on Thursday, despite efforts to revive him, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a security source, the man suddenly lost consciousness, and the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior was immediately notified. Paramedics rushed to the location and attempted to resuscitate him, but he was pronounced dead upon arrival at Al-Amiri Hospital.



GAC photo

The alcohol was smuggled out in solid cable balls.

3,000 liquor bottles seized

Customs, KFF bust major  
liquor smuggling attempt

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: With the cooperation of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the General Administration of Customs (GAC) successfully intercepted an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of liquor hidden inside a 20-foot container that arrived at Shuwaikh Port from a European country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement, GAC explained the seizure was carried out in accordance with the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef to strengthen customs controls and combat smuggling.

Suspicious arose regarding the container’s contents, which were declared as steel cable reels. A thorough inspection was conducted, and the reels were removed in coordination with KFF,

leading to the discovery of the concealed liquor. Approximately 3,037 bottles of liquor, which had been expertly concealed to evade detection, were seized.

All information related to the shipment and the company was handed over to the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the Drug Control General Department, to complete the investigation, apprehend those involved, and take the necessary legal action.

GAC insisted that this seizure highlights its ongoing efforts to detect and prevent new smuggling methods.

It affirmed its commitment to taking all deterrent measures against anyone attempting to smuggle prohibited items and to continuously enhancing the customs security system with high efficiency.

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# South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project reaches 46% completion

Asphalt paving on main roads pushes ahead

**By Mohammed Al-Enezi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the start of asphalt paving on the main roads of the South Saad Al-Abdullah Residential City project.**

In an official statement, PAHW explained that this phase follows the completion of soil

leveling and the preparation of road and service networks to connect the project areas with an integrated road system to facilitate movement and support final preparations for delivering housing plots to citizens.

PAHW confirmed that the work is being carried out according to the highest technical and engineering standards, and under the supervision of specialized teams to ensure quality and sustainability.

The authority also affirmed the contractor's commitment to deadlines and the acceleration of the project's implementation.

PAHW engineers supervising the project inspected the progress, commending the advanced pace and high-quality execution.

Director of the Second Region Projects Department Hussain Al-Kandari reported that the actual completion rate reached 46.36 percent by September 2025, surpassing the contractual target of 24.65 percent by 21.71 percent.

He stressed that the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project stands as one of Kuwait's important strategic housing initiatives, reflecting the state's vision to develop modern cities that fulfill Kuwaiti families' needs and aspirations within an integrated urban environment.

## Omariya Zoo, Qibla redevelopment on docket

### Municipal Council holds 6th session

**By Inaas Awadh**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Municipal Council will hold its sixth regular session of its fourth term, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, on Monday.**

It will discuss several items on its agenda during the session, which are the following:

- Ministry of Finance's request to amend the council's decision issued on July 8, 2024, regarding the relocation of the Omariya Zoo site to the State Property Department instead of the General Treasury at the Ministry of Finance.
- Ministry of Defense's request to amend the council's decision issued on April 22, 2020, concerning two designated sites for the Land Forces in the Southern Region.
- The redevelopment and reorganization of plots in Qibla.
- The request of the Kuwait Municipality's Projects Sector to provide shade and air conditioning for the walkways as part of the reconstruction project for the area affected by the Mubarakiya fire.
- The proposal submitted by its chairman to

add café licenses to restaurant licenses for plots located in investment-use areas.

- The request to cancel the site of the Ministry of Public Works' pumping station and relocate the transformer station site in Nuzha to the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy.
- The proposal submitted by member Waleed Al-Dagher to construct a road linking the Seventh Ring Road with Fifth and Sixth ring roads, and to create two new entrances to the South Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.
- The request to reorganize the "change of direction" for Plot No. 1 located in Dasman.
- The proposal submitted by member Munira Al-Amir to present the transactions required by Kuwait Municipality to the Central Agency for Public Tenders for review by the Legal Department, ensuring the implementation of Municipal Council decisions.
- The final approval for the reorganization of plots in Jabriya.

In addition, the Municipal Council is awaiting a response from the executive authority to the question submitted by member Abdullah Al-Enezi regarding the planned location of the tree belt surrounding Al-Mutlaa Residential City.

## MoE suspends 'unsigned' external correspondence

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Minister of Education, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, has suspended official correspondence from all departments, educational zones, private schools, and religious and specialized education units in the Ministry of Education to external entities. Such correspondence must now be signed by the relevant Director General or, if that position is vacant, by the relevant assistant undersecretary, reports Al-Anba daily.**

In his decision, Minister Al-Tabtabaei outlined the required standards for official correspondence. It must address only one subject unless otherwise necessary, include the background of the issue and relevant legal provisions if applicable, present the sender's perspective when needed, and clearly state the intended outcome or purpose. All correspondence must bear the signature of the authorized official or their designee.

The minister emphasized the importance of meeting the following conditions when drafting official correspondence:

1. Avoid excessive verbosity or overly concise writing.
2. Refrain from using foreign words unless absolutely necessary.
3. Use clear and concise language.
4. Ensure correct grammar and syntax.
5. Avoid overly formal or flowery language.

## Beloved educational legacy revived

### Popular 'With the Students' program set for modern return on Kuwait TV

**By Mohammed Al-Enezi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The popular student program "With the Students" will return soon to Kuwait TV with a fresh new look, while continuing its educational and informative legacy cherished by generations of students and parents.**

According to informed sources, representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Information have held meetings to discuss the revival of the program and to develop a comprehensive vision for its segments.

Preparations are currently underway to film the first episodes, with the program expected to launch soon in a modern and innovative format that is in line with today's aspirations.

The program will receive unprecedented, high-level attention from leaders in Education and Information ministries to ensure it returns even better.

"With the Students" program was one of the most influential educational programs on Kuwait TV during the "good old days."

It achieved great success and was well-known for the commentary of sports commentator and media personality Khaled Al-Harban, who brought a unique charm to its episodes.

He engaged students with thought-provoking questions while delivering



KUNA photo  
The TV program 'With the Students' for female students.

meaningful messages on national, educational, health, and sports topics.

Previously, students competed for His Highness the Amir's Cup, which brought a spirit of challenge and motivation to the participating schools.

The sources confirmed that the new version of the program will focus on strengthening its valuable media message and highlighting national identity, while instilling proper educational and religious values in students. It will also provide talented students with the opportunity to showcase their creative scientific and literary abilities.

They noted that modern methods and approaches will be introduced in the presentation and production, contributing to attracting the widest possible audience of students and the public.



A group photo with the Kuwait Skydiving Team and members.

### Kuwait Wingsuit Team makes history

## KSC honors record-breaking skydivers

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Scientific Club (KSC) Chairman Talal Al-Kharafi has praised the historic achievement of Kuwait's national wingsuit skydiving team after winning first place at the 5th FAI World Cup, becoming the first Arab team to mount the podium and break records ahead of the United States and Australia.**

This came in a KSC press statement on the occasion of an honoring ceremony for the team following the conclusion of the championship in the Czech Republic, held under the umbrella of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI).

Al-Kharafi said honoring Kuwait's athletes is a recognition of their efforts and accomplishments, and a motivation to sustain excellence, expressing pride in Kuwaiti youth who excel internationally.

He added that the global victory was the result of collective effort and strong support for air sports in Kuwait, reflecting the professional level the team has reached and its ability to compete worldwide.

He noted the honoring reflects the clubs vision of providing an enabling environment for all, fostering youth talent, and confirming that success is built on teamwork and solidarity. The statement added that the ceremony also recognized outstanding members of KSC's Astronomy Department for their efforts in promoting scientific

awareness and following celestial events, including the recent total lunar eclipse observed over Kuwait. For his part, Chairman of the Kuwait Freefall Committee Mohammad Al-Rifaei said KSCs honoring initiative was not unusual, as the club has always been at the forefront of supporting youth, encouraging them, and granting them confidence to reach global levels.

He commended KSCs cooperation in facilitating the teams participation, including securing FAI membership cards for athletes as Kuwaits sole representative in the federation. Al-Rifaei noted that the victory did not come out of nowhere but was the result of years of preparation and training camps, describing it as a source of pride for Kuwait and the Arab world.

He affirmed continued coordination with KSC to benefit from its international experience and enhance the teams participation in future championships.

The victory of Kuwaits national wingsuit skydiving team at the 5th FAI World Cup, held in the Czech Republic from August 15 to 22, 2025, represents a historic milestone for Kuwaiti and Arab air sports, as the first Arab team to secure the global title. The achievement crowns years of intensive training camps and joint preparation under KSCs umbrella and in coordination with the Kuwait Freefall Committee.



KUNA photos  
A group photo with the club's astronomy department members.

## KD 23.9b Abdali Z power line approved

**By Mohammad Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has obtained approval from the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to award a tender for the supply and installation of a 400 kV overhead line for the Abdali Z power station, valued at KD 23.9 billion.**

According to informed sources, the ministry is preparing to float the tender for the establishment of the power plant, which

will be connected to the overhead power line coming from the Khairan Power and Water Production Plant to the Public Authority for Partnership Projects.

The line is expected to be completed within three years, and the power plant's implementation period is set at two years.

The construction of this station, supplied via the overhead power line from the Khairan plant, will serve the Abdali farms and the economic zone planned for future development in Abdali.

### News in Brief

**East Raqqa project ahead of schedule:** Eng. Fadhil Baqer, the project manager for contract number 294, which covers infrastructure works in eastern Raqqa, says the project is being carried out under the guidance of Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan and the Director General of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) Eng. Khalid Al-Osaimi, and it is on track to meet its target completion date, well ahead of the contractual deadline, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Eng. Baqer explained via PART website that the contract, signed on April 22, 2025, is expected to be fully delivered within 18 months. Work is progressing rapidly, which reflects the ministry's commitment to executing the project to the highest technical and engineering standards.

■ ■ ■

**MoE launches location update app:** The Ministry of Education has launched a new online service - "CSC KW MOBILE" app, which is part of the Civil Service Commission's integrated systems - to enable employees to quickly and easily update their work location information, reports Al-Rai daily. In an official circular, Undersecretary of the ministry Mohammad Al-Khalidi explained that the service became available on Thursday and will remain active for one month.

# SEPTEMBER

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Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with a number of officials during a meeting to enhance coordination and cooperation among various government agencies operating within the governorate.



Farwaniya Governorate photos

# Farwaniya Governor hosts key officials to bolster inter-agency coordination

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah hosted a meeting with a number of officials this morning at the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters to enhance coordination and cooperation among various government agencies operating within the governorate.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the attendees included senior officials from multiple sectors such as:

- Eng. Fawaz Al-Shammari, Assistant Undersecretary for Maintenance Affairs at the Ministry of Public Works and Director of the Farwaniya Governorate Maintenance Department for Roads and

Networks

- Eng. Nawaf Al-Kandari, Deputy Director General for Farwaniya and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorates at Kuwait Municipality
- Colonel Ahmed Al-Yassin, Acting Director of Farwaniya Investigations
- Eng. Sarah Al-Mutairi, Director of the Chemical Works Department and Director of the Water Facility Operation and Maintenance Department at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy
- Nada Al-Dabashi, Director of the Inspection Department at the Environment Public Authority (EPA)
- Falah Al-Azmi, Head of the Establishment and Licensing Depart-

ment at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Raed Al-Failakawi, Head of the Coordination Department for



Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with a number of officials.

the Landscape Agriculture Sector at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR)

- Eng. Talal Al-Mutairi, Head of the Farwaniya Governorate Inspection Department at EPA
- Lieutenant General Eng. Ali Al-Shanfa, Farwaniya Governorate Council Member
- Saad Al-Hadba, Farwaniya Governorate Council Member
- Several security personnel

At the start of the meeting, the governor welcomed the representatives and officials from the various government agencies, expressing appreciation for their dedication to cooperation and joint coordination.

He emphasized that continuing

such meetings strengthens integration and positively impacts the development of work while helping to remove obstacles that hinder the progress of Farwaniya Governorate's development plan.

The attendees discussed various topics of mutual interest, and reviewed and monitored the progress of development projects, security plans, and infrastructure initiatives in line with the state's overall policy.

At the end of the meeting, the guests expressed their gratitude to the governor for his kind invitation and his commitment to enhancing coordination among government agencies to support the smooth advancement of development projects.

## Namaa Charity strengthens food security in western Yemen

# 332 food baskets reach needy Yemenis

ADEN, Sept 28, (KUNA): Namaa Charity, an affiliate of the Social Reform Society in Kuwait, has distributed 332 integrated food baskets in the Tihama region of western Yemen, benefiting 2,324 displaced people and orphans as part of the "Kuwait Is By Your Side" campaign in its 11th consecutive year.

Director of Marketing at Namaa Charity, Ibrahim Al-Sanea, said in a press statement on Saturday that the campaign aims to alleviate the suffering of displaced and affected families, enhance food security

for widows and orphans, and help bridge the food gap and shortage of resources.

Al-Sanea expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the people of Kuwait for their generous and continuous humanitarian support, calling for the continuation of backing Namaa Charity's activities and projects that persist in their humanitarian mission in various affected countries.

For his part, the Executive Director of the Yemeni Al-Rofaqa Association for Humanitarian Development, which implemented the project,

Majdi bin Harhara, stressed that Kuwaiti support brings hope to the families in need and reflects a genuine humanitarian commitment to those affected by the difficult living and economic conditions Yemen is going through.

Bin Harhara praised the active role of Namaa Charity in extending humanitarian aid to those in need in several Yemeni governorates, expressing thanks to the donors in Kuwait who have always been and continue to be a source of support to their brothers in Yemen, bringing smiles to the faces.



Photos during the distribution of food baskets in the Tihama region of western Yemen.



KUNA photos

# Kuwait power demand drops

## Renewables drive energy future

**By Mohammed Ghanem**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, announced that the ministry has achieved an unprecedented milestone in electricity demand management.**



Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, Minister of Finance, and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment

The peak electricity load during the summer of 2025 reached approximately 17,610 megawatts, marking a decrease of 30 megawatts compared to the summer of 2024, which recorded 17,640 megawatts. This is notable as planning studies had anticipated a four percent increase for this year.

**National Efforts**  
Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem highlighted that this decline is an important indicator of the success of national efforts to achieve substantial energy savings, despite record temperatures reaching 51 degrees Celsius during peak periods, along with ongoing population and economic growth.

**Excessive Consumption**  
The minister indicated that this achievement resulted from strategic planning for effective electricity load management, strict campaigns against excessive consumption (mining), and efficient operation and regular and emergency maintenance conducted to the highest technical and engineering standards.

He praised the support of the political leadership and the wise government, as well as the cooperation of government and private institutions, citizens, and residents with national

campaigns, most notably the "Waffer" campaign, which has helped consolidate a culture of conservation.

Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem emphasized that the ministry is not only addressing immediate challenges but is also building strong future capabilities through large-scale production projects expected to generate 14,050 megawatts of electricity and 228 million imperial gallons of fresh water per day by 2031.

**Tangible Progress**  
He explained that the ministry has made tangible progress. Last month, the commitment document was signed for the Zour North IPP project (phases two and three), with a capacity of 2,700 megawatts, in cooperation with the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) and a consortium including ACWA Power and the Gulf Investment Corporation.

The minister also highlighted the progress of the Shagaya Renewable Energy Project. The first phase, with a capacity of 1,100 megawatts, was tendered last June, while the prequalification of companies and alliances for the second phase, with a capacity of 500 megawatts, was approved just last week.

Preparations are underway for the third and fourth phases, with a combined capacity of 3,000 megawatts, in cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

## Continued from Page 1

### North and

Therefore, when some farm owners request permission to build chalets or tents on a limited area to increase their income and develop their farms, officials should facilitate the procedures. This is especially important given that agriculture is costly in a country with a harsh climate and requires substantial investment in crops.

The government's permission for farm owners to establish some of the tourism activities that Kuwait needs would help reduce spending on foreign tourism, which remains among the highest in the country. This is primarily because Kuwait lacks the tourism facilities that attract its citizens. By encouraging the development of such facilities, we can stimulate much-needed tourism activity in all regions, both north and south.

On the other hand, no matter how much agricultural production, such as vegetables and legumes, increases, it will not generate the desired income on its own.

To address this problem, we can take Saudi Arabia as an example. It has promoted agricultural tourism, turning farms into recreational destinations where visitors can enjoy activities, learn, and purchase local agricultural products. These activities include cafes, exhibitions, and restaurants. This approach kills two birds with a stone - greening the land and boosting tourism in both northern and southern Kuwait.

The wildlife tourism season in Kuwait lasts six months. Encouraging these types of activities could significantly increase income during this period.

The same applies to owners of industrial, craft, and service vouchers, who are currently facing unreasonable obstacles imposed by official institutions.

If the justification behind these decisions is the need for greater regulation, the solution is simple. The government can collect taxes and fees in exchange for facilitating procedures. Currently, people are facing a crisis due to these obstructive decisions, which will neither make Kuwait a tourist destination nor a competitive industrial, service, or tourism hub.

The government must support owners of industrial, agricultural, and service plots who have invested their money with the hope of growing their businesses. However, the Council of Ministers has introduced measures that increase obstacles and further discourage investors, rather than encouraging and supporting them.

The Minister of Finance, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and the Minister of Information must lend their voices to this issue, which lies at the core of their expertise.

Investors who develop their projects based on clear and fair laws deserve gratitude. If the government believes it has been wronged, it should remove the injustice but not that way.

### Gulf-EU

The ambassador underlined that both sides expect practical outcomes that reinforce strategic partnership, while European representatives expressed appreciation for Kuwait's efforts in hosting these meetings.

He added that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the EU remain committed to advancing cooperation in areas including research, education, environmental protection, and the long-negotiated free trade agreement, which has made significant progress.

### Kuwait's Customs

Field checks will continue to boost discipline, readiness, and performance, he mentioned.

Kuwait Customs is pushing ahead with upgrades that match global practice in customs operations, Al-Nuwaif added.

The tour covered the Container Inspection Center and specialized units, where officials outlined steps to speed up transactions while following customs regulations.

### Report violence,

She highlighted that Article 10 of the Domestic Violence Law and Article 27 of the Child Protection Law mandate reporting cases of violence against students, whether it occurs at school or within the family.

Al-Habib called on the Ministry of Education to enforce these laws through social service offices in schools, which must report any discovered cases of domestic or external violence instead of covering them up.

She warned that anyone aware of a child being subjected to violence and who does not report it is liable to punishment.

Al-Habib also noted that cases of violence are rising in the courts but expressed hope that new laws and stricter

penalties will help reduce them in the near future.

### Experts seek

He suggested that such an authority should be empowered to set clear guidelines for rental values, both minimum and maximum, while preserving the existing contractual framework between landlords and tenants as defined by law.

Al-Awadhi emphasized that the creation of this body would improve market efficiency and help curb arbitrary practices that could lead to imbalances or disputes between the two parties.

Meanwhile, real estate expert Basma Al-Sultan echoed Al-Awadhi's views, emphasizing that the Kuwaiti real estate market needs to enhance its regulatory framework.

She called for the standardization and electronic documentation of lease contracts, as well as better regulation of various real estate sectors through the establishment of a unified real estate authority, similar to models adopted in several GCC countries.

Al-Sultan stressed that each real estate market has its own unique dynamics, and policies cannot be directly copied from one country to another.

She noted that the Saudi rent freeze applies specifically to Riyadh and not the entire country, highlighting the tailored nature of the decision and its relevance to Riyadh's status as a rapidly growing economic hub facing rising demand and limited supply.

Al-Sultan explained that the decision achieves balance in the Riyadh real estate market by taking into account the interests of both parties. It provides tenants with residential and economic stability while preserving the rights of property owners to earn fair returns on their investments.

She also noted that the rent freeze is likely to contribute to the stabilization of existing property prices.

