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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IN Morocco, there are equations that may be difficult to grasp for those unfamiliar with the country's vast geographic region and their social realities, which are closely tied to the Royal Palace.

As a result, the King's speeches always reflect the people's demands and direct them to officials and institutions. The fundamental pillar has always been the joint struggle of the late King Mohammed V,

supported by his then Crown Prince Hassan II, and the Moroccan people in resisting colonialism until achieving independence in 1956, along with a firm determination never to return to the past, regardless of the cost.

The pursuit of progress is a fundamental instinct of the Moroccan people, which is why they are always eager to learn, grow, and benefit from experiences.

This strong bond between the people and the Royal Palace is not a recent phenomenon. It has been evident since the founding of the monarchy in 1666. Morocco has faced many challenges, both internal and external, but it has consistently emerged stronger.

During the so-called 'Arab Spring', some foreign

parties predicted that the Kingdom of Morocco was at risk. However, time proved them wrong, and the opposite turned out to be true.

Today, there are parties outside Morocco who, out of ignorance, attempt to fish in troubled waters through desperate and aimless efforts in the dark. They fail to grasp the depth and strength of the bond between the Moroccan people, the Palace, and the King.

Moroccan democracy has matured to the point where political parties and civil society understand the strategic boundaries that must not be crossed, especially under the leadership of King Mohammed VI, who consistently highlights institutional shortcomings in

his speeches. During his frequent visits to cities and villages, he engages directly with citizens and learns about their conditions firsthand, without barriers. King Mohammed VI possesses a strong acumen for field-work and is not content with merely reading the reports submitted to his office.

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1st Deputy PM heads  
to US on official visit

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation left for Washington on