In addition, the Sakan Real Estate website listed the average monthly rent for a three-bedroom apartment in GCC cities

**Saudi Arabia:**

- Riyadh: 4,500–6,000 SAR
- Jeddah: 3,500–5,000 SAR
- Eastern Province (Dammam/Khobar): 3,000–4,200 SAR

**Kuwait:**

- Kuwait City and suburbs: 500–650 KWD
- Mid-range areas (Farwaniya,

Jahra): 350–450 KWD

- Upscale areas (Sharq, Salmiya, Shuwaikh): 700–950 KWD

**United Arab Emirates:**

- Dubai: 8,300–11,000 AED
- Abu Dhabi: 6,600–9,200 AED

**Qatar:**

- Doha: 8,000–12,000 QAR

**Bahrain:**

- Manama: 350–500 BHD

**Oman:**

- Muscat: 350–450 OMR

### Amir Representative

His Highness the Amir Representative also urged Iran to build channels of trust with regional and international partners on its nuclear program and other issues of dispute.

During his numerous participations, His Highness the Amir Representative visited the headquarters of the Kuwaiti Permanent Delegation to the UN in New York, commending Kuwaiti diplomats on their relentless efforts to highlight Kuwait, Arab, and Islamic causes.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah also received heads of official Kuwaiti offices in Washington DC, lauding their efforts and expressing the Kuwaiti leadership's trust and support.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's speeches during regional and international have encapsulated Kuwait's genuine belief and support of the Palestinian people's rights.

His Highness's speech at the opening of the 45th Session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held in Kuwait last December, is one of the most recent examples of such stance, as His Highness urged the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to "fulfill its responsibilities by ensuring the implementation of relevant resolutions, halting the violence, providing international protection for innocent civilians, and securing safe corridors for urgent humanitarian aid."

His Highness the Amir also reiterated "unwavering support to Palestine and to end the Israeli occupation, attain all their political rights, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international resolutions," in continuation of the country's effective diplomatic role in defending the Palestinian cause, especially in the last three years.

## Kuwait advances renewable goal under 'New Kuwait 2035' vision

TAIYUAN, China, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwait is keen to contribute effectively to international efforts to combat climate change, said Representative of the Embassy of Kuwait to the People's Republic of China, Counselor Faisal Al-Mawad on Saturday.

During his speech at the 2025 Taiyuan Low-Carbon Energy Development Forum, Counselor Al-Mawad affirmed that Kuwait has adopted clear policies to enhance energy efficiency and diversify its sources, within the framework of its development vision "New Kuwait 2035".

He also noted that Kuwait has launched several pioneering renewable energy projects, including the "Shegaya" project, which generates electricity from solar, wind, and geothermal energy sources and it aims to increase energy efficiency and modernize infrastructure.

The Counselor emphasized that Kuwait is working to support scientific research, encourage in-

novation, and use modern technology to build sustainable national capabilities.

Kuwait believes that building a new global energy system requires a genuine partnership between countries, based on climate justice, technology transfer, and the provision of sustainable financing to developing countries, while taking into account the circumstances of oil-producing countries, he added.

The Taiyuan Low-Carbon Energy Development Forum 2025 kicked off Saturday in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, northern China. Organized by the Shanxi Provincial Government and the Ministry of National Energy, the forum drew the participation of senior officials and international experts in the fields of energy and low-carbon transformation.

The opening ceremony featured a speech delivered by Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of Shanxi Province and Chairman of the Provincial Council, Tang Dengjie.



America

**3 dead, 8 injured in N.Carolina shooting:** Three people were killed and at least eight others wounded late Saturday when someone opened fire from a boat into a crowd gathered at a waterfront bar in a coastal town in North Carolina, authorities said.

The shooting erupted about 9:30 pm near a popular stretch of bars and restaurants on Southport's waterfront, a historic port town about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Wilmington. Investigators said the assailant piloted a small boat close to shore, stopped briefly and fired into the crowd before speeding away.

Roughly half an hour later, a US Coast Guard crew spotted a person matching the suspect's description pulling a boat from the water at a public ramp on nearby Oak Island. The person was detained and turned over to Southport police for questioning, officials said.

Authorities have not identified the suspect or said what might have led to the attack. Investigators from multiple agencies - including the State Bureau of Investigation and the Coast Guard - remained on the water and at the scene Sunday collecting evidence and interviewing witnesses. (AP)

■ ■ ■

**Arizona flooding kills 4:** Four people died after heavy rain caused flooding in Arizona, including three in a rural 19th-century mining town where floodwaters on Friday forced people to seek safety on rooftops and washed out a propane distributorship, scattering about 1,000 tanks downtown.

About 2.5 inches (6.4 centimeters) of rain fell in Globe, a city of about 7,250 people about 88 miles (142 kilometers) east of Phoenix, over 24 hours and another storm moved in Saturday, temporarily halting the search for people possibly missing in the flood because of high-flowing creeks.

Streets flooded in the nearby mining town of Miami on Saturday, but no injuries were reported, Carl Melford, emergency manager in Gila County, said. Meanwhile, about 20 tourists stranded in parts of the Havasupai Reser-



Damage from flooding in Globe, Ariz., is seen on Sept 27. (AP)

vation, including at scenic Havasu Falls, because of flooding were evacuated, Bureau of Indian Affairs dispatcher Shaileen Gonzales said.

The remote reservation reachable only by foot, mule or helicopter lies deep in a gorge off the Grand Canyon. It's popular worldwide for its scenic, towering blue-green waterfalls but is prone to flooding. (AP)

■ ■ ■

**US braces for storm expected to hit E.coast:** A weather system that is forecast to become Tropical Storm Imelda later in the day before approaching the coast of South Carolina as a hurricane early next week was causing disruption in the Bahamas and nearby islands on Sunday.

Meanwhile Hurricane Humberto weakened very slightly but remained a strong Category 4 storm in the Atlantic, threatening Bermuda.

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster urged people to monitor the weather closely and stay alert. And in North Carolina, Gov. Josh Stein declared a state of emergency in advance of the system, currently called Tropical Depression Nine. (AP)

US govt shutdown risk looms

# Trump to meet with 4 congressional leaders

WASHINGTON, Sept 28, (AP): US President Donald Trump plans to meet with the top four congressional leaders at the White House on Monday, one day before the deadline to fund the federal government or face a shutdown.

The meeting involving House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune as well as House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer was confirmed Saturday by a White House official and two other people familiar with the planning. They were granted anonymity to discuss a meeting that has not been announced.

"President Trump has once again agreed to a meeting in the Oval Office. As we have repeatedly said, Democrats will meet anywhere, at any time and with anyone to negotiate a bipartisan spending agreement that meets the needs of the American people," Schumer and Jeffries said in a joint statement on Saturday night. "We are resolute in our determination to avoid a government shutdown and address the Republican healthcare crisis. Time is running out."

The meeting was first reported by Punchbowl News.

The parties have been in a standoff for days as Democrats, namely in the



As lawmakers debate a government funding extension, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La, awaits the arrival of the leader of the Orthodox Christian Church, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for a meeting, at the Capitol in Washington on Sept 17. (AP)

Senate, have refused to offer the necessary votes to pass a funding measure that would keep the government open beyond Tuesday.

Absent any action, a shutdown would begin at 12:01 a.m. ET on Wednesday.

Democrats had secured a meeting with Trump until Republican leaders intervened and the president called it off. But Schumer spoke privately with Thune on Friday, pushing the majority leader to get a meeting with Trump scheduled because of the approaching funding deadline, according to an aide for Schumer.

## Kotek urges public to stay calm

# US president sends troops to Portland, Oregon, in latest deployment to more cities

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept 28, (AP): US President Donald Trump said Saturday that he will send troops to Portland, "authorizing Full Force, if necessary" to handle "domestic terrorists" as he expands his deployments to more American cities.

Oregon Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek responded by saying Trump is abusing his authority by ordering troops into a city that she said is doing "just fine" on its own. She was joined by other government, police and business leaders who all said soldiers are not needed and Trump is presenting a patently false picture of the city.

Trump made his announcement on social media, writing that he was directing the Department of Defense to "provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland." Trump said the decision was necessary to protect US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, which he alleged are "under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for details on Trump's announcement, such as a timeline for the deployment or what troops would be involved.

In an afternoon news conference, Kotek said she directly told Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem earlier in the day that troops are not needed and she believes he does not have the authority to deploy the military there.

"We can manage our own local public safety needs. There is no insurrection. There is no threat to national security," Kotek told reporters.

The governor said she "tried to understand his reasoning" during their conversation and his response was just, "Let's keep talking."

"This is an American city. We do not need any intervention," Mayor Keith Wilson said at the news conference. "This is not a military target."

Kotek said the president did not give a timetable for troops arriving. She said she told him the Oregon National Guard is not needed and she does not plan to call it up.

Trump, however, previously de-



Democratic Oregon Gov Tina Kotek speaks at a news conference in Portland, Ore on Sept 27, after Republican President Donald Trump said he would send troops to the city. (AP)

ployed guard soldiers and active duty Marines in Los Angeles even though California Gov. Gavin Newsom opposed it. The federal government is ap-

pealing a judge's ruling that Trump's use of the guard was illegal.

Kotek urged the public to stay calm, saying any kind of property damage or

violence will not be tolerated.

"Let's not take the bait," she said. "Let's not respond to what the president is trying to do."

Earlier Saturday, there was no sign of any federal presence downtown, where people jogged along the Willamette River, relaxed by a riverside fountain or rode bikes on a sunny fall day.

"Where's the emergency?" asked resident Allen Schmertzler, 72, who said he was "disgusted" by the president's decision.

Another, John McNeur, 74, called Trump's statement "ridiculous." He pointed out that he was taking "a leisurely stroll" along the river on a peaceful, sunny day.

"This place is not a city that's out of control," he said. "It's just a beautiful place."

Trump previously threatened to send the National Guard into Chicago but has yet to follow through. A deployment in Memphis, Tennessee, is expected soon and will include only about 150 troops, far less than were sent to the District of Columbia for

Trump's crackdown on crime or to Los Angeles in response to immigration protests that turned violent with the troops' arrival.

In Memphis, about 80 to 100 people marched to a plaza in front of City Hall to protest the expected arrival next week of the guard and more than a dozen federal law enforcement agencies, ranging from immigration to drug enforcement.

Protesters held signs with messages such as "Resources Not Task Forces" and "Memphis don't need no occupation, Memphis don't need no government control" - a play on the Pink Floyd song "Another Brick in the Wall."

Speakers said beforehand that instead of federal troops and agents, Memphis needs more funding for education, crime prevention, youth services and hospitals. The Oregon officials made similar comments.

Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said the Department of Defense would provide information and updates when available.



Rescuers work at the site of apartment buildings damaged during a Russian attack in Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 28. (AP)

# Large Russian drone and missile attack on Kyiv kills 4 and wounds at least 10 people

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 28, (AP): Russia unleashed a barrage of drones and missiles on Ukraine overnight into Sunday, killing at least four people, with the capital city of Kyiv suffering the heaviest assault.

This is the first major bombardment since an air attack on Kyiv left at least 21 people dead last month.

Tymur Tkachenko, head of the Kyiv City Administration, confirmed Sunday's casualties via Telegram and said 10 others were wounded in the attack that targeted civilian areas across the city. A 12-year-old girl was among the dead. Thick black smoke could be seen rising from a blast near the city center.

"The Russians have restarted the child death counter," Tkachenko wrote on Telegram.

Russia fired a total of 595 exploding drones and decoys and 48 missiles, Ukraine's air force said Sunday. Of those, air defenses shot down or jammed 566 drones and 45 missiles.

Besides Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the bombardment targeted the regions of Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytskyi, Sumy, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, and Odesa. Zelenskyy wrote on X that at least 40 people were wounded across the country. Later, Ukraine's Interior Ministry stated the number of the wounded rose to 70, with over a hundred civilian objects damaged.

Zaporizhzhia's regional head, Ivan Fedorov, said three children were among the 27 wounded in the region, adding that over two dozen buildings were damaged in the capital that bears



Women talk in the yard after a Russian strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Sept 28. (AP)

the same name.

"This vile attack came virtually (at) the close of UN General Assembly week, and this is exactly how Russia declares its true position. Moscow wants to keep fighting and killing, and it deserves the toughest pressure from the world," Zelenskyy wrote.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov insisted to world leaders Saturday that his nation doesn't intend to attack Europe but will mount a "decisive response" to any aggression.

The strikes that began overnight and continued after dawn on Sunday also

targeted residential buildings, civilian infrastructure, a medical facility and a kindergarten, according to Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, who also said damage was reported at more than 20 locations across the capital.

At Kyiv's central train station, passengers arrived to the crackle of anti-aircraft gunfire and the low buzz of attack drones. Mostly women, they waited quietly in a platform underpass until the air raid alert ended. Parents checked the news on their phones while children played online games.

"The sky has turned black again," said one woman at the station, who gave only her first name, Erika. "It's happening a lot."

Iлона Kovalenko, a 38-year-old resident of a five-story building struck in Kyiv's Solomianskyi district, told The Associated Press she woke up because of the explosion, which shattered windows.

"A neighbor kept knocking on our door. She was completely covered in blood and shouting, 'help, save my daughter,'" said Kovalenko, who fled the building with her grandmother after the strike.

Oleksandra, the neighbor's daughter, was the 12-year-old killed in the attack. "Sadly, she died on the spot," Kovalenko said. "We are in shock, to be honest."

Another multi-story residential building was heavily damaged by the attack. Emergency services personnel used power saws to clear the debris. Piles of glass littered nearby sidewalks as building residents, some looking shaken, sat on benches.

# UK's PM hopes vision of 'renewal' can silence doubts about leadership

LIVERPOOL, England, Sept 28, (AP): Keir Starmer never had much of a political honeymoon. Now some members of his political party are considering divorce.

Little more than a year after winning power in a landslide, Britain's prime minister is fighting to keep the support of his party, and to fend off Nigel Farage, whose hard-right Reform UK has a consistent lead in opinion polls.

The next election is as much as four years away, but as thousands of Labour Party members gather Sunday for their annual conference beside the River Mersey in Liverpool, lawmakers are growing anxious. A potential leadership rival has emerged in Andy Burnham, the ambitious mayor of Manchester.

Starmer shrugged off the discontent, telling the BBC on Sunday that "in politics, there are always going to be comments about leaders and leadership" and insisting the government had "achieved great things in the first year."

But Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said the party's mood is "febrile."

"They've only been in government a year and they've got a big majority, but most voters seem to be quite disappointed and disillusioned with the government," he said. "And they also have



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks on the BBC 1 current affairs programme on Sept 28, 2025, with Laura Kuenssberg in Liverpool. (AP)

a very low opinion of Keir Starmer."

Since ending 14 years of Conservative rule with his July 2024 election victory, Starmer has struggled to deliver the economic growth he promised. Inflation remains stubbornly high and the economic outlook subdued, frustrating efforts to repair tattered public services and ease the cost of living.

A global backdrop of Russia's war in Ukraine and US President Donald Trump's tariffs hasn't helped. Even though Britain managed to secure a trade deal easing import duties on some UK goods, the autumn budget statement in November looks set to be a grim choice between tax increases and spending cuts - maybe both.

# Moldovans vote in tense election plagued by Russian interference claims

CHISINAU, Moldova, Sept 28, (AP): Moldovans on Sunday cast ballots in a tense parliamentary election plagued by claims of Russian interference, a vote seen as a choice between integration with the European Union or a drift back into Moscow's fold.

Sunday's pivotal vote will elect a new 101-seat parliament, after which Moldova's president nominates a prime minister, generally from the leading party or bloc, which can then try to form a new government. A proposed government then needs parliamentary approval.

Polls opened at 7 am and close at 9 pm. The Central Electoral Commission reported that 750,000 people, or about 26% of eligible voters, had cast ballots by 1 pm.

The race pits the governing pro-Western Party of Action and Solidarity, or PAS, which has held a strong parliamentary majority since 2021 but risks losing it, against several Russia-friendly opponents but no viable pro-European partners, leaving uncertainty over potential outcomes and the geopolitical course the country will take.

After casting her ballot, Moldova's pro-Western President Maia Sandu reiterated long-held claims that Russia "massively interfered" in the election,



A woman holds a child as she casts her vote during a parliamentary election, in Chisinau, Moldova on Sept 28. (AP)

saying she voted "to keep the peace" and that her country's future lies within the EU.

"Russia poses a danger to our democracies. Our democracy is young and fragile, but that does not mean that states with longer democracies are not in danger. We want to live in a democracy," she said. "Today, in our country, democracy is in the hands of

Moldovans - only they can save the Republic of Moldova."

Moldova is landlocked between Ukraine and European Union member Romania. The country of about 2.5 million people has spent recent years on a westward path and gained candidate status to the EU in 2022, shortly after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



China’s Sanya braces for typhoon as it approaches southern Hainan Island

## Vietnam evacuates thousands and shuts airports as Typhoon Bualoi nears landfall

HANOI, Vietnam, Sept 28, (Agencies): Vietnam evacuated thousands of people from central and northern provinces Sunday as Typhoon Bualoi raced toward the country faster than expected with landfall forecast later in the day.

Bualoi had left at least 20 people dead in the central Philippines since Friday, mostly from drownings and falling trees, and knocked out power in several towns and cities, officials said. The storm forced about 23,000 families to evacuate to more than 1,400 emergency shelters.

The typhoon was expected to bring winds of up to 133 kph (83 mph), storm surges of more than a meter (3.2 feet) and heavy rains that could trigger flash floods and landslides.

Vietnam’s weather agency said Bualoi was about 200 kilometers (124 miles) east of central Vietnam early Sunday and moving northwest. It was expected to make landfall between Quang Tri and Nghe An provinces.

Authorities grounded fishing boats in northern and central regions and ordered evacuations. State media reported Da Nang planned to relocate more than 210,000 people, while Hue prepared to move more than 32,000 coastal residents to safer ground.

The Civil Aviation Authority said operations were suspended at four coastal airports, including Danang International Airport, with several flights rescheduled.

Heavy rains have drenched central provinces since Saturday night. In Hue, floods swamped low-lying streets, storms ripped off roofs and at least one person was reported missing after being swept away by floodwaters.

In neighboring Quang Tri province, a fishing boat sank and another was stranded while seeking shelter. Eight people have been rescued while efforts were underway to reach three others at sea, state media said.

Forecasters warned of more heavy rain through Oct. 1, raising risks of flooding and landslides in northern and central provinces.

Bualoi was the second major storm to threaten Asia in a week. Typhoon Ragasa, one of the strongest to hit in years, left at least 28 deaths in the northern Philip-



People work to rescue fishermen on a stranded fishing boat due to Typhoon Bualoi in Quang Tri, Vietnam on Sept 28. (AP)

ines and Taiwan before making landfall in China and dissipating Thursday over Vietnam.

Global warming is making storms like Wipha stronger and wetter, according to experts since warmer oceans provide tropical storms with more fuel, driving more intense winds, heavier rainfall, and shifting precipitation patterns across East Asia.

Also:

**SANYA:** The city of Sanya in south China’s island province of Hainan has been

put on high alert as Bualoi, the 20th typhoon of this year, approaches the southern part of the island, the provincial meteorological observatory said.

At 7 am on Sunday, the eye of Typhoon Bualoi was located over the sea approximately 205 km south of Sanya, with maximum wind speeds near its center reaching 32.7 meters per second.

The coastal city activated a Level II emergency response for flood and typhoon prevention at 9 p.m. on Saturday.

According to Sanya’s disaster prevention and response office, Sanya Phoenix International Airport has suspended all flight arrivals and departures from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

As of 1 am, Sunday, a total of 36,842 people had been relocated across Sanya. Several cities and counties in Hainan have announced school closures, with all primary and secondary schools, kindergartens, and other educational institutions suspended for the entire day on Sunday, which is a working day due to the upcoming eight-day National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday starting on Oct. 1.

Currently, emergency response teams involving more than 6,600 people in Sanya are fully prepared. Additionally, two professional rescue vessels are on standby in relevant waters.

Meteorological authorities forecast that Typhoon Bualoi will move northwestward at a speed of 25 to 30 km per hour. It is expected to pass near the southern coast of Hainan Island during the day on Sunday, before making landfall in the coastal areas of north-central Vietnam on Sunday night.

Due to the typhoon, 125 townships across 17 cities and counties in Hainan recorded rainfall exceeding 50 mm. Among them, 27 townships or districts in seven cities and counties, including Sanya, **Wenchang** and **Lingshui**, experienced rainfall over 100 mm, with the highest precipitation of 189.8 mm recorded in Zhongping Township of **Qiongzong County**. Additionally, most coastal areas on Hainan Island have experienced gusty winds up to 24.5 meters per second.

## Kim holds meeting on production of nuclear materials, weapons – KCNA

PYONGYANG, Sept 28, (Xinhua): The top leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) met with scientists and technicians in the nuclear field as he guided an important consultative meeting related to the production of nuclear materials and weapons, state media said Saturday.

During the meeting, Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, listened to a report on the implementation of the plan to increase the capacity of the nuclear-material production field for 2025, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

He learned about the recent work and production activities of the Nuclear Weapons Institute, and was briefed about next year’s plan and development prospects of the nuclear-material production field and the Nuclear Weapons Institute.

He added that steadily stepping up preparations for the state’s nuclear countermeasures is an essential top-priority task given the country’s security environment.

Stressing the importance of constantly strengthening and upgrading



This photo provided by the North Korean government, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaking during a parliament session at the Supreme People’s Assembly, which was held on Sept. 20-21, 2025 in Pyongyang, North Korea. (AP)

“the nuclear shield and sword,” the DPRK leader pledged that his country will “give top priority to providing and supporting every possibility and con-

dition to the nuclear technology field for its sustained development,” KCNA said in the report.

Also:

**SEOUL:** South Korea’s government online services were halted after a fire in the national data center, Yonhap news agency said Saturday.

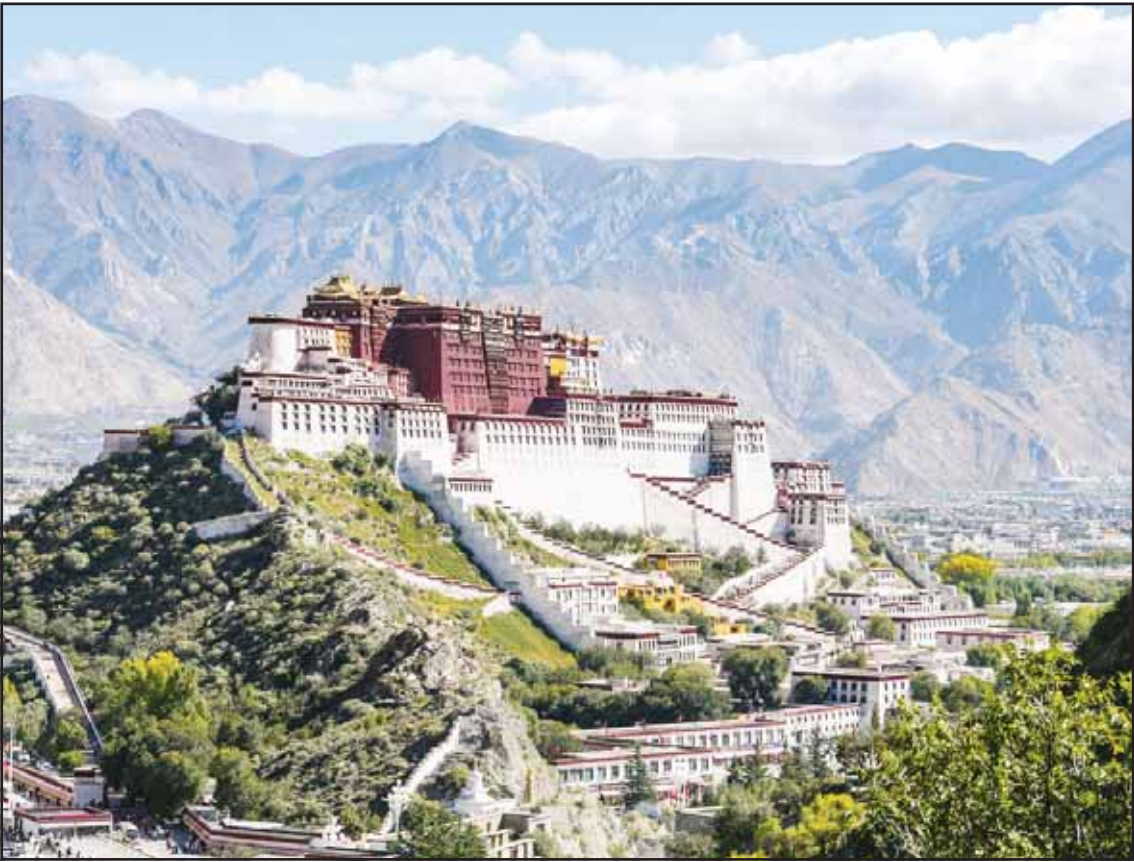
The fire broke out at about 8:20 pm local time on Friday (1120 GMT) at the National Information Resources Service in the central city of **Daejeon**.

It was caused by a lithium-ion battery explosion in a computer room on the building’s fifth floor. The fire led to the suspended operation of 647 government online services and systems.

**SEOUL:** Twenty-eight people were injured on Saturday in South Korea’s gas explosion accident, according to Yonhap news agency.

The explosion occurred at about 10:17 am local time (0117 GMT) inside a dry sauna in Yangju, Gyeonggi province.

The injured included both customers and employees, with three individuals reported to be in serious condition.



This photo taken on Sept 25, 2025 shows a view of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, southwest China’s Xizang Autonomous Region. (Xinhua)

## New York may no longer be fit to host UN headquarters: Colombian president

BOGOTA, Sept 28, (Xinhua): Colombian President Gustavo Petro said Saturday that the US decision to revoke his visa underscores that New York may no longer be a suitable host for the United Nations headquarters.

The US decision violated the principle of immunity that underpins the United Nations, said Petro, while calling for respect for international law.

On Friday, Petro joined a pro-Palestinian demonstration outside the UN headquarters in New York, where he urged US soldiers not to turn their weapons against humanity.

In response, the US State Department said on the same day on social media that “we will revoke Petro’s visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions.”

On Saturday, Petro said on social media that he no longer holds a US visa, adding “I don’t care.”

The Colombian president also criticized Washington for preventing Palestinian representatives from attending the UN General Assembly and renewed his call for the international community to stop the humanitarian disaster in Gaza.



In this photo released by Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, right, shakes hands with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during their meeting as part of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the Lotte Palace Hotel on Sept 24, in New York. (AP)

with an extraordinary and absolutely unjustified US naval and air buildup, said Cuban Foreign Minister **Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla** on Saturday.

Addressing the annual general debate of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Rodriguez said the United States uses the pretext of combatting crime and drug trafficking for its military presence in the Caribbean. “A

story that no one believes.”

“The attack and destruction of unregistered or unchartered course speedboats; the extrajudicial murder or execution of civilians; the interdiction of fishing vessels or boats and the aggressive actions of the **United States** create a dangerous situation that violates International Law and threatens regional peace and security,” he said.

## Stampede at political rally for popular actor Vijay in southern India kills 40

NEW DELHI, Sept 28, (Agencies): The death toll following a stampede at a political rally for a popular Indian actor and politician in the southern state of Tamil Nadu has climbed to 40, the state’s health minister said Sunday, as medics treated at least 124 injured in hospitals.

Ma Subramanian told The Associated Press that 36 victims were dead by the time they were taken to a hospital on Saturday night and four more died later. He said the injured were largely stable. The dead included nine children, Subramanian said.

Tens of thousands of people gathered in the district of Karur on Saturday to attend the rally by Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar, popularly and professionally known as Vijay, amid sweltering heat. Vijay is one of Tamil Nadu’s most successful actors and is running for office in state elections scheduled to be held in early 2026.

In southern Indian states, particularly Tamil Nadu, some film stars have larger than life status, rooted in the ancient Tamil culture of hero worship. Many have become successful politicians and some have even been given divine status.

S. Sabesan, a local resident who was at the rally, said Vijay was supposed to address the rally around



Relatives of people who were killed in a stampede during a rally for a popular Indian actor and politician, mourn as they take the bodies from a hospital, in Karur, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu on Sept 28. (AP)

noon but arrived more than six hours late. He said by that time, a large crowd had choked the roads.

Also

**NEW DELHI:** At least five persons, including three women, died and one was seriously injured when the vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in India’s northern state of **Haryana** early on Saturday.

The mishap occurred in Haryana’s Gurugram district, on the **Delhi-Jaipur** national highway. Gurugram Police spokesman **Sandeep Kumar** said the accident occurred at around 4:30 a.m. local time.

“There were six people inside the vehicle. Four died instantly, while one was seriously injured when the vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in India’s northern state of **Haryana** early on Saturday. The mishap occurred in Haryana’s Gurugram district, on the **Delhi-Jaipur** national highway. Gurugram Police spokesman **Sandeep Kumar** said the accident occurred at around 4:30 a.m. local time.

“There were six people inside the vehicle. Four died instantly, while one was seriously injured when the vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in India’s northern state of **Haryana** early on Saturday. The mishap occurred in Haryana’s Gurugram district, on the **Delhi-Jaipur** national highway. Gurugram Police spokesman **Sandeep Kumar** said the accident occurred at around 4:30 a.m. local time.

## Seychelles to hold rerun presidential election after no outright winner

VICTORIA, Seychelles, Sept 28, (AP): With no outright winner in Seychelles’ presidential election, the country will hold a rerun vote between the two main contenders, the electoral authority said Sunday.

Opposition figure Patrick Herminie received 48.8% of the vote, while the incumbent, Wavel Ramkalawan, garnered 46.4%, according to official results. A candidate needs to win more than 50% of the vote to be declared the winner.

The date for the rerun election is yet to be announced.

Herminie represents the United Seychelles party, which dominated politics for decades in the country before losing power five years ago. It was the governing party from 1977 to 2020.

Trying to prevent United Seychelles from returning to power, Ramkalawan seeks a second term as the leader of Africa’s smallest country. His governing Linyon Demokratik Seselwa party campaigned on economic recovery, social development and environmental sustainability.

Early voting began on Thursday, but most people voted on Saturday.

The 115-island archipelago in the



People line up to cast their votes at Beau Vallon Secondary School in Beau Vallon, Seychelles, on Sept 27. (AP)

Indian Ocean has become synonymous with luxury and environmental travel, which has bumped Seychelles to the top of the list of Africa’s richest countries by gross domestic product per capita, according to the World Bank.

But opposition to the governing

party has been growing.

A week before the election, activists filed a constitutional case against the government, challenging a recent decision to issue a long-term lease for part of Assomption Island, the country’s largest, to a Qatari company for a luxury hotel development.

### Lat/Am

**5 dead in Mexico train-bus collision:** At least five people were killed and four others injured when a train collided with a passenger bus in Comonfort, a municipality in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato, local officials said Saturday.

Four women and one man were killed, none of whom had been identified, the Comonfort Civil Protection Department said on social media.

The crash occurred in La Nopalera community at a railroad crossing, where the train collided with the bus and dragged it along the tracks.

Police, rescue workers and emergency medical teams were at the scene providing aid, and the injured were taken to hospitals in Guanajuato, the department added.

Witnesses said the bus driver attempted but failed to outrun the train at the crossing. (Xinhua)

**Brazil school shooting kills 2:** Two teenagers have died and three others were left wounded after a shooting at a school in Ceara state in northeastern Brazil on Thursday, authorities said.

Unidentified suspects opened fire from the sidewalk outside the school in the city of Sobral, shooting the victims in the parking lot, according to the state’s Secretariat of Public Security and Social Defense. Three others were injured and taken to hospitals in the region.

Officials did not disclose the victims’ identities or confirm whether they were students. Police said drugs, a precision scale and packaging materials were found at the scene. A hunt is on for the suspects.

Gov. Elmano de Freitas called the shooting “the most serious and intolerable event.

In 2022, a teenager opened fire on three classmates at another school in Sobral, killing one. (Xinhua)

### Subcontinent

**17 terrorists killed in Pakistan:** Seventeen terrorists were killed during an operation of security forces in Pakistan’s northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military said on Saturday.

The operation was conducted in Lakki Marwat district of the province on the reported presence of terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, said in a statement.

A huge cache of weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the terrorists’ hideout. (Xinhua)

**Pakistan, Russia hold exercise:** The Pakistan Army and the Russian Armed Forces are conducting a joint counterterrorism exercise, “Druzha-VIII,” from Sept. 15 to 27, Pakistan’s Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.

“The exercise was aimed at refining the drills, procedures and techniques involved in counterterrorism operations with focus on drone warfare, fighting in built-up areas and counter-improvised explosive devices,” the ISPR, the media wing of the Pakistan army, said in a statement. (Xinhua)

**Twin Afghan road mishaps injure 12:** A total of 12 travelers sustained injuries, some in critical condition, in twin road accidents in northern Afghanistan’s Baghlan province on Friday, provincial police spokesman Mawlawi Shir Ahmad Burhani said Saturday.

The accidents took place on the main road linking Khinjan district to the provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri on Friday afternoon, injuring a dozen, including women and children, the official said, adding the badly injured commuters had been shifted to a hospital in Pul-e-Khumri city. (Xinhua)



## Dollar edges up to KD 0.305

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): The US dollar strengthened against the Kuwaiti dinar on Sunday, rising 0.07 percent to KD 0.305, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). In contrast, the euro slipped 0.36 percent to KD 0.357 compared to Thursday's

levels.

The CBK's daily bulletin also showed that the British pound fell 0.38 percent to KD 0.408, while the Swiss franc declined 0.32 percent to KD 0.382. The Japanese yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002.

# Business

For documents issued to customers and beneficiaries

## KFH adds QR code to trade finance transactions & letters of guarantee

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched a pioneering, industry-first service aimed at enhancing the trust of customers and beneficiaries and supporting them in their trade finance transactions, including Letters of Credit (LCs) and Letters of Guarantee (LGs) issued by KFH.

KFH Group Chief Operations Officer, Abdulla Abu Alhous, said that this unique service is to add a QR code to all documents, transactions, and transfers issued by KFH Trade Finance Department, benefiting both customers and beneficiaries.

Abu Alhous emphasized that the new service will significantly benefit Trade finance department's related parties, by protecting them from fraud and forgery. Customers can simply scan QR code on their transaction to instantly get real-time transaction details like the amount, duration, status and other details.

He noted that the service streamlines customers' transactions and those of related entities such as governmental institutions, by cutting down in-person visits and enhancing the overall customer experience at KFH.

He highlighted KFH's long-standing commitment to customer experience, which is considered a core priority to the Bank, and underlined KFH's continuous efforts to cement its leadership in trade finance and letters of guarantee.

He added that this new service further demonstrates KFH's dedication to



Abdulla Abu Alhous

■ **Abu Alhous:** The service is an industry-first service to protect related parties and reinforce KFH's leadership



Meshaal AlMunaikh

■ **AlMunaikh:** Digitization of services improves performance, increases productivity and helps reduce costs

delivering innovative solutions that boost confidence for both customers and beneficiaries, thereby strengthening the bank's standing in the banking sector.

### Digitalization and innovation

Meanwhile, KFH Group Chief Technology and Digital Transformation Officer, Eng. Meshaal AlMunaikh, stated that this service is part of KFH's digital transformation and innovation strategy.

He emphasized KFH's significant strides in digitizing services and operations, which has led to better customer experience, increased productivity, improved overall performance, and lower operational costs.

He explained that this new service is a product of extensive collaboration between Technology and Digital Transformation and other departments at KFH. It also reflects KFH's commitment to shielding its customers from the risks of forged or altered official documents intended for government bodies.

AlMunaikh emphasized KFH's continuous drive to develop digital financial solutions that meet customer needs and simplify their banking. This includes launching new banking and financing products and services, enhancing technology infrastructure, and strengthening cybersecurity.

These efforts enable KFH to continue providing the most comprehensive, secure, competitive, and sustainable digital banking system in the sector.

All Share Index down 22.63 points

## Boursa Kuwait closes lower

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Sunday's trading with the All Share Index down 22.63 points, or 0.26 percent, reaching 8,755.47 points.

A total of 504.3 million shares were traded through 25,825 transactions, valued at KD 94.3 million (USD 286.6 million). The Main Market Index rose 8.16 points, or 0.10 percent, to reach 8,170.72 points, through 359.7 million shares traded through 17,910 transactions, valued at KD 46.5 million (USD 141.3 million).

The Premier Market Index also fell 31.44 points, or 0.34 percent, to reach 9,333.93 points, through 144.5 million shares traded through 7,915 transactions, valued at KD 47.7 million (USD 145.3 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index rose 38.30 points, or 0.46 percent, to reach 8,445.30 points, through trading of 256.4 million shares through 10,596 cash transactions, worth 33.4 million dinars (about 101.5 million dollars).

### 10 new fuel stations set for Mutlaa

## KNPC appoints Awad Salem as advisor effective September 25

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: As part of its ongoing efforts to revitalize operations and benefit from national expertise, the CEO of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) Wadhwa Al-Khatib recently issued a circular on the appointment of Awad Salem as an advisor, reporting directly to the Executive Vice President for Support Services, effective September 25.

According to informed sources, KNPC is moving forward with plans to increase the number of fuel stations throughout Kuwait. Currently, the company operates 68 stations - 63 permanent and 5 temporary - and is seeking official approvals to construct 10 new stations in Mutlaa Residential City along with six ad-

ditional stations in various locations.

The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) recently announced a tender for KNPC to design, supply, construct, and complete ten fuel stations in Mutlaa Residential City. The deadline for bid submissions is set for November 16, 2025.

The new fuel stations will feature world-class engineering designs, incorporating at least 30 percent solar energy and utilizing vapor recovery technologies to minimize pollution. These efforts are in line with KNPC's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

In addition, KNPC plans to harness solar energy from its existing facilities and will conduct a study aimed at implementing 600 electric vehicle charging points throughout the country by 2040.

### Govt reforms laws to support SMEs

## Iraq unveils \$450 bln worth of investment opportunities

BAGHDAD, Sept 28, (KUNA): There are currently investment opportunities in Iraq worth USD 450 billion, Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani declared on Saturday.

Al-Sudani, speaking during the Iraqi Investment Forum, said these opportunities cover the sectors of housing, teaching, digital transformation, industries, smart agriculture and the environment.

The Government had already amended law of shareholding and holding companies, enacted legislations that support small and medium companies, increased digitization of government transactions to trim red tape, completed banking reforms and uplifted Iraq's credit rating, in line with Baghdad's endeavor to shore up businesses in the country, Al-Sudani said.

Moreover, Iraq had taken steps in

the banking realm to make its regulations compatible with the international rules, he said, noting that the local banking sector's indexes showed rise of integration into the international economy, in addition to the expansion of electronic payments and governance of the financial sector.

Furthermore, efforts to restore security and stability in the country paved the way for creating an optimum environment for investments "in a manner that assures and protect partners," the prime minister said, noting that the volume of investments currently exceeded USD 100 billion.

Meanwhile, the head of the Iraqi investment council, Haidar Makkiyah, said value of the investment projects exceeded USD 102 billion, adding that the businesses employed more than 950,000 citizens.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: As part of its ongoing efforts to develop the investment environment and enhance the attractiveness of the Kuwaiti capital market, Boursa Kuwait extended its continuous trading session by 30 minutes starting Sunday, October 12, 2025, with the session now running from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Accordingly, the closing auction session will now run from 1:00 p.m. to 1:10 p.m., while the trade at last session, which will now run from 1:10 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., will end trading for the day.

Extending trading hours enhances efficiency by granting investors more time to respond to market developments and execute their orders, thereby increasing trading volumes, deepening the market, and contributing to greater price transparency and stability.

It also strengthens liquidity by aligning the Kuwaiti capital market's trading hours with those of global peers, broadening the investor base, reinforcing its appeal, and supporting its regional and international competitiveness.

### Closing auction amendments to boost institutional investor participation

Additionally, the closing auction mechanism was amended following the Capital Markets Authority's (CMA) approval of the relevant updates to the Boursa Kuwait Rulebook. This will help align the Kuwaiti capital market with emerging markets in the region.

Under the new framework, investors can amend buy and sell orders throughout the ten-minute auction, while the random closing period has been reduced to the last 30 seconds instead of the last two minutes. The amendment also provides investors greater flexibility and freedom in executing trades, enhancing the efficiency of the auction process and increasing the market's overall appeal.

### Close collaboration within the capital market apparatus

The decision to extend trading hours and modify the closing auction mechanism followed a series of extensive technical tests conducted among the capital market entities, including Boursa Kuwait, Kuwait Clearing Company, and brokerage firms. These tests were carried out to ensure that the market's infrastructure was ready to handle the extension without impacting execution speed or efficiency.

"Led by the Capital Markets Authority, and with the support of Boursa Kuwait, Kuwait Clearing Company, banks, and brokers, the capital market apparatus remains



Mohammad Al-Osaimi

■ **Cooperation between the capital market apparatus positions Kuwait as a leading investment destination in the region**

■ **Al-Osaimi:** "The continuous efforts of the capital market apparatus have directly influenced the confidence of foreign and institutional investors and increased their participation in the Kuwaiti capital market."

committed to developing an efficient, credible market that attracts both local and global investors," said Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi, the Chief Executive Officer of Boursa Kuwait.

"The decision to extend trading hours and amend the closing auction mechanism reflects this commitment, as it provides investors with a more flexible environment and enables them to effectively implement their investment strategies. This step also highlights the apparatus's commitment to aligning the Kuwaiti market with global index requirements and investor

expectations, reinforcing its standing as a leading financial hub regionally and internationally," he added.

Al-Osaimi concluded his statement by extending his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Capital Markets Authority and Boursa Kuwait's partners for their cooperation and dedicated efforts, which underscore the commitment of the capital market apparatus to continue working as one team to enhance the appeal of the Kuwaiti market and strengthen its competitiveness.

"This supports the national econ-

omy and strengthens the country's standing as an attractive regional financial hub, while also directly bolstering investor confidence and encouraging their active participation in the market," he said.

### Ongoing efforts to build a strong capital market

As part of its strategy to build a more efficient and attractive capital market that meets the aspirations of both local and international investors and aligns with global best practices, the Kuwaiti capital market apparatus, led by the CMA, launched the second part of Phase Three of the Market Development Program last July.

This phase included the implementation of the Central Counterparty Clearing (CCP) framework, the completion of cash settlements through local banks and the Central Bank of Kuwait's "KASSIP" system, the upgrade of brokerage firms' operating model to that of "Qualified Broker," and the introduction of sub-account structures within omnibus accounts. Additional products and services related to Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and fixed-income instruments, including bonds and sukuk, are expected to be launched later this year.



### Economic cooperation with GCC set as ASEAN priority

## ASEAN wraps up 57th economy ministers' meeting in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28, (KUNA): Economy ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Friday wrapped up their 57th meeting along with sideline sessions that had proceeded for five days in the Malaysian capital.

The ministers, during the meeting, affirmed that economic cooperation with member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is one of the ASEAN priorities this year.

Malaysian Minister of Investment, Commerce and Industry Tengku Zafrul Aziz, answering a question by the correspondent of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) during a news conference after the meetings' conclusion, said the gatherings constituted an important platform for him and his peers to exchange views on international and regional economic projections.

Minister Tengku indicated that one of the most significant accomplishments, recently, was the joint declaration about economic cooperation between ASEAN and the GCC, in May, in line with the bloc's broad approach to boost strategic partnerships with foreign nations.

He said the ASEAN ministers acclaimed the progress in "18 economic priorities under Malaysia's chairmanship" for this year, namely the cooperation with the GCC, the declaration about the ASEAN task framework

for chain supplies of semiconductors and finishing the guidance principles for sustainable development.

The Malaysian minister added that the ministers had also applauded the conclusions and the forecast signing of the second protocol of the trade treaty among the ASEAN states.

Among the topics that dominated the meeting debates were the mounting international trend toward protectionism and increasing unilateral trade measures, thus posing a danger to the global chain of supplies, minister Tengku added.

ASEAN, he continued, renewed its commitment to a free and fair multilateral commercial order where the World Trade Organization (WTO) plays a pivotal role. Moreover, he indicated at endorsing formation of a team for geo-economic tasks to map out new strategies that could help in coping with the growing geo-economic fracturing.

Meanwhile, ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn said during the same news conference that the joint ASEAN-GCC declaration constituted a new chapter in the economic partnership with the Middle East. It would also boost, he added, the commercial, investment and sustainable development between the two regions.

Dr. Kao added that the global economic sphere is witnessing deep

changes, namely the rise of protectionism and rapid impact of digital technologies, affirming that ASEAN is currently promoting the treaties of free trade with its partners, including the successful updates with Australia in 2024 and China in 2025, in addition to revising the treaty with India as well as the discussions with South Korea, planned next month.

The ministers, during the meetings, debated economic cooperation plans with the partners, he said, noting that they supported the revised procedures for engaging the private sector within framework of the Asian economy to enhance the institutional framework for cooperation between the public and private sectors.

The May GCC-ASEAN declaration, publicized at the end of a summit held in Kuala Lumpur, was a landmark station on the path of regional cooperation, laying the basis for commerce, investment and sustainable development and affirming the two parties' adherence to face protectionism and enhance global economic integration.

ASEAN, founded in 1967, currently groups Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar.

The ministerial meeting is one of the prime mechanisms to advance regional and international economic and commercial cooperation.



BUSINESS

Industry leaders question ‘national security’

Trump reveals new tariffs on key imports via social media

WASHINGTON, Sept 28, (AP): Naturepedic, a mattress and furniture company based outside Cleveland, has been planning to introduce an upscale upholstered headboard late this year or early in 2026.

But President Donald Trump has thrown those plans into disarray. On Thursday night, the president announced on social media that he was slapping a 30% tax on imported upholstered furniture. Naturepedic ships its headboards in from India and Vietnam.

So what is the company to do?

“Do we continue forth ... and hope for the best?” asked Arin Schultz, Naturepedic’s chief growth officer. “Or do we feel like we’re priced out and drop it altogether?” And if Naturepedic decides to continue with the rollout, “do we eat the cost or pass it on” to customers?

Across the United States, lots of executives were asking themselves similar questions as they came to work Friday morning.

Upholstered furniture, after all, wasn’t the only import in Trump’s crosshairs Thursday night. In addition, the president posted on his Truth Social platform, he’s plastering import taxes - tariffs - of 100% on pharmaceutical drugs, 50% on kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities and 25% on heavy trucks.

And he’s not waiting around to do it. The tariffs, he said, would take effect Wednesday.

Trump also raised eyebrows by justifying the levy on vanities and sofas as necessary for national security. “It’s hard to see how a kitchen cabinet industry is essential to winning the next war,” said Mary Lovely, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Thursday’s social media barrage was just the latest in Trump’s push to upend American trade policy, which for decades pushed for lower trade barriers around the world.

In place of an open market, Trump has built a tariff wall around the U.S. economy, slapping double-digit taxes on imports from almost every country on earth and targeting products (steel, aluminum, autos) with specific taxes of their own.

Trump says the tariffs will protect U.S. industries from foreign competition, encourage companies to bring production to the United States and raise money for the U.S. Treasury.

They certainly have become a money-maker for the federal government. Since fiscal year 2025 began last Oct. 1, the U.S. Treasury has collected \$172 billion in customs duties, up by \$96 billion (or 126%) from the same period in fiscal 2024. Still, tariffs account for less than 4% of federal revenue.

Businesses, lawyers and trade analysts are still wondering what to make of Trump’s Thursday night tariffs. “We’ve only seen the President’s Truth Social posts,” said Dan McCarthy, principal in McCarthy Consulting and a former official with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in the Biden administration. “We need to see the details.”

For example, Naturepedic isn’t sure whether the 30% levy on upholstered furniture will be stacked atop a separate and earlier 50% tariff on goods from India.

Here’s what we know so far: The president has been threatening tariffs of 200% or more on pharmaceuticals. “It’s to force Big Pharma to move jobs and put new factories into the U.S.,” said Barry Appleton, a senior fellow at the Center for International Law at New York Law School. “So it’s industrial policy.”

In recent decades, drugmakers have moved many operations overseas - to take advantage of lower costs in China and India and tax breaks in Ireland and Switzerland.

The COVID-19 experience - when countries were desperate to hang onto their own medicine and medical supplies - underscored the dangers of relying on foreign countries in a crisis, especially when a key supplier is America’s geopolitical rival China.

The stock prices of pharmaceutical companies actually rose after Trump’s announcement Thursday night. The 100% tariff was lower than it might have been. And Trump said the tariffs would not apply to companies “breaking ground” or being “under construction.”

50% taxes on 1,400 Asian products

China launches investigation into Mexico’s planned import tariffs

BEIJING, Sept 28, (AP): China has opened an investigation into whether import tariffs being imposed by Mexico are a trade and investment barrier.

Mexico plans to impose taxes as high as 50% on more than 1,400 products from Asia to protect factories at home, which are facing stiff tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump on exports to the United States.

A Chinese Commerce Ministry statement posted Thursday said the tariffs would harm the interests of affected countries.

“China believes that, against the backdrop of the current U.S. abuse of tariffs, all countries should jointly oppose all forms of unilateralism and protectionism and must not sacrifice the interests of third parties because of coercion,” the statement said.

China’s Commerce Ministry also announced Thursday that it was launching an anti-dumping investigation into pecans imported from Mexico and the United States.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum denied Friday that Mexico’s tariffs had raised commercial tensions

tion.”

Several big drugmakers like Merck & Co. Inc., Eli Lilly and Co. and Johnson & Johnson have already announced U.S. expansion plans.

In his tariff announcement, Trump did not mention generic drugs, which account for the vast majority of U.S. prescriptions.

Still, analysts warn, the tariffs are likely to mean higher prices. “The people who are punished the most are Americans who need the drugs so badly, especially those who don’t have full health care plans,” Appleton said. He called the tariff is a “simplistic but drastic” approach to a complicated problem. “We don’t know how it’s going to go, but it doesn’t look like it’s going to do well for consumers,” he said.

The tariffs on kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities and upholstered furniture come as the White House is investigating whether imports of lumber and other wood products pose a threat to U.S. national security. A report on that investigation is due Nov. 26 and could mean more and broader tariffs.

The levies are likely to hurt big furniture exporters China and Vietnam.

But they’re also likely to drive up the cost of new homes and apartments and of do-it-yourself redecorating projects.

Homeowners are already scaling back due to high costs and a shaky economy. According to the Labor Department, the price of living room, kitchen and dining room furniture has risen nearly 10% over the past year.

“Adding significant costs to furniture, cabinets, vanities and building materials will make the American dream of owning a home significantly more expensive,” said Jonathan Gold, the National Retail Federation’s vice president of supply chain and customs policy. “The speed at which these tariff announcements are made and implemented continues to wreak havoc on retail supply chains. The uncertainty makes it difficult for retailers to properly plan and mitigate the impact of tariffs.”

Charles Clevenger, a supply chain specialist at the consultancy UHY, said tariffs on pharmaceuticals make sense because so much production has shifted away from the United States to Europe and Asia. Likewise, North Carolina and other states in the American South have also lost furniture factories to cheaper competitors in the China.

But he was surprised by the tariffs on heavy trucks because “we do have a rather robust industry” - with manufacturers like Paccar (parent company of Peterbilt and Kenworth).

But Appleton at New York Law School suspects the tariff is aimed at Mexico, where many heavy trucks are made. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade deal negotiated in Trump’s first term, is coming up for negotiation. “I don’t think that (the tariff) was done by accident, Appleton said. “They wanted to put some more pressure onto the Mexicans” to make concessions in the talks.

Using Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, Trump had launched investigations into whether imports of pharmaceuticals, lumber and heavy trucks posed a threat to U.S. national security.

He’d justified his broader tariffs another way: by declaring national emergencies under a 1977 law. But two courts have ruled that Trump overstepped his authority by invoking the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose import taxes. The Supreme Court is hearing the case on appeal.

Robert Lawrence, a professor of International trade and investment at Harvard University, said that using Section 232 gives the president a Plan B if the courts strike down his IEEPA tariffs. “He now has insurance and shows that he’s going to be able to get away with raising tariffs, even if he loses that case.”

But Ted Murphy, co-leader of the trade practice at the Sidley Austin law firm, said: “It’s hard to discern much of a plan ... What the administration does is they identify a problem and then the solution is a big tariff. The question is whether that’s really as nuanced or strategic as it could be. There could be a strategy but it’s hard to discern from a tweet.”

with China. She said that Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard had proposed creating a “high-level working group” to facilitate dialogue on the topic at a meeting with the Chinese ambassador to Mexico on Thursday.

Sheinbaum voiced support for that dialogue Friday, so that Chinese authorities “understand the situation” and her administration’s decision to increase domestic production and consumption.

Mexico has been under pressure from the Trump administration to limit Chinese imports, some of which the U.S. says use Mexico as a backdoor to the American market.

Sheinbaum has said that the tariffs are not the result of U.S. pressure.

China will be the most affected as Mexico imported \$130 billion worth of products from the country in 2024, second only to what Mexico bought from the United States. Other countries hit will include South Korea, Thailand, India, Philippines and Indonesia.

It’s not clear if the investigation into the Mexican tariffs would result in any concrete steps against Mexico.

House committee chair seeks urgent White House briefing on TikTok deal

Trump, Xi agree to advance TikTok divestment talks

WASHINGTON, Sept 28, (AP): The chairman of a House committee that pushed for the law demanding TikTok be spun off from its Chinese owners has requested an urgent briefing from the White House, one day after President Donald Trump signed an executive order supporting a proposed deal that would put the popular social video platform under U.S. ownership.

In a statement released Friday, Rep. John Moolenaar, the chairman of the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, praised the proposed deal as “an important step” in transitioning ownership of the TikTok platform to American hands but he emphasized that “divestment was not the law’s only requirement.”

“The law also set firm guardrails that prohibit cooperation between ByteDance and any prospective TikTok successor on the all-important recommendation algorithm, as well as preclude operational ties between the new entity and ByteDance,” Moolenaar said.

The Michigan Republican’s statement marks the first congressional effort to conduct oversight into the negotiations over TikTok, coming nearly two weeks after Chinese and American officials met in Spain to discuss a framework divestment deal for TikTok. Trump on Thursday signed an executive order providing support for the deal, and said Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to move forward with negotiations.

The White House didn’t respond to an inquiry from the Associated Press regarding the urgent briefing.

Much is still unknown about the actual deal in the works, but the new U.S. venture would license the famed ByteDance-owned algorithm that currently keeps TikTok users engaged. U.S. tech giant Oracle, a confirmed partner in the



President Donald Trump speaks after signing an executive order regarding TikTok in the Oval Office at the White House, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, in Washington, as White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller, FBI director Kash Patel, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Vice President JD Vance listen. (AP)

U.S. investment consortium that would own TikTok, would audit the copy of the algorithm and monitor it for security purposes.

Vice President JD Vance on Thursday assured the public that the deal would not only keep TikTok operating but also protect Americans’ data privacy as required by law. Moolenaar on Friday said he would like to know more.

While algorithms are valuable assets, the real value of TikTok is its users, which is likely why the consortium won’t just start from scratch to build a new app, said computer scientist Bart Knijnenburg, an associate professor at Clemson University who has studied how recommendation systems steer people to online content.

Knijnenburg said all algorithms are biased in some way and if the administration is serious about retraining the TikTok algorithm to avoid Chinese influence, it should push for “radical openness” in TikTok’s mechanics so that users have a window into how bias might be influencing their feeds.

More than politics, Knijnenburg said the biggest problem with TikTok’s algorithm is that it’s geared toward addictive engagement and overuse.

“Moving it to the U.S. is not going

to magically solve these types of problems,” he said. “Any company might put undue influence on these applications and from a business perspective, the best way to engage users is to make them addicted to watching these videos, which is not a good idea.”

Craig Singleton, senior China fellow at the Washington-based think tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies, doubts that the deal, as revealed so far, complies with the law.

“The law is clear: divestiture means severance, not supervision,” Singleton said. “A board seat for ByteDance or any continued role in maintaining the algorithm would flout Congress’s mandate.”

Though the details have yet to be finalized, the U.S. investment group’s controlling stake in the new venture would be around 80%. While ByteDance is expected to have a stake in the new venture, it would be less than 20% - a portion of the ownership reserved for foreign investors. The board running the new platform would be controlled by U.S. investors. ByteDance will be represented by one person on the board, but that individual will be excluded from any security-related matters.

Singleton argues that a board foothold by ByteDance is not merely symbolic. “ByteDance’s reported role as the largest single shareholder in a restructured TikTok U.S. venture, combined with a board seat, ensures continuing Chinese influence over the app,” he said. “Plainly put, ByteDance on the board means Beijing in the building.”

Zack Cooper, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, said details are still lacking but the law “is quite clear that there be no ongoing cooperation on the algorithm and no data access.”

Vance said he expects the new U.S.-based TikTok to be valued at about \$14 billion, describing it as a “good deal” for investors who must ultimately decide “what they want to invest in and what they think is the proper value.”

That’s a “surprisingly low” valuation, said Daniel Keum, a management professor at Columbia University’s business school.

Keum said it’s possible that “politics overrode the business case” or that the licensing structure, which hasn’t yet been disclosed, could have been designed with high fees or profit-sharing that depressed the value of TikTok’s app in the U.S.

Mixed services & manufacturing data, firm inflation, and increased safe haven demand

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global markets traded mixed as PMIs painted a divergent picture: Eurozone services strengthened while manufacturing slipped back into contraction, and the UK showed broad weakness across both sectors. In the US, services eased to 53.9 and manufacturing to 52, though housing demand surprised with a 20.5% surge in new home sales. Inflation stayed in focus as PCE rose 0.3% m/m, lifting annual headline to 2.7% with core steady at 2.9%. The SNB held rates at 0% amid subdued inflation and slowing growth, while gold surged to a fresh record above \$3,750, supported by safe-haven demand and Fed rate-cut bets.

United States

US Manufacturing Momentum Softens Amid Tariff Pressures

The US Manufacturing PMI eased slightly to 52 in September from 53 in August, in line with forecasts. Output continued to expand for a fourth month but at a much softer pace compared to August’s 39-month high. New orders rose for the ninth straight month, though growth remained marginal, partly due to export losses from tariffs. Firms struggled with high input prices, which stayed among the highest since the pandemic, while competition and weak demand limited their ability to pass costs on to customers. Business confidence improved to a three-month high, though it remained below the long-run survey average.

US Services Expansion Slows to Softest Pace Since June

The US Services PMI dropped to 53.9 in September from 54.5 in August, broadly matching expectations of 54. This marked the slowest pace of growth since June, as new orders recorded only the smallest gain in three months. Weak domestic demand offset signs of stronger export activity, while firms faced difficulties in filling vacant positions. Input costs rose sharply, registering the second-highest inflation reading in 27 months, though weaker demand expectations limited the extent to which these costs were passed to consumers. Despite near-term challenges, business sentiment improved, reaching its highest level since May.

US PCE Holds Firm, Headline Accelerated to 2.7%

The US PCE price index rose 0.3% month-on-month in August 2025, accelerating from a 0.2% increase in July and matching expectations. Goods prices inched up 0.1%, reversing the prior month’s decline, while services costs rose 0.3% for the second straight month. Core PCE, excluding food and energy, advanced 0.2%, unchanged from July. Food prices climbed 0.5%, while energy costs rebounded 0.8% after a sharp drop in July. On an annual basis, headline PCE inflation edged higher to 2.7%, the strongest in six months, up from 2.6% in the prior two months. Meanwhile, core PCE inflation held steady at 2.9%. Both headline and core measures came in line with forecasts, underscoring a steady inflation environment.

Housing Market Surges with Strongest Sales Since 2022

U.S. new home sales jumped sharply in August, rising 20.5% to an annualized rate of 800,000 units, the fastest pace since early 2022 and well ahead of forecasts, according to the Census Bureau. The rebound was driven largely by aggressive builder discounts and incentives, such as mortgage rate buydowns and covering closing costs, aimed at clearing an oversupply of newly built homes. Easing borrowing costs in anticipation of a Federal Reserve rate cut also helped support demand. Still, new homes account for only about 14% of overall housing sales, and the broader market remains subdued as affordability challenges continue to deter many buyers.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 89.152.

Europe

Eurozone Services PMI Strengthens in September

The Eurozone Services PMI rose to 51.4 in September 2025, up from 50.5 in August and above market expectations. This marked the strongest expansion in business activity so far this year, supported by an improvement in new orders. Employment continued to grow, though at its slowest pace in seven months, while firms reduced backlogs at the fastest rate in three months. On the price side, input cost inflation remained elevated but moderated, while output charges grew at a steadier pace, signaling some easing of inflationary pressures. Business confidence remained broadly stable, with firms holding a constructive outlook despite softer external demand.

Manufacturing PMI Returns to Contraction, Orders Drop Sharply

The Eurozone Manufacturing PMI fell back into contraction, dropping to 49.5 in September from August’s 50.7, which had been a 38-month high. The decline reflected renewed weakness in new orders, which recorded their sharpest drop since February. Output growth slowed to only a marginal pace, and employment fell further, extending the job-cutting trend in the sector. Input costs decreased for the first time in three months, alongside a decline in output prices. Business confidence weakened further, hitting its lowest point of the year, underlining persistent headwinds for the manufacturing sector.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1701.

SNB Monetary Policy Assessment

In the latest monetary policy assessment, Policymakers reaffirmed readiness to intervene in FX markets if needed, while noting that inflation remains subdued, inching up to 0.2% in August from -0.1% in May. The SNB projects inflation at 0.2% for 2025, 0.5% in 2026, and 0.7% in 2027, assuming rates remain unchanged. Growth has slowed globally, pressured by US tariffs and uncertainty, with Switzerland’s GDP expanding just 0.5% in Q2 after a stronger Q1 led by pharmaceutical exports. Exports and investment in machinery and watchmaking are expected to weaken under higher tariffs, though services remain resilient. The SNB forecasts GDP growth of 1–1.5% in 2025 before slipping below 1% in 2026, with unemployment likely to rise further.

The USD/CHF currency pair closed the week at 0.7975.

United Kingdom

UK Services Activity Slows as Cost Pressure Persists

Highlights

- US manufacturing PMI at 52.0, services drops to 53.9.
- US PCE at 2.7% y/y, core PCE at unchanged 2.9%.
- Eurozone services PMI at 51.4, Manufacturing at 49.5.
- UK services PMI at 51.9, Manufacturing slips to 46.2.
- Australia’s inflation rises to 3.0%, from 2.8% previously.

The UK Services PMI slipped to 51.9 in September 2025 from 54.2 in August, falling short of expectations of 53.5. The slowdown pointed to weaker business and consumer spending amid subdued economic conditions and geopolitical uncertainty. Firms reported steep rises in operating costs, largely driven by wage pressures and higher payroll costs passed on by suppliers. Rising energy bills, food, and technology costs also added to inflationary pressures, with service providers raising their own prices accordingly. Business confidence deteriorated, reflecting tighter client budgets and greater uncertainty across the sector.

UK Factory Sector Contracts at the Fastest Pace Since March

The UK Manufacturing PMI declined to 46.2 in September from 47.0 in August, undershooting forecasts of 47.1. This represented the steepest contraction in the sector since April, with output shrinking at its fastest pace since March. Survey respondents noted weaker domestic and export orders, compounded by disruptions in the automotive supply chain due to stoppages at Jaguar Land Rover. Employment fell further, while factory gate inflation eased to its lowest level since December 2024, highlighting competitive price pressures. Despite the downturn, business confidence rose to its highest since February, supported by increased investment and hopes of order book recovery.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3400.

Asia-Pacific

Australia’s Inflation Jumps to 3.0%, Highest in Over a Year

Australia’s monthly consumer price index accelerated to 3.0% y/y in August, up from 2.8% in July and slightly above market forecasts of 2.9%. Despite the rise, inflation remained within the RBA’s 2-3% target range, though it marked the highest print since July 2024. The surge was driven primarily by housing costs, which jumped to 4.5%, a 14-month high, largely due to a 24.6% spike in electricity prices following a phase-out of state government rebates. Additional upward pressure came from clothing (0.4% vs -1.0%) after months of decline. Food inflation held steady at 3.0%. Meanwhile, trimmed mean inflation eased to 2.6% from 2.7%, but core inflation climbed to 3.4%, its highest level in over a year.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6546.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30490.



# What's On

## SPOTLIGHT

**Got a birthday or event?**

Share your story and snapshots with Arab Times!  
Email your write-up and photos to  
arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com  
We'll feature it on our What's On page!



Live evening entertainment creates vibrant dining atmosphere

## Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya elevates Italian dining with La Trattoria di Dai Forni & introduces exclusive chef's series

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya is unveiling a fresh chapter for its celebrated Italian restaurant with the debut of La Trattoria di Dai Forni, an elevated concept launching on October 1, 2025.

This refreshed concept introduces a new look and feel that blends vintage Italian charm with modern elegance. Inspired by the convivial spirit of Italy's traditional neighborhood trattorias, La Trattoria di Dai Forni offers a more relaxed yet refined atmosphere.

Guests will enjoy thoughtfully redesigned interiors featuring traditional Italian elements and warm, rustic textures, as well as an open-air terrace with panoramic views of Kuwait City.

The experience is further enhanced by live entertainment each evening, creating a vibrant and welcoming ambiance.



Dai Forni bar pizza ovens.

While the setting has evolved, the culinary philosophy remains rooted in authenticity. The menu

continues to celebrate the best of Italian cuisine, from signature Neapolitan pizzas prepared in tradi-



Four Seasons Kuwait to launch La Trattoria di Dai Forni.

tional wood-fired ovens imported from Italy, to handmade pastas, artisanal cheeses, and seasonally

sourced produce.

To mark the relaunch, La Trattoria di Dai Forni will introduce a

special Chef's Series.

This exclusive program will host some of Italy's most celebrated chefs for limited three-night residencies. Each chef will present a curated tasting menu that showcases the distinct flavors and traditions of their region, offering guests a unique opportunity to explore Italy's culinary diversity without leaving Kuwait.

Martin Kipping, General Manager of Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait, commented: "La Trattoria di Dai Forni represents a natural evolution of a beloved dining destination. This transformation brings a fresh energy to the space while honoring the timeless spirit of Italian hospitality."

With its renewed identity and immersive dining experiences, La Trattoria di Dai Forni reaffirms its place as one of Kuwait's premier destinations for authentic and elevated Italian cuisine.

## The FID Kuwait bids farewell to Indian Ambassador Dr. Swaika

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Forum of Indian Doctors (FID), one of the leading Indian associations in Kuwait, hosted a warm farewell in honor of the outgoing Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, His Excellency Dr. Adarsh Swaika, and his wife, Mrs. Vandana Swaika.

The program was marked by heartfelt tributes and gratitude expressed by the office bearers of FID, who thanked the Ambassador and Madam Vandana for their unwavering support and encouragement to the Indian community during their tenure.

Dr. Sameer Humad, President of FID, speaking on behalf of FID, appreciated Dr. Swaika's continuous engagement with community organizations and highlighted his role in

strengthening ties between the Indian diaspora and the Embassy.

In his reply, Ambassador Dr. Swaika acknowledged the active role of FID, stating that it has been one of the associations that closely collaborated with the Embassy in various initiatives. He extended his appreciation for the medical fraternity's contributions to both the Indian community and the larger society in Kuwait.

The farewell was made memorable with a cake-cutting ceremony and melodious songs rendered by FID members dedicated to the Ambassador and Mrs. Vandana Swaika. The evening concluded with a grand dinner, leaving behind cherished memories of warmth, gratitude, and fellowship.



Photos during the farewell.

### Event organized with IDAK

## The St. George Reesh Church hosts dental screening camp

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Under the patronage of St. George Universal Syrian Orthodox Reesh Church, Kuwait, and in association with the Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), a dental screening camp was organized for the members of the church, by the Healthcare mission team, on 26th September 2025 at C Clinic in NECK. The camp saw a team of specialists comprising Dr. E.T. Roy, Dr. Ancy Mathew, Dr. Joshin Susan along with

volunteers from the healthcare mission, carrying out comprehensive dental examination and rendering clinical advice for the participants.

IDAK CWC team was represented by Co-Chair Dr. Ajay Vazhiyodan, who extended his appreciation to the coordinators Mrs. Jitha Justin, Mrs. Cini Abbington, Mrs. Juby Bechu and Dr. Jimmy Raju, who were present throughout, for a well conducted camp.



Photos during the campaign.



## Several dignitaries & community leaders addressed the gathering

## Vakkom Moulavi – The 'Reformer of Reformers' honored at Renaissance Conference in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Indian Islahi Centre (IIC), Kuwait, organized a grand Renaissance Conference at the Masjid Kabeer Auditorium on September 12, marking the Middle East release of the Complete Works of Vakkom Abdul Khader Moulavi, a towering figure in Kerala's reformist movement.

The event was inaugurated by Sheikh Ahmad Mohammed Saeed Al Faris, General Secretary of Al Jam'iyyathul Salsabeel Khairiyya. The book release was performed by Sheikh Al Faris, who handed over the first copy to Mr. Hamza Payyanur, MD of Metro Hospital. The work was introduced to the audience by Mr. Ashraf Meppayur. The program was presided over by IIC President Mr. Unus Saleem.

Delivering the keynote address, ISM Kerala State Vice President and young scholar Mr. Rihass Pulamanthole underlined Vakkom Moulavi's conviction that education was the only way to overcome the backwardness of the Muslim community. He noted that Moulavi courageously opposed blind practices and superstitions while striving for intellectual awakening through modern education.

Speakers emphasized that Vakkom Moulavi was not only a reformer but also a scholar, writer, critic, and fearless journalist, who modernized Malayalam thought and inspired Kerala's renaissance. His founding of the nationalist newspaper Swadeshabhimani in 1905 at Anjuthengu was highlighted as a landmark in Kerala's journalistic and social history, reflecting his belief that social change



The book release was performed by Sheikh Al Faris, who handed over the first copy to Mr. Hamza Payyanur, MD of Metro Hospital.



ISM Kerala State Vice President and young scholar Mr. Rihass Pulamanthole



Audience

must come through dialogue with the people.

Several dignitaries addressed the gathering, including Awqaf representative Muhammad Ali, KMCC General Secretary Mr. Mustafa Kari, Lulu Group representative Mr. Shafas Ahmad, Mr. Shabeel Mundoli, Mr. Mubarak Kaprath, Mr. Abdurahman from Ansari Exchange, IIC General Secretary Mr. Manaf Mathottam, Mr. Abdul Aziz Salafi, and Mr.

Abdunnasir Muttil. The program began with a recitation by Mr. Al Ameen Sullami.

The release of Vakkom Moulavi's complete works, compiled through the meticulous research of historian Abdurahman Mangad, was described as a milestone in preserving Kerala's intellectual legacy.

Through this event, Kuwait once again affirmed its commitment to fostering knowledge and

renaissance values. The conference concluded with a reminder that the contributions of leaders like Vakkom Moulavi continue to inspire future generations across the world, offering ethical guidance even in today's age of rapid technological change.

The book was published by "Yuvatha", a well known publisher in Kerala, in association with Indian Islahi Center Kuwait.

## Four-week program ran through Sept at VBA courts

## IDAK-VBA Badminton Coaching Camp concludes successfully

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The IDAK-VBA Badminton Coaching Camp, organized jointly by the IDAK Sports Committee and Victors Badminton Academy (VBA), successfully concluded after an exciting four-week run through September, at the VBA courts. The camp, which was inaugurated on September 5, 2025, by IDAK President Dr. George P. Alex and VBA owner Mr. Yashin Bose, came to a close on September 26, 2025.

This initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from the IDAK members and their families, making each session both engaging and rewarding. A special note of appreciation goes to Mr. Yashin Bose for his unwavering support and seamless coordination. The expert guidance of coaches Mr. Imthyas and Mr. Rupesh further enriched the camp, helping participants sharpen their skills and strengthen their love for the game.

On closing day, the Sports Committee took the opportunity to extend its gratitude to all members and their families for their active involvement and spirit, which contributed towards yet another successful sports camp.



Photo during the event.



## ‘Our Mabel is married’

# Selena Gomez marries Benny Blanco: ‘My wife in real life’

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., Sept 28, (AP): Selena Gomez has married music producer and songwriter Benny Blanco, announcing the news in an Instagram post showing the couple kissing and embracing on a lawn.

“My wife in real life,” Blanco responded to the post Saturday by the Grammy- and Emmy-nominated performer. Gomez wore a white halter bridal dress with floral flourishes, and Blanco wore a tuxedo and bow tie, both custom-made by Ralph Lauren.

Paparazzi had snapped photos of a massive outdoor tent and other preparations in the Santa Barbara area.

Friends in the entertainment industry and brands she’s linked to responded with heart emoji and congratulations. “Our Mabel is MARRIED,” said the account of her “Only Murders in the Building” series, and her Rare Beauty line of cosmetics posted: “so happy for you two.” Best wishes were also sent by Camila Cabello, Amy Schumer and oth-



Selena Gomez, (left), and Benny Blanco arrive at the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

ers. Blanco, 37, and Gomez, 33, met about a decade ago and got engaged at the end of last year. They worked together on the 2019 song “I Can’t Get Enough,” which also featured J Balvin and Tainy.

Among the songs he’s credited on as a writer and producer: Katy Perry’s “Teenage Dream,” “Circus” by Britney Spears and Maroon 5’s “Moves Like Jagger.”

Gomez, whose hits include “Calm Down,” “Good for You,” “Same Old Love” and “Come & Get It,” has been in the spotlight since she was a child. She appeared on “Barney and Friends” before breaking through as a teen star on the Disney Channel’s “Wizards of Waverly Place.”

She earned awards nominations in recent years for her ongoing role alongside Martin Short and Steve Martin in Hulu’s “Only Murders in the Building.” Gomez has a massive audience on social media with 417 million Instagram followers, the most for any woman on the platform.

## Variety

**BERLIN:** Arnold Schwarzenegger took up the baton at Munich’s Oktoberfest.

The former Republican governor of California spontaneously conducted a live music band and the singing crowd in a beer tent on Friday night - and clearly enjoyed himself. Afterward, the Austrian-born star of “The Terminator,” “Total Recall” and “True Lies” took selfies with the musicians,



Schwarzenegger, dressed in a traditional Bavarian-style leather jacket, a buttoned-down shirt and jeans, was accompanied by his partner Heather Milligan and his son, Christopher.

Schwarzenegger has visited the world’s largest folk festival in Germany’s southern state of Bavaria and the Marstall tent - one of many at the festival - several times in the past, dpa reported.

He frequently visits Austria and has also been to Bavaria. In 2024, he was stopped for hours by customs at Munich Airport after entering Germany with a luxury watch that was potentially to be auctioned at a charity event. (AP)

□ □ □

**LONDON:** The historic British train journey that laid the foundations for much of the modern age was celebrated on Saturday, marking its 200th anniversary.

On September 27, 1825, the first steam-powered railway engine to run on a public railway - George Stephenson’s Locomotion No. 1 - made its 26-mile (42-kilometer) journey on the Stockton & Darlington Railway, traveling between Shildon and Stockton via Darlington in northeast England.

It was a small but significant milestone that heralded rapid changes in the way Britain - and, subsequently, the world - lived, traded, traveled, and communicated.

Though the Stockton & Darlington was not the first railway, it was the first to incorporate the standard-gauge, steam-hauled features that would become the foundation of railway systems across the globe.

Railway enthusiasts have been marking the milestone at events throughout the UK over the course of the year - but the highlight is undoubtedly taking place where it all began. (AP)

□ □ □

**LONDON:** A London court on Friday threw out a terror-related charge against a member of the controversial Irish rap group Kneecap, basing its decision on a technical error in the way the charge was brought forward.

Liam Ó hAinle, who is also referred to by his anglicized name Liam O’Hanna and performs under the name Mo Chara, had been charged after waving a flag of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which is banned in Britain as a terrorist organization, during a London concert last year.

Chief magistrate Paul Goldspring sitting at Woolwich Crown Court said the case should be thrown out, agreeing with O’Hanna’s lawyers that the prosecutors had missed the deadline for the charge by a day.

“These proceedings were instituted unlawfully and are null,” he said. (AP)

□ □ □

**GENEVA:** Eurovision Song Contest organizers said Friday that member broadcasters will vote in November on whether Israel can participate in the musical extravaganza next year, as calls have mounted for the country to be excluded over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

According to spokesperson Dave Goodman, the board of the European Broadcasting Union, which brings together public broadcasters and runs the event, has sent a letter to members indicating that the vote will take place at an extraordinary general meeting held online in early November.

The vote will be on whether Kan, the Israeli public broadcaster and member of the EBU, will participate, Goodman said in an email. An “absolute majority” in the vote would be required for an exclusion to pass, he said. (AP)

## Fashion

The devil wears D&G as Streep hits Milan runway

# Stella Jean weaves a global story in Milan

MILAN, Sept 28, (AP): Italian-Haitian designer Stella Jean returned to the Milan runway on Saturday after a three-year absence with a collection produced with artisans in Bhutan and an appeal for more political support for the withering class of artisans that gives luxury fashion its edge.

“I said I would come back when I had something to say,” Jean said backstage.

Jean has long supported global artisans in her collections combining Italian tailoring with textiles, artistic details and garments sourced from traditional artisans in order to help safeguard their cultural heritage.

Now, she says “Italian craftsmanship is dying out,” as fewer young people want to take up the trades.

To help preserve artisans, Jean called on Italian lawmakers to give truly fine craftsmanship the same fiscal breaks recently bestowed on artworks. She said this would encourage more customers to invest in pieces that can take a year to complete - like the traditional ankle-length dress from Bhutan called a kira that she wore on the runway.

The break would mean the consumer pays less value-added tax, while ensuring artisans are paid the same.

“We can’t pay them less because the artisans are already not being paid much,” Jean said, as she put finishing touches on runway models backstage. “Otherwise we will see this craftsmanship only in museums. If we don’t wear it, it is useless.”

Artisans from Bhutan worked with Jean on pieces including traditional handwoven teco jackets worn over a silk printed dress, an elaborately embroidered skirt made from nettle fiber, embroidered skirts paired with a rugby shirt and a silken dress with a beaded panel depicting a village scene.

Jean’s front-row VIPs were the artisans she worked with, dressed in traditional garb.

Jean made her Milan runway debut in 2013 in the Armani Theater, a guest of Giorgio Armani. She paid homage to the late designer in her runway show by unfurling the T-shirt she wore for that premiere reading: “Grazie, Mr. Armani,” signed “Stella.”

Meanwhile, the devil wore Dolce & Gabbana on Saturday, with Meryl Streep taking a front-row seat at the designing duo’s Milan theater in character as Miranda Priestly for “The Devil Wears Prada” sequel.

Streep wore Priestly’s customary sunglasses and a Dolce & Gabbana vinyl trenchcoat as she entered the theater escorted by security and trailed by Stanley Tucci, who plays her art director in the film.

Throughout the runway show, set to music by Italian singer Patty Pravo, Streep’s character consulted with Tucci, their eyes casting up and down the runway as models passed.

The Dolce & Gabbana press office confirmed that the scene was filmed for inclusion in the sequel, which has been shooting in Milan.

The location will remind movie fans of a scene from the original film where Anne Hathaway’s character, after answering the phone, asks: “Can you please spell ‘Gabbana?’”

The tightly edited Dolce & Gabbana Spring-Summer 2026 collection that the film audience can expect



A model wears a creation during the Bottega Veneta women’s Spring-Summer 2026 fashion show, in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 27. (AP)

to see on screen riffed on nightwear, from cozy men’s pajamas with rhinestone or embroidered details to black sheer and lace lingerie.

The looks were layered with jackets in leather, brocade and animal print. Footwear ranged from sexy stilettos to fuzzy slippers, and the bag of choice was soft and furry, perfect for cuddling up after a night out.

The designers posed just a beat or two longer during their customary bow, and Streep and Tucci were whisked to the backstage area as the real-life fashion crowd jumped on the empty runway to snap photos of the moment in fashion history.

In a life-imitating-art-imitating-life meta moment, Anna Wintour, who in-

spired the 2006 film, sat across the runway from Streep in her role as Vogue’s global editorial director.

The sequel is due out next spring.

Louise Trotter’s debut as creative director at Bottega Veneta on Saturday contained moments of fantasy most evident in the fringe that bounced on coats and swirled like shiny bristles on glimmering skirts and jackets.

Trotter, a British designer who joined Bottega Veneta in January, is one of four creative directors who made their hotly awaited debuts in Milan this season, following Demna at Gucci, Simone Belfiori at Jil Sander and Dario Vitale at Versace.

Bottega Veneta has some of the finest

craftspeople in Italian luxury, and Trotter said they were an inspiration to her Spring-Summer 2026 collection.

“I’m in the candy box,” said Trotter, who joined Bottega in January and previously was creative director at Joseph, Lacoste and then Carven. “It has been the most wonderful, wonderful entrance into this house, to discover the crafts, the hands, the willingness to always say: ‘Let’s try.’ It’s just a wonder.”

Some of the volumes were inspired by the artisans in the Veneto atelier who would work with piles of leather at their feet; Trotter said she wanted to create garments that fit the body at the bust, waist and hip, but were also sculptural, held away from

the body, at times.

The collection veered from the functional Navy blue peacoat with knotted leather detailing that opened the show, to layers and layers of white fringe coat worn with a soft popcorn knit collar.

Trotter worked in the Bottega Veneta codes of the intreccio weave and the knot, employing wool, leathers and satins. The intreccio showed up as coats and trousers as well as bags, and the knot defined bags and slip-on shoes.

Big soft bags paid homage to the house’s 1966-1977 era, where Trotter discovered bags in the archives that had a functionality that accompanied “the liberation of women at the time.”

Chartreuse accessories popped against Maximilian Davis’ latest Ferragamo collection, previewed on Saturday during Milan Fashion Week in the same courtyard of the brand’s Portrait Hotel where he made his debut as creative director three years ago.

The co-ed collection inspired by the 1920s featured slinky, seductive and sheer womenswear, complemented by men’s speakeasy suiting with broad shoulders and long jackets. Dresses alternated between sheer chiffrons and clingy knits, slightly illicit in their reveal.

Silken scarves tied around the rear ends of the men’s suits created an unexpectedly sexy silhouette. The same styling trick on dresses and a generous dose of fringe recalled flappers.

Vinyl overcoats were a hedge against the rain that threatened the outdoor runway show.



A model wears a creation as part of the Dolce & Gabbana Spring/Summer 2026 collection presented in Milan. (AP)



A model wears a creation during the Bottega Veneta women’s Spring-Summer 2026 fashion show. (AP)



Meryl Streep arrives for the Dolce & Gabbana Spring/Summer 2026 collection presented in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 27. (AP)



RM of BTS arrives at the Bottega Veneta women’s Spring-Summer 2026 fashion show, in Milan, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 27. (AP)





Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Badah Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.



Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the State of Kuwait, Vladimir Zheltov



Kuwaiti and Russian dignitaries at the 'Moscow Seasons in Kuwait' event.



Dignitaries at the 'Moscow' pavilion in Kuwait's largest shopping mall, The Avenues.



Ivan Rudin leads the Moscow State Symphony at Kuwait's Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.



Guests enjoy traditional tea, candies, and lollipops at 'Moscow Tea Time' pavilion. Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Moscow State Symphony performs to full house at JACC

‘Moscow Seasons’ festival attracts over 375,000 visitors in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: From September 25 to 28, Kuwait became a venue for a large-scale cultural dialogue: it hosted the “Moscow Seasons” festival for the first time in Middle East. Visitors tried tea from a samovar, discovered Russian traditions, and made wishes for a future winter trip to Moscow and the highlight of the program was a concert by the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra. The festival gathered over 375 thousand guests, which is a great representation of the high level of interest in Moscow from Kuwaitis.

The main attraction for visitors was the “Moscow” pavilion in the country’s largest shopping mall, Avenues. There, live performances by musical ensembles with balalaikas and folk songs took place, along with a stand from the “Moscow Tea Time” project, where guests sampled signature tea, candies, and traditional lollipops. In addition, everyone could take a VR tour through the streets of the modern Russian capital and join quizzes.

The photo exhibition “Moscow Winter Fairytale” introduced “Moscow” pavilion guests to the beauty of wintertime Moscow. In the exhibition space, visitors left their wishes about a future trip to the Russian capital.

The highlight of the “Moscow Seasons in Kuwait” festival was a performance by the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Ivan Rudin at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. For the Gulf region, this event became a vivid milestone in cultural life, and for Moscow, it was an opportunity to share the energy and warm hospitality of the capital through music. The tickets for the concert were sold out in 24 hours and the Concert Hall was full of admirers of Russian classical music. The program featured Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s symphonic suite “Scheherazade” and “Dance of the Tumblers”, a suite from Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s ballet “The Nutcracker” and “Sleepy beauty” waltz, excerpts from Igor Stravinsky’s ballet “The Firebird” and Aram Khachaturian’s “Sabre Dance”. The concert was filmed by



Moscow pavilion at the Avenues mall

ov’s symphonic suite “Scheherazade” and “Dance of the Tumblers”, a suite from Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s ballet “The Nutcracker” and “Sleepy beauty” waltz, excerpts from Igor Stravinsky’s ballet “The Firebird” and Aram Khachaturian’s “Sabre Dance”. The concert was filmed by

the state television and will later be broadcast to a wide audience.

“Today, Moscow is one of the world’s great cities – a vibrant, forward-looking metropolis that also cherishes its rich history, culture, and architecture. Millions of visitors from across the globe come to see it for themselves, and we are especially glad to see the growing number of friends arriving from the Gulf region, including Kuwait,” — Ambassador of Russian Federation to the State of Kuwait, Vladimir Zheltov said.

“It gives me great pleasure to be with you this evening at this cultural event, through which the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra presents one of its artistic and creative performances an occasion that reflects the distinguished level of relations between the State of Kuwait and the Russian Federation, and the depth of the historical ties linking our two friendly countries,” — said His Excellency Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Badah Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

“The ‘Moscow Seasons in Kuwait’ Festival perfectly exemplifies the Moscow City Tourism Committee dedicated efforts to position Moscow as a premier travel destination for tourists from the Middle East,” — emphasized Mr. Evgeny Kozlov, First Deputy Head of the Office of the Mayor and the Government of Moscow, Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee.

The next day, the orchestra’s pianist held a master class for students of the College of Basic Education at the Contemporary Art Platform, Kuwait’s modern art museum. The participants were four students from the class of composer and associate professor Abdullah

Khalaf, a well-known Kuwaiti musician, conductor, and composer.

“The ‘Moscow Seasons in Kuwait’”, organized by the order of the Mayor of Moscow in cooperation with the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Kuwait, is a large-scale platform for cultural dialogue and an opportunity to experience the breadth of Moscow’s hospitality and the rich culture of the capital. We are confident that by bringing the festival to Kuwait, we have strengthened our commitment to further cooperation. And, of course, we now look forward to welcoming the festival guests to Moscow” — commented Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, Bulat Nurmukhanov.

Moscow continues to strengthen its position in the Middle Eastern tourism market. In 2024, the tourist flow from Kuwait to Moscow reached record levels (over 16,500 visitors), tripling the figures of the previous year. The flow remains strong: in the first half of 2025, more than 6,300 guests from Kuwait visited the capital — about the same as during the corresponding period last year.

The Moscow City Tourism Committee is building a strong and sustainable brand for the capital as an important tourist destination not only in Russia but also on the international stage. To strengthen international ties, Russia’s capital organizes business missions, showcases its tourism potential at industry exhibitions, and creates projects and events that also target foreign tourists. This year, the Committee held two large-scale “Moscow Seasons” festivals abroad — in Beijing and Kuwait — that attracted millions of cities residents to get to know Moscow’s culture and traditions.

Community honors rock n’ roll queen’s legacy

Tina Turner statue unveiled in her hometown

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., Sept 28, (AP): A 10-foot statue of rock n’ roll queen Tina Turner was unveiled Saturday in the rural Tennessee community where she grew up - before becoming a Grammy-winning singer, an electrifying stage performer, and one the world’s most recognizable and popular entertainers.

The statue was revealed during a ceremony at a park in Brownsville, located about an hour drive east of Memphis. The city of about 9,000 people is near Nutbush, the community where Turner went to school as a child. As a teen, she attended high school just steps from where the statue now stands.

The statue shows Turner with her signature wild hairdo and holding a microphone, as if she was singing on stage. It was designed by sculptor Fred Ajanogha, who said he tried to capture her flexibility of movement on stage, how she held the microphone with her index finger extended, and her hair style, which he compared to the “mane of a lion.”

Turner died May 24, 2023 at age 83 after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich. Her Grammy-winning singing career included the hit songs “Nuttush City Limits,” “Proud Mary,” “Private Dancer,” and “We Don’t Need Another Hero,” from the film “Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome.” Her movie credits also include “Tommy” and “Last Action Hero.”



A newly-unveiled statue of singer Tina Turner stands at a park on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, in Brownsville, Tenn. (AP)

Turner teamed with husband Ike Turner for hit records and live shows in the 1960s and ’70s. She survived her troubled marriage to succeed in middle age with the chart-topping “What’s Love Got To Do With It,” released in 1984.

Her admirers ranged from Mick Jagger to Beyoncé to Mariah Carey, and she was known

as the “Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

The unveiling was part of the annual Tina Turner Heritage Days, a celebration of her life growing up in rural Tennessee, before she moved away as a teenager. The statue was sculpted in clay by Ajanogha in Atlanta and cast in bronze by a West Tennessee foundry, and it took about a year to complete. It is 7 feet and 9 inches tall with a base of 2 feet, making it stand about 10 feet high (3 meters).

Karen Cook said she traveled from Georgia to attend the event with her friend, a cousin of Turner’s, to honor the legendary performer.

“She’s a great artist, I love her music,” said Cook, 59. “My mom listened to her a lot. It’s a big deal and a great thing for the community to have Tina Turner in her small town.”

About 50 donors gave money for the statue, including Ford Motor Co., which donated \$150,000. Ford is building an electric truck factory in nearby Stanton.

The statue stands near a museum honoring Turner at the the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center in Brownsville. The museum opened in 2014 inside the renovated Flagg Grove School, a one-room building where Turner attended classes in Nutbush. The school closed in the 1960s and was used as a barn before the dilapidated building was moved by tractor-trailer from Nutbush to Brownsville.

Variety

**NEW DELHI:** India’s iconic monument of love, Taj Mahal, has emerged as the country’s most visited tourist destination, attracting 6.9 million visitors, including over 600,000 foreign tourists, in 2024-25, an official report released on Saturday said.

“Among the Centrally Protected Ticketed Monuments, Taj Mahal leads in visitor numbers for both domestic (6.26 million) and foreign (0.645 million) tourists in FY 2024-25,” the latest India Tourism Data Compendium released by the federal tourism ministry said.

The 17th-century ivory-white marble mausoleum was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself. (Xinhua)

**GUIYANG:** The world’s tallest bridge opened to traffic Sunday morning in southwest China’s Guizhou Province, slashing travel time across a deep canyon from two hours to just two minutes after three years of construction.

The Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge, soaring 625 meters above the Beipan

River in Guizhou’s mountainous terrain, is nearly nine times as tall as San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. (Xinhua)

**SOFIA:** A Dragon Boat Festival kicked off on Saturday near Ruse, Bulgaria’s largest city on the Danube River, bringing sports, culture and friendship together in a two-day celebration.

Held at the lake in Lipnik Forest Park, the event allows visitors to board dragon boats and experience the thrill of competition free of charge. The program also features martial arts demonstrations, artwork exhibitions, oriental food and drinks, as well as music and dance performances. (Xinhua)

**THE HAGUE:** An exhibition featuring original costumes from the 1997 film Titanic opened at the Kunstmuseum Den Haag on Saturday, linking the social tensions of 1912, the year the Titanic sank, with contemporary issues such as war and migration.

Titled “Titanic & Fashion: The Last Dance,” the exhibition will run until Jan. 25, 2026. It presents 15 original costumes designed by Deborah Lynn Scott, who won the Academy Award for Best Costume Design for her work on the blockbuster film Titanic. (Xinhua)

وزارة التجارة والصناعة  
Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
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RECALL INFORMATION

TOYOTA CAMRY/ HYBRID  
(MY- 2025)

TOYOTA HIGHLANDER  
(MY- 2023-24)

TOYOTA CROWN  
(MY- 2023)

RECALL REASON

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REMEDY

Owners of affected vehicles will be contacted by Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L. and are asked to make an appointment to inspect and reprogram the combination meter free of charge once remedy is available by October 2025.

CONTACT

MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER & SONS EST. CO.W.L.L.  
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Expert explains the biases, unsupported conclusions of vaccine study

Why a study linking vaccines to chronic illness is deeply flawed

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



By Jeffrey Morris  
University of Pennsylvania

At a Senate hearing on Sept. 9, 2025, on the corruption of science, witnesses presented an unpublished study that made a big assertion. They claimed that the study, soon to be featured in a highly publicized film called “An Inconvenient Study,” expected out in early October 2025, provides landmark evidence that vaccines raise the risk of chronic diseases in childhood. The study was conducted in 2020 by researchers at Henry Ford Health, a health care network in Detroit and southeast Michigan. Before the Sept. 9 hearing the study was not publicly available, but it became part of the public record after the hearing and is now posted on the Senate committee website. At the hearing, Aaron Siri, a lawyer who specializes in vaccine lawsuits and acts as a legal adviser to Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., said the study was never published because the authors feared being fired for finding evidence supporting the health risks of vaccines. His rhetoric made the study sound definitive. As the head of biostatistics at the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine, when I encounter new scientific claims, I always start with the question “Could this be true?” Then, I evaluate the evidence. I can say definitively that the study by Henry Ford Health researchers has serious design problems that keep it from revealing much about whether vaccines affect children’s long-term health. In fact, a spokesperson at Henry Ford Health told journalists seeking comment on the study that it “was not published because it did not meet the rigorous scientific standards we demand as a premier medical research institution.”

The study’s weaknesses illustrate several key principles of biostatistics. The researchers examined the medical records of about 18,500 children born between 2000 and 2016 within the Henry Ford Health network. According to the records, roughly 16,500 children had received at least one vaccine and about 2,000 were completely unvaccinated. The authors compared the two groups on a wide set of outcomes. These included conditions that affect the immune system, such as asthma, allergies and autoimmune disorders. They also included neurodevelopmental outcomes such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, autism and speech and seizure disorders, as well as learning, intellectual, behavioral and motor disabilities. Their headline result was that vaccinated children had 2.5 times the rate of “any selected chronic disease,” with 3 to 6 times higher rates for some specific conditions. They did not find that vaccinated children had higher rates of autism. The study’s summary states it found that “vaccine exposure in children was associated with increased risk of developing a chronic health disorder.” That wording is strong, but it is not well supported given the weaknesses of the paper. To study long-term diseases in children, it’s crucial to track their health until the ages when these problems usually show up. Many conditions in the study, like asthma, ADHD, learning problems and behavior issues, are mostly diagnosed after age 5, once kids are in school. If kids are not followed that long, many cases will be missed. However, that’s what happened here, especially for children in the unvaccinated group. About 25% of unvaccinated children in the study were tracked until they were less than 6 months old, 50% until they were less than 15 months old, and only 25% were tracked past age 3. That’s too short to catch most of these conditions. Vaccinated kids, however, were followed much longer, with 75% followed past 15 months of age, 50% past 2.7 years of age and 25% past 5.7 years of age. The longer timeline gave the vaccinated kids many more chances to have diagnoses recorded in their Henry Ford medical records compared with the nonvac-

inated group. The study includes no explanation for this difference. When one group is watched longer and into the ages when problems are usually found, they will almost always look sicker on paper, even if the real risks are the same. In statistics, this is called surveillance bias. The primary methods used in the paper were not sufficient to adjust for this surveillance bias. The authors tried new analyses using only kids followed beyond age 1, 3 or 5. But vaccinated kids were still tracked longer, with more reaching the ages when diagnoses are made, so those efforts did not fix this bias. Not all cases of chronic disease are written down in the Henry Ford records. Kids who go to a Henry Ford doctor more often get more checkups, more tests and more chances for their diseases to be found and recorded in the Henry Ford system. Increased doctor visits has been shown to increase the chance of diagnosing chronic conditions, including autism, ADHD, asthma, developmental disorders and learning disabilities. If people in one group see doctors more often than people in another, those people may look like they have higher disease rates even if their true health is the same across both groups. In statistics, this is called detection bias. In the Henry Ford system, vaccinated kids averaged about seven visits per year, while unvaccinated kids had only about two. That gave the vaccinated kids many more chances to be diagnosed. The authors tried leaving out kids with zero visits, but this did not fix the detection bias, since vaccinated kids still had far more visits. Another issue is that the study doesn’t show which kids actually used Henry Ford for their main care. Many babies are seen at the hospital for birth and early visits, but then go elsewhere for routine care. If that happens, later diagnoses would not appear in the Henry Ford records. The short follow-up for many children suggests a lot may have left the system after infancy, hiding diagnoses made outside Henry Ford. Big differences between the groups of vaccinated and unvaccinated children can make it hard to know if vaccines really caused any differences in chronic disease. This is because of a statistical concept called confounding. (AP)

Over 2,600 children infected, 20 dead so far this year

Halal concerns fuel vaccine hesitancy as Indonesia fights measles outbreak

SUMENEP, Indonesia, Sept 28, (AP): Three health care workers rode motorbikes into the Indonesian city of Sumenep, carrying doses of measles vaccine and a list of children who needed them. With blue medical boxes in hand, they went from house to house administering the life-saving shots. The health workers on wheels are part of the regional government’s latest efforts to curb a deadly measles outbreak on Madura Island that has persisted for the past nine months. More than 2,600 children have already been infected this year and 20 have died. But efforts to stop the outbreak from spreading through the predominantly Muslim population are being hindered in part by concerns that some measles vaccines may not meet Islam’s halal standards because they use a stabilizer that is derived from pigs. Pork-derived gelatin is widely used as a stabilizer to ensure vaccines remain safe and effective during storage and transport, presenting a dilemma to religious communities that view pigs as ritually unclean. Many Islamic scholars say that vaccines with gelatin stabilizers can be used under religious law, as can other medical products with pig-derived ingredients, under certain conditions. Indonesian religious leaders ruled in 2018 that vaccines with pig gelatin are haram, or forbidden, but advised Muslims that they should be used until other shots are available “for the benefit of society,” said Ahmad Syamsuri, the head of Disease Control and Prevention at the Sumenep Health Office. In Sumenep, many are reluctant to even discuss their religious concerns. Pujiati Wahyuni, a 31-year-old Muslim mother and nurse, knows parents who refuse the vaccines for their children on religious grounds, though she recently had her daughter receive the vaccine at an Islamic kindergarten in Pamolokan village. “Yes, there are some. Islam is a big religion. Maybe some Muslim people just do not want to get vaccinated, and



A young girl is comforted by her mother as she receives a measles vaccine during a vaccination campaign following an outbreak, at a kindergarten in Sumenep on Madura Island, Indonesia, Monday, Sept. 8. (AP)

it is not just now, but since they were born,” Wahyuni said. The regional government’s latest efforts began in August and include making more than 78,000 vaccines available to children in the region, which are distributed through local clinics, delivered directly to the residents at their homes and even brought to schools. The hope is that the campaign will help prevent future outbreaks, infections and deaths. But they cannot compel reluctant parents, said Musthafa, the general secretary of Indonesian Ulema Council in Sumenep. “We have high hopes for Muslims in Indonesia, who are the ones consuming it. Let us ask the government, in this case the Health Office and the Ministry of Health, to find a halal vaccine,” said Musthafa. Indonesia, the world’s largest Muslim-majority nation, has reported previous outbreaks of measles, mostly driven by gaps in vaccination coverage. In 2018, a major outbreak of the highly infectious disease occurred in the easternmost province of Papua, causing dozens of deaths. Due to some vaccine hesitancy then, the Indonesian Ulema Council said the measles-rubella vaccine, produced by the Serum Institute of India, contained an ingredient derived from pigs but allowed its use until a halal alternative was available. The Serum Institute declined The Associated Press’ request for comment. Globally, the World Health Organization says 84% of children received the first dose of measles vaccine last year, and 76% had received two doses. But experts say measles vaccine rates need to reach 95% to prevent outbreaks. WHO noted that 60 countries reported big measles outbreaks last year. Measles vaccination rates in Indonesia fell below the country’s targets in 2023, according to data from the Ministry of Health. In 2023, measles-rubella vaccinations reached 86.6% of the target, and in 2024, the number fell to 82.3%. From May to July - the peak of the outbreak in Sumenep - isolation rooms at regional hospitals were full as staff treated over a hundred measles cases daily.



A drone photo taken on July 24, 2025 shows China’s research icebreaker Xuelong 2 conducting scientific research in the Arctic Ocean. (Xinhua)

‘Shifts in ocean chemistry may fuel global warming’

Experts identify ‘climate-regulating’ switch

GUANGZHOU, Sept 28, (Xinhua): The shifts in marine sulfate concentrations can flip the way that methane is consumed on the seafloor, acting as a geochemical switch that modulates Earth’s climate, according to a research article published in the journal Nature Geoscience. The researchers of the study, from the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry (GIG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), warned that a similar switch may emerge again as the modern Arctic Ocean warms and freshens at an accelerating pace. They noted that the Earth endured an extreme period of global warming and ocean acidification, known as the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, 56 million years ago. Such an event mirrors many features of today’s climate crisis. Methane is the second-most important greenhouse gas following carbon dioxide, and vast quantities of it are locked up under the seafloor. Until recently, scientists have been concerned that the methane released from the seafloor would surge directly into the atmosphere, thereby contributing to global warming. However, recent studies have shown that most methane released from the seafloor dissolves rapidly into seawater and is then “digested” by various microbes, with only a small amount ever reaching the atmosphere. During these processes, microbes utilize sulfate as their “fuel” to convert methane energy with high efficiency, while simultaneously generating alkaline by-products that help counteract ocean acidification, said Zhang Yige, a professor at the GIG. However, 56 million years ago, the sulfate concentration in Arctic waters was less than one-third of its current level. With sulfate in critically short supply, methane diffused into the water column. Therefore, the aerobic bacteria ignited a rapid “flash-burn” of methane, releasing a surge of carbon dioxide into the water. The researchers disclosed that the carbon dioxide levels in the Arctic Ocean 56 million years ago were significantly higher than the global average. This shows that the Arctic Ocean had transformed from a “sponge” that absorbed carbon dioxide to a “chimney” that emitted it. Their study highlights potential major perturbations to Arctic carbon cycling under future climate change.

‘Fatality rate is over 61%’

Ebola outbreak in Congo kills dozens as health response faces funding gaps

GOMA, Congo, Sept 28, (AP): As a deadly new Ebola outbreak kills dozens in southern Congo, health authorities and organizations are sounding the alarm, warning they lack the funds and resources to mount an effective response to the crisis. The World Health Organization said Wednesday that 57 cases and 35 deaths have been reported since the outbreak was announced by Congolese authorities on Sept. 4. The fatality rate is over 61%. It is the first Ebola outbreak in 18 years in Kasai province, a remote part of Congo characterized by its poor road networks. It is located more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the nation’s capital of Kinshasa. “We urgently need our partners and donors to step up and support this life-saving response to ensure we can contain the outbreak quickly and protect the most vulnerable communities,” said Susan Nzisa Mbalu, head of communications for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Africa, IFRC. Earlier this week, the IFRC said it is appealing for 20 million Swiss francs (\$25 million) to help contain the outbreak and aiming to reach 965,000 people with urgent assistance. It warned that health facilities are overwhelmed and lack the resources to provide care, with clean water and protective equipment running critically low. According to the IFRC, the only treatment centre in the Bulape health zone, where the epicenter of the outbreak has been declared and the majority of cases are concentrated, is already at 119% capacity. Health officials are particularly concerned about the impact of US funding cuts, especially since the US has a history of supporting Congo’s past Ebola outbreaks, including a 2021 effort when the US Agency for International Development, USAID, provided up to \$11.5 million to support efforts across Africa. IFRC’s Nzisa Mbalu said it is still



In this photo provided by Doctors Without Borders, men stand outside an Ebola treatment center in the remote Bulape Health Zone, Kasai province, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sept 7, that was set up following the outbreak of the Zaire strain of the Ebola virus. (AP)

early to fully assess the level of donor support for the Ebola response, adding that the organization has so far allocated 1.75 million swiss francs (\$2.2 million) in emergency funds to respond to the outbreak. Despite the absence of USAID, Mathias Mossoko, the Ebola Response Coordinator in Bulape, said that the U.S. government has provided “some small support,” though he could not provide specific details. WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic told the AP on Thursday that the organization’s only current funding for the outbreak response is a \$2 million emergency fund and around \$2.3 million from the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Gavi vaccine alliance. That is far below the WHO’s projected cost of around \$20 million to respond to the outbreak over the next three months. “Without immediate support, gaps in operations will persist, jeopardizing efforts to contain the outbreak and protect vulnerable communities,” Jasarevic said. The Congolese authorities’ current national response plan is

estimated at \$78 million. Treating Ebola demands “enormous resources,” even for a single patient, said Jean Paul Mbantshi, the chief medical officer of the Bulape health zone. He said the zone desperately needs ambulances to transport patients from remote areas to the hospital before they become highly contagious. Health workers also require more protective equipment, medicine, and additional vaccines. “All this costs money, we need more support,” Mbantshi said. According to the WHO, just 1,740 people in three health zones of Kasai province - Bulape, Bulambae and Mweka - have been vaccinated as of Sept. 21. The Bulape zone alone has a population of more than 212,000, according to 2020 figures from the United Nations. WHO said the vaccination campaign has not been implemented as fast as desired because of logistical challenges. A lack of storage infrastructure in Bulape, for instance, has forced officials to transport vaccines in small batches, causing delays.

6 infants die after hospital infection in Romania

Haemorrhagic fever claims 6 lives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 28, (Xinhua): Pakistan’s southern Sindh province has reported another death from Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), raising the provincial toll to six this year, health authorities said Friday. The latest victim, a 28-year-old man from provincial capital Karachi’s Landhi area, was admitted to Jinnah Hospital on Sept. 24 with high fever, bleeding and low blood pressure, according to a notification from the Sindh health department. He was placed in isolation but died the same day. Laboratory tests later confirmed CCHF through polymerase chain reaction (PCR), while tests for malaria and dengue were negative, it added. Of the six fatalities in Sindh so far this year, five were reported in Karachi and one in Thatta district, officials said. The first death was recorded in

June and the previous one in August. CCHF, characterized by fever, muscle pain and bleeding, has a fatality rate of 10 to 40 percent. The virus is transmitted to humans mainly through tick bites or contact with infected livestock or blood. Hospital infection: Six infants died and three others were infected after a bacterial outbreak at a children’s hospital called “Sfanta Maria” in Romania’s northeastern Iasi city, the country’s Health Ministry said Friday. The ministry confirmed that nine patients under the age of one had contracted the Serratia marcescens bacteria, but stressed that a direct medical link between the infections and the deaths has not yet been established. Forensic experts will determine wheth-

er the bacterium caused the fatalities. The first case was detected on Sept. 13 but reported to the public health directorate six days later, when four children were already infected. The hospital also failed to impose isolation measures in its intensive care unit (ICU), the ministry said. Health Minister Alexandru Rogobete announced an urgent investigation and threatened to dismiss staff if cover-ups or breaches of medical protocols are confirmed. Admissions to the ICU sector where the infections occurred have been suspended, with strict hygiene and monitoring measures introduced. Serratia marcescens is a bacterium commonly found in water, soil and on wet surfaces. It can cause severe infections in vulnerable patients, particularly in hospitals, and is often resistant to antibiotics.

Thousands dies from treatable heart conditions

Afghan kids with heart defects face grim odds

KABUL, Sept 28, (Xinhua): As the world marks World Heart Day on Sept. 29, Afghanistan confronts a sobering reality: thousands die each year from cardiovascular diseases, trapped by poverty, a fragile healthcare system and the lingering wounds of decades of conflict. In Kabul’s under-equipped hospitals, families such as those of Nizamuddin and Ali Hussain cling to fragile hope for infants born with congenital heart defects (CHDs), conditions routinely treated in wealthier nations but, here, often a death sentence. For Nizamuddin, the crisis is painfully personal. The sole provider for a

family of seven, he keeps vigil beside his five-month-old daughter in a government hospital, exhaustion etched on his face. Diagnosed with a congenital cardiac anomaly, likely a ventricular septal defect (VSD), the baby needs specialized procedures, cardiac catheterization or open-heart surgery, which are unavailable in most Afghan facilities. “There are no facilities here for her heart condition,” Nizamuddin says. “Because of financial struggles, we can’t even take her to Pakistan for treatment.” A similar anguish grips 23-year-old Ali Hussain, whose firstborn, born of a

consanguineous marriage, has biven-tricular septal defects. After 10 days in a treatment center, he faces an uncertain future. “My child has two holes in her heart,” he tells Xinhua, his voice trembling. “Because of her condition, she can’t be treated here. We need to go abroad, but we don’t have the money.” A newly established cardiac care center in central Kabul offers a flicker of hope, drawing dozens of patients daily from the capital and neighboring provinces. Yet doctors warn of rising caseloads and persistent shortages of critical equipment, from echocardiographs to cardiac catheterization labs and surgical instruments.



# Untouchable England outclasses Canada to win World Cup



England's Zoe Aldcroft holds a trophy as she celebrates with her teammates after winning the Women's Rugby World Cup final match between England and Canada at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, London. (AP)

## Record crowd at Twickenham

**LONDON, Sept 28, (AP): England finally has a Women's Rugby World Cup title to confirm its utter world domination after outclassing Canada 33-13 in front of a record crowd at Twickenham.**

The clearcut victory by five tries to two capped an astonishing World Cup cycle in which England won every match, 33 in a row, the greatest streak in international rugby.

The prospect of a home tournament topped by a home champion sold out Twickenham five weeks ago, and 81,885 spectators, the largest crowd in women's rugby history, were treated to a showcase of England's unstoppable power.

England was appearing in a seventh straight World Cup final but had won only one of the previous six, in 2014. The other title was in 1994.

Losing the 2022 final to New Zealand, the last time England tasted defeat, was a bitter blow for the most resourced, most deepest and strongest women's team in

world rugby. It drove the Red Roses to get the formula right when the World Cup came home for the first time in 15 years.

"The past certainly dictates the now and the girls hung tough in the whole tournament and connected with the nation," England coach John Mitchell said.

"I thought we were superb defensively in the tournament; our attack didn't need to be at its best but it was effective enough to get the job done. Canada are a good side but they hadn't come up against us and we were waiting."

Canada bossed everyone, including defending two-time champion New Zealand in the semifinals, en route to its first final in 11 years, validating its No. 2 ranking and unbeaten campaign this year.

But the best offloading team in the tournament with the fastest ruck speed couldn't get its natural game going, crashing into England's defense. Canada didn't have a plan B.

"We smashed it out there today and I can't thank the girls enough for putting their bodies on the line," England captain Zoe Aldcroft said. "There was no doubt in our

minds coming into this that we were going to do the job."

England saved its best performance of the World Cup for last, setting the tone at the first scrum, shoving Canada backward. The English would destroy Canada's scrum and mauls.

Even goalkicking lock Sophie de Goede, at the heart of Canada's impressive performances just two months into her comeback from an ACL tear, was stymied. She got to smile after the final, though, after receiving the world player of the year award ahead of England's Megan Jones and New Zealand's Jorja Miller. De Goede's teammates threw her in the air.

As it did in every game, Canada scored first through glitter-faced right wing Alex Hogan-Rochester from a two-on-one.

The lead lasted only three minutes. Out of nothing, fullback Ellie Kildunne, last year's world player of the year, broke a tackle, stepped a couple more and scorched the cover to score behind the posts.

More Canada errors were turned into points by England.

There was a lineout drive try for hooker Amy Cokayne,

who scored three similar tries in the 2022 final. An intercept on halfway by Tatyana Heard was the origin of a try for No. 8 Alex Matthews, playing in her fourth straight final.

Canada had to score next but on England's try-line the ball was poached by Aldcroft. Canada admitted it was struggling by kicking a penalty while 21-5 down.

The half finished with England prop Hannah Botterman greeting her second jackal penalty with a double-fisted roar in delight.

England started the second half with a try by lock Abbie Ward. When Zoe Harrison's conversion attempt hit the post, it was her first miss in 15 goalkicks going back to the pool stage.

While Botterman was in the sin-bin, Hogan-Rochester got her second try for Canada. When another sustained period of pressure died from a knock-on in front of the England posts, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney put his head in his hands.

England put the finishing touches on the biggest win in a final in 27 years when a spiral bomb spun back into its hands and Matthews scored her second try.

## First time in the history of league

## WNBA suspends Lynx coach Reeve 1 game for behavior and comments

WASHINGTON, Sept 28, (AP): The WNBA suspended Minnesota coach Cheryl Reeve for one game for her behavior and comments during and following the Lynx's 84-76 loss to the Phoenix Mercury on Friday night.

"Her conduct and comments included aggressively pursuing and verbally abusing a game official on the court, failure to leave the court in a timely manner upon her ejection with 21.8 seconds to play in the fourth quarter, inappropriate comments made to fans when exiting the court, and remarks made in a post-game press conference," the league said in a statement Saturday.

Reeve, who was also fined and served the suspension on Sunday when the Lynx played the Mercury in Game 4 of the teams' semifinals series in Phoenix.

It's believed to be the first time in the history of the WNBA that a coach has been suspended for a playoff game.

Minnesota assistant coaches Eric Thibault and Rebekkah Brunson also were fined by the league. Thibault was fined for his inappropriate interaction with an official on the court. Brunson was fined for an inappropriate social media comment directed at WNBA officials.

In her postgame rant, Reeve called for the WNBA to make changes at the league level when it comes to officiating. Monty McCutchen is the head of WNBA officiating, and Sue Blaich is the head of referee performance and development for the league.

Reeve, however, focused her anger on the three game officials from Friday night: Isaac Barnett, Randy Richardson and Jenna Reneau.

"The officiating crew that we had tonight - for the leadership to deem those three people semifinals playoff worthy - is (expletive) malpractice," Reeve said.

The play that drew Reeve's ire was Alyssa Thomas stealing the ball from Napheesa Collier near the 3-point line and going toward the other end of the court for the game-sealing layup.

Collier injured her leg on the play and had to be helped to the locker room. Reeve said Collier "probably has a fracture," though she didn't elaborate on the injury. Collier will also miss Game 4 with what the team announced as a left ankle injury.

Though Collier crashed to the court after the players collided, the National Basketball Referees Association posted a highlight of the play on X with its description of why officials were correct to not blow their whistle.

"This is NOT a foul," the post said. "Thomas legally gets to the ball and knocks the ball loose prior to any contact. The leg to leg contact is incidental once the ball is clearly loose."

There have been several complaints about WNBA officiating this season. Las Vegas coach Becky Hammon has voiced her issues with the physicality in the playoffs.

"You can bump and grab a wide receiver in the NFL for those first 5 yards, but you can do it in the W for the whole half court," she said. "You put two hands on somebody, it should be an automatic foul. The freedom of movement? There's no freedom. I'm not saying we're not fouling, too. I'm not saying that. I'm saying it's out of control."

WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert addressed the league's officiating during All-Star Weekend in July.

"As we go forward on the officiating, we hear the concerns. We take that employee input," Engelbert said. "Every play is reviewed. We spend hours and hours and hours. Obviously, we use that then to follow up with officials' training."

"Consistency is important. I think some people observe our game versus other basketball formats (and think) there aren't a ton of fouls called, but I realize consistency is the name of the game."

Change Name and address

I, Fakhruddin, son of Taher Ali Irani, resident of Dungarpur (Rajasthan), hereby declare on oath that my nephew Hasan, son of Ali Asgar, resident of Hussaini Mohalla, Bhoiwada, Dungarpur (Rajasthan), currently residing near MB School, Panwadi, Shastri Colony, Dungarpur (Rajasthan), holds a passport bearing number V 7432076. My nephew's name in the passport is Ali Asgar Hasan, whereas his real name is Hasan Ali Asgar. My nephew should be known and recognized as Hasan Ali Asgar. Address: Fakhruddin, son of Taher Ali Irani, resident of Water Works Lane, Old Hospital, Najampura, Dungarpur (Raj.)

Change Name and address

I, Fakhruddin, son of Taher Ali Irani, resident of Dungarpur (Rajasthan), hereby declare under oath that my sister-in-law, Maria, resident of Hussaini Mohalla, Bhoiwada, Dungarpur (Rajasthan), currently residing near MB School, Panwadi, Shastri Colony, Dungarpur (Rajasthan), has a passport number P 1091385. My sister-in-law's name in the passport is Maria. However, her real name is Maria Ali Asgar. My sister-in-law should be known and recognized by the name Maria Ali Asgar only. Address: Fakhruddin, son of Taher Ali Irani, resident of Water Works Lane, Old Hospital, Najampura, Dungarpur (Raj.)

## Nashville earns spot in postseason

## Seattle clinches playoff spot, Vancouver moves into 1st



Vancouver Whitecaps FC midfielder Ralph Priso heads the ball past Seattle Sounders FC forward Jordan Morris during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Seattle. (AP)

the box.

Thiago Martins - known simply as "Thiago" - scored his first career goal in MLS, Nicolás Fernández and Andrés Perea added a goal apiece and New York City FC beat the New York Red Bulls 3-2.

NYCFC (17-10-5) has 56 points, tied with Miami for third in the Eastern Conference.

Indiana Vassilev scored a goal in each half, Mikael Uhre and Milan Iloksi each tallied three goal contributions, and the Philadelphia Union beat D.C. United 6-0.

Philadelphia (19-7-6), which was without leading scorer Tai Baribo due to yellow card accumulation, earned its 19th regular-season win - equaling the club record set in 2022.

Dor Turgeman scored in his first appearance and notched an assist on a Leo Campana goal three minutes later in the second half to lead the New England Revolution to a 2-0 victory over Atlanta United.

Neither team scored until Turge-

man took a pass from Carles Gil in the 72nd minute after subbing in for Tomás Chancalay in the 56th. It was the 12th assist for Gil.

Braian Ojeda, DeAndre Yedlin and Victor Olatunji each scored a goal to help Real Salt Lake beat Austin FC 3-1.

Salt Lake (11-16-4) has 37 points and picked up three critical points in a four-way race for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Houston, which lost 3-1 to Nashville earlier in the day, has 36 points. Dallas (37 points) plays Portland and San Jose (35) plays Western Conference-leading San Diego later Saturday.

Austin (12-11-8) has 43 points.

Josef Martínez scored early in the first half and Daniel De Sousa Britto made it stand up as the San Jose Earthquakes edged San Diego FC 1-0.

Martínez used an assist from Cristian Arango - his seventh - in the 14th minute to score for the 13th

time this season. It's the most goals Martínez has scored since he totaled 27 in 2019 while playing for Atlanta United.

It was also the 129th goal in 212 career appearances for Martínez - sixth on the all-time scoring list. Jaime Moreno (133) is fifth.

Daniel finished with three saves for his fifth clean sheet this season for San Jose (10-14-8).

CJ dos Santos saved one shot for expansion side San Diego (17-9-6).

Joseph Paintsil had a hat trick by halftime and the Los Angeles Galaxy cruised to a 4-1 victory over Sporting Kansas City.

Paintsil scored goals in the 4th, 25th, and 43rd minutes for his first hat trick and the fastest in club history. Paintsil has nine goals this season. Defender Mauricio Cuevas notched two assists for a career-best five this season.

Anderson Julio scored in the 85th minute for FC Dallas in a 2-2 tie with the Portland Timbers.

## SA moves into Championship lead

DURBAN, South Africa, Sept 28, (AP): South Africa scored nine tries and powered to a 67-30 bonus-point win over Argentina to move into first place in the Rugby Championship heading into next week's final round.

Flyhalf Sacha Feinberg-Mngomezulu grabbed a hat trick of tries as the Springboks dismantled the Pumas in the second half, having only been leading 25-23 at halftime in Durban.

Malcolm Marx, Cheslin Kolbe, Morne van den Berg, Pieter-Steph du Toit - with two tries - and Manie Libbok also went over

for the Boks, with Feinberg-Mngomezulu kicking eight conversions and two penalties for a 37-point personal haul - the most by a South Africa player in a test.

"No one can disagree that Sacha was man of the match and did incredible things on the field," Boks coach Rassie Erasmus said.

Argentina had a penalty try and a try from Santiago Chocobares in the first half, before Tomas Alborno went over for another in the 53rd that was converted by Santiago Carreras. The Pumas didn't score another point.

Change Name

I, Haji Abdul Sattar holder of Indian Passport No. Z 4826726 to change the name of my son ZAID SHAIKH holder of Indian Passport No. X5355637 and Civil ID No. 310041801326, having permanent address Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. Residing in Kuwait at Present, hereby declare that henceforth his name will be read as Given Name : ZAID HAJI and Surname : SHAIKH



Third in Class 2, seventh overall

# Al-Dhafiri secures podium finish at Qatar Rally

DOHA, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti driver Dhari Al-Dhafiri, representing Kuwait's Inspire Club, captured third place in the Class 2 category and seventh overall in the fourth round of the Qatar Cross-Country Rally Championship, which drew competitors from across the globe.

After the race, Al-Dhafiri expressed his happiness with the result and praised the strong backing he received from Inspire Club for Cars and Motorcycles. He also thanked the Al-Dhafiri Rally Team for their efforts in preparing his car and providing continuous training throughout the event.

Al-Dhafiri emphasized his readiness, together with his co-driver Khalid Al-Dhafiri, for such long and demanding championships, considering this podium finish a significant step forward in his motorsport career.

The Qatar Cross-Country Rally Championship features six rounds, having kicked off on February 15 and running until December 6, with international entries from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, Senegal, Ireland, Lithuania, the UK, France, and San Marino.



Dhari Al-Dhafiri on podium after securing third place in round four of Qatar Rally.

## Qadsia falls short against Al-Nasr

# Kuwait Club secures first win at Arab Basketball Championship

**By Khaled Al-Enezi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DUBAI, Sept 28: Kuwait Club claimed 88-83 victory over Lebanon's Antonine Club in the second round of Group B at the 37th Arab Basketball Championship. The tournament is being hosted by Al-Nasr Club in the UAE at Rashid bin Hamdan Hall and runs until October 7. In Group A, Qadsia narrowly fell to host Al-Nasr (UAE) 88-91.

Kuwait Club opened the championship with a 72-76 loss to Libya's Ahli Tripoli, while Qadsia had beaten Syria's Homs Al-Fidaa 88-77. On the third day, Homs Al-Fidaa defeated Yemen's Shaab Hadramout 100-81, and Ahli Tripoli overcame Bahrain's Manama 103-73.



Action from the Kuwait vs Antonine clash.

The tournament begins with a league-style first round, after which all teams advance to the round of 16. The top team in Group A faces the fourth team in Group B, the second plays the third, and the same applies for Groups C and D. Winners then progress to the quarterfinals.

Kuwait Club started strong to recover from its opening defeat, leading 21-19 after the first quarter. The Whites maintained control in the second quarter despite attempts from Antonine to close the gap, ending the half 48-39. The third quarter saw both sides trading points, but Kuwait Club held a steady lead at 68-60.

Despite a late push from Antonine, Kuwait Club sealed the match 88-83. American import Charlie Moore led the team with 22 points.

# Atalanta keeps impressive record against Juventus

**Inter wins**

MILAN, Sept 28, (AP): Kamaldeen Sulemana helped Atalanta keep up its impressive streak at Juventus by netting a solo goal in a 1-1 draw in Serie A on Saturday.

Sulemana opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime after Juventus turned the ball over but Juan Cabal rescued a point for the host to ensure his team maintained its unbeaten start to the season.

Inter had already lost two of its opening four matches but made it two wins on the bounce with a 2-0 victory at Cagliari.

Atalanta hadn't lost at Juventus since 2018, with five victories and two draws since then.

Juventus almost took the lead with less than two minutes on the clock, but Pierre Kalulu's header came off the right post.

Instead it was Atalanta that went in front in first-half stoppage time as Sulemana pounced on a mistake and then slalomed his way into the area, twisting and turning, before firing across into the bottom right corner.

It was a second goal in as many matches for Sulemana - who joined from Southampton in the off-season - after his goal and assist in



last week's 3-0 win at Torino. The 23-year-old forward celebrated with some acrobatic backflips.

Juventus leveled in the 78th minute with a chaotic move. Odilon Kossounou failed to clear a ball into the box and it fell kindly to Cabal, who reacted quickly to control and fire in from close range for only his second career goal and the Colombian's first since 2022.

Atalanta soon went down to 10 men as Marten de Roon was sent off two minutes later after fouling Weston McKennie and receiving a second yellow card.

It turned into a siege but Atalanta goalkeeper Marco Carnesecchi managed to keep Juventus at bay, notably saving from McKennie at point-blank range and Edon Zhegrov.

Lautaro Martinez showed he has

fully recovered from a back problem as he set Inter on the way to victory.

The Argentine World Cup winner missed the Champions League victory over Ajax and only played 26 minutes against Sassuolo last week.

However, he returned to the starting lineup at Cagliari and headed in a cross from Alessandro Bastoni in the ninth minute.

# PSG edges Auxerre as Lorient shocks Monaco

PARIS, Sept 28, (AP): Defending champion Paris Saint-Germain beat Auxerre 2-0 at home Saturday to move three points clear at the top of Ligue 1, but also saw its injury problems mount.

Midfielder Vitinha came off late in the first half after creating the first goal and Georgia winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was replaced at halftime with an apparent thigh-muscle injury. Champions League winner PSG is at Barcelona on Wednesday in the second round of league phase games.

PSG is already without injured captain Marquinhos in central defense, as well as Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembélé, fellow forward Désiré Doué and midfielder João Neves.

Both PSG's goals came from central defenders.

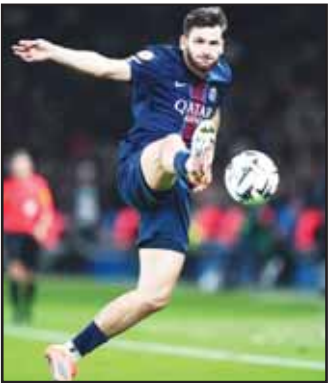
Illia Zabarnyi stretched to poke in Vitinha's cross from the left in the 33rd minute. It was the Ukraine defender's first goal since joining in the off-season from Premier League team Bournemouth.

Vitinha went off two minutes later. Lucas Beraldo headed in Senny Mayulu's cross to make it 2-0 in the 55th.

The win moved PSG onto 15 points from six games, with Marseille, Monaco, Lyon and Strasbourg all on 12 points and separated by goal difference.

Monaco earlier failed to pressure PSG as it slipped to a 3-1 defeat at Lorient.

It was the second defeat of the season for coach Adi Hütter. Monaco's defense let it down once again, as it did many times last



PSG's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia controls the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Auxerre at the Parc des Princes in Paris, Saturday. (AP)

season, and Hütter is still searching for the right balance in his attack-minded side.

Monaco has conceded 10 goals from six games and was also routed 4-1 by Club Bruges in the Champions League.

Ansu Fati started on the bench for Monaco despite netting three goals from two substitute appearances.

Monaco captain Thilo Kehrer was sent off in the 38th minute after collecting a second yellow card and Lorient scored moments later, with striker Mohamed Bamba turning in a cross from the left.

Fati came on midway through the second half but saw Lorient striker Pablo Pagis - whose father Mickaël Pagis played up front for Strasbourg, Marseille and Rennes - scoring two goals.

# Al-Salmiya & Qadsia clash in key sixth-round match

**By Khaled Al-Enezi**  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The sixth round of the Premier Handball League continues today at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex in Sabah Al-Salem with two key matches. At 5:00 p.m., Al-Salmiya, sitting third with 5 points, takes on Qadsia, fifth with 4 points. This is followed at 6:30 p.m. by Sulaibikhat, seventh with 3 points, facing Al-Nasr, who remains at the bottom of the table without points.

Tomorrow, the action resumes with league leader Kuwait Club, with 10 points, facing Al-Arabi, sixth with 4 points, while Kazma, fourth with 5 points, meets second-placed Burgan, who have 8 points.

In today's opening match, Al-Salmiya aims to overcome Qadsia and solidify its hold on third place, building on back-to-back victories over Al-Nasr. Qadsia, also winner of its last two matches against Al-Nasr and Al-Arabi, hope to continue its momentum and temporarily share third place if they secure a win.

The second game sees a battle at the bottom of the standings, with Sulaibikhat expected to have the advantage over Al-Nasr.

Meanwhile, in the First Division League, Khaitan defeated Al-Fahaheel

34-32, and Yarmouk overcame Al-Qurain 35-31. Khaitan leads the table with 6 points, followed by Yarmouk with 4, Al-Qurain with 2, and 1 point each for the Youth Team and Al-Fahaheel. Al-Sahel remains at the bottom without a point.

Next round matches are set for Thursday, with Al-Sahel facing Yarmouk, Al-Qurain against Al-Fahaheel, and the Kuwait Youth Team taking on Khaitan.



A player in action.

## Alcaraz triumphs in Japan

# Gauff through to 3rd of China Open with win over Fernandez

BEIJING, Sept 28, (AP): French Open winner Coco Gauff was forced to go the distance against Leylah Fernandez before closing out a tight three-setter 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 on Sunday to advance to the third round at the China Open.

The defending champion and a firm crowd favorite in Beijing overcame a second-set stumble and then struggled to serve out the match in the third, before breaking Fernandez in the 12th game of the deciding set to clinch it.

Gauff will next face No. 16 Belinda Bencic or Australian Priscilla Hon in the WTA 1000-series tournament.

In earlier matches Sunday, Eva Lys beat No. 10 Elena Rybakina 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 and American McCartney Kessler was leading Barbora Krejickova 1-6, 7-5, 3-0 when the Czech player retired from the match.

The tournament is being held concurrently with an ATP 500 men's tournament.

Second-seeded Alexander Zverev rallied from a break down in the deciding set to defeat 37th-ranked Corentin Moutet 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal matchup against

Daniil Medvedev, who got past Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-3, 6-3.

A day after becoming the latest tennis star to make an apology to Chinese fans, Lorenzo Musetti had a straight-sets victory over tour veteran Adrian Mannarino 6-3, 6-3 in a second-round match.

Earlier, Learner Tien beat Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-2 to set up a meeting with the No. 9-ranked Musetti in the quarterfinals.

Carlos Alcaraz comfortably defeated Brandon Nakashima 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the Japan Open with his 65th match win of the season to equal his personal-best tally in a single season, according to the ATP Tour. He also had 65 wins in 2023.

"It's great to go through, to play another semifinal," the 22-year-old Alcaraz said. "It's special because it's the first time I am playing here in Japan and here in Tokyo, so to reach the semifinals in my first appearance is something great."

Alcaraz will next face Casper Ruud, the fourth-seeded Norwegian who defeated Aleksandar Vukic 6-3, 6-2.



Coco Gauff celebrates after winning the women's singles third round match between Leylah Fernandez of Canada and Coco Gauff of the United States at 2025 China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, China. (Xinhua)

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NEWS





Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar celebrates winning the men's Elite road race, at the road cycling World Championships in Kigali, Rwanda. (AP)

# Sports

## Al-Muqalled, Al-Hawal win mixed trap silver

Kuwait shines with 10-medal haul

**TANGIER, Morocco, Sept 28, (KUNA):** Kuwait shooting team wrapped up its campaign at the Arab Shooting Championship in Tangier with an impressive haul of 10 medals: two gold, four silver, and four bronze.

Head of the Kuwaiti delegation, Mashfi Al-Mutairi, told KUNA on Sunday that shooters Nasser Al-Muqalled and Shahad Al-Hawal secured silver in the Mixed Trap event, lifting Kuwait's overall medal tally to ten.

Al-Mutairi voiced pride in the team's achievements, calling the tournament an important step toward upcoming regional and international competitions, while also commending the positive spirit that marked the event.

For his part, President Delegate of Morocco's Royal Shooting Federation, Abdulazim Al-Hafi, highlighted the high level of competition, noting that the championship also served as valuable preparation for Tangier's hosting of the 2026 ISSF World Cup.

The Arab Shooting Championship, which kicked off the Saturday before last, brought together 60 athletes from eight Arab nations, including Kuwait.



Al-Muqalled, Al-Hawal celebrate with their medals on the podium after the awarding ceremony.

### Milestone for regional sport

## FIVB grants official 'recognition' to the Arab Volleyball Federation



Officials celebrate the recognition of the Arab Volleyball Federation.

**By Khaled Al-Enezi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) has formally recognized the Arab Volleyball Federation, marking the first time an Arab body in team sports has received such status. The move is expected to strengthen the sport's standing and boost its development across the region.

The recognition was announced during a signing ceremony attended by the Federation's Chairman, Lieutenant General Sheikh Ali bin Mohammed Al

Khalifa.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of the Kuwait Volleyball Association, Nayef Al-Khmeili, congratulated the volleyball family on the start of the new season.

"We are delighted to welcome all teams, players, and fans of volleyball," Al-Khmeili said, emphasizing that the association's focus this year is on enhancing competitiveness, fostering sportsmanship, and creating an environment that reflects the ambitions of athletes and supporters. He added that in recent months the association and its

committees have updated regulations and expanded training programs for referees and coaches to improve both technical and administrative performance.

Al-Khmeili expressed hope for a season filled with strong competition and urged fans to support their teams, uphold sporting values, and contribute to making the season a success, wishing good luck to all clubs.

In today's second-round fixtures of the Federation Championship, Kuwait Club will face Yarmouk at 5:00 p.m., followed by Burgan taking on Sulai-bikhat at 7:00 p.m.

Yarmouk, Sulaibikhat seek third win in Division One League

## Al-Arabi, Kazma play out goalless draw in the Zain Premier League



Al-Arabi and Kazma players fighting for the ball.

**By Hassan Mosa**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The highly anticipated clash between Al-Arabi and Kazma ended in a scoreless draw at Al-Sadaqua Walsalam Stadium in the fourth round of the Zain Premier League. The result saw Al-Arabi drop to second place on 8 points, two behind leader Kuwait Club, while Kazma, still unbeaten, moved up to sixth with 6 points.

Elsewhere, Al-Shabab claimed a 2-0 victory over Al-Fahaheel at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium in Mishref, extending its fine run of form and lifting its tally to 7 points, which placed it temporarily in fourth position.

In Division One action, Yarmouk and Sulaibikhat will both chase a third successive win tonight. Yarmouk faces Khaitan at 8:20 p.m. at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium, while Sulaibikhat meets

Burgan at the same time at Al-Sahel Stadium. Earlier fixtures see Shamiya take on Jazeera at 6:05 p.m. at Nasser Al-Asimi Stadium, and Sporty battle Al-Sahel at the same hour at Al-Shabab Stadium.

Yarmouk and Sulaibikhat currently share the lead with 6 points each. Jazeera follows with 4, while Al-Sahel and Burgan sit on 2 points apiece. Sporty and Shamiya remain at the bottom of the table without a point.

### Dortmund keeps pace with Bayern

## Villa fights back to beat Fulham for first league victory of season

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 28, (AP): Aston Villa won for the first time in the Premier League this season on Sunday with a 3-1 victory against Fulham.

Two goals in as many minutes in the second half at Villa Park sealed the comeback win after Fulham had taken an early lead through Raul Jimenez.

Ollie Watkins leveled the game before halftime and John McGinn and Emiliano Buendia struck shortly after the break to help Villa to a league win at the sixth time of asking at the start of the season.

Victory provided relief for coach Unai Emery, who has endured a difficult start to the campaign. The Spaniard, who led Villa to Champions League qualification in his first full season in charge and into the Europa League last term, has found his team battling at the wrong end of the standings in the opening weeks of this campaign after two losses and three draws.

And when Jimenez headed Fulham in front in the third minute, it looked like being another frustrating day.

But Watkins scored his first goal of the season by lobbing Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno in the 37th.

McGinn drove a low shot from around 20 yards (meters) into the bottom corner four minutes into the second half and Buendia fired in from close range two minutes later.

Karim Adeyemi scored again as Borussia Dortmund kept pace with Bundesliga leader Bayern Munich by beating Mainz 2-0 away.

Dortmund had to do it without star forward Serhou Guirassy, who pulled out before kickoff with a leg problem. Guirassy took a blow in the 1-0 win over Wolfsburg last weekend. Instead, Julian Brandt lined up just behind the front two.



Aston Villa's Evann Guessand, left, and Fulham's Ryan Sessegnon battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Aston Villa and Fulham at Villa Park, Birmingham, England. (AP)

Brandt set up Daniel Svensson for the opener in the 27th minute on a counterattack after Paul Nebel struck the post at the other end.

Adeyemi made it 2-0 on another counterattack in the 40th, cutting out a pass and then racing forward where he played a one-two with Brandt before scoring for the second consecutive game.

Mainz's prospects took another knock when goalkeeper Robin Zentner was sent off in the 67th for taking down Adeyemi.

Dortmund coach Niko Kovac sent on Portuguese forward Fabio Silva late for his debut.

Dortmund remains the only unbeaten team besides Bayern, which leads with a maximum 15 points from five games with Dortmund two behind after opening with a draw.

"I know German soccer has an expectation that Bayern isn't allowed to march away on its own, but we have to maintain the consistency that we have today," Kovac said. "It's the fifth Bundesliga matchday. Not all that much has happened yet, but we're on a good path."

Eintracht Frankfurt produced a devastating first-half display to beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 6-4 away, having led 6-0 early in the second half.

It took 10 minutes for Frankfurt's Robin Koch to break the deadlock, but when he did, there was nothing Gladbach could do to stop Ansgar Knauff, Jonathan Burkardt,

Fares Chaibi and Can Uzun from adding more goals before the break.

Gladbach coach Eugen Polanski - the former under-23 coach serving as an interim solution following the firing of Gerardo Seoane - even tried a double substitution after the third goal, but to little avail.

Koch scored again right after the break - the first time the defender ever scored two goals in a Bundesliga game - but Frankfurt's burgeoning confidence allowed Gladbach a response.

American defender Joe Scally crossed for Jens Castrop in the 72nd, and Haris Tabaković and Yannik Engelhardt also scored before Scally set up Grant-Leon Ranos for the fourth goal in the ninth minute of stoppage time.

Frankfurt next plays in the Champions League on Tuesday at Atlético Madrid, which also enjoyed a big win over Real Madrid on Saturday.

Bayer Leverkusen eked out a 2-1 win at St. Pauli but lost Patrik Schick to injury late on, when Alex Grimaldo also received treatment for an injury.

It was Leverkusen's record-extending 36th Bundesliga away game without a loss.

Heidenheim defeated Augsburg 2-1 at home, a blow for visiting coach Sandro Wagner whose team has now lost four straight.

Johan Bakayoko's early goal was enough for Leipzig to win 1-0 in Wolfsburg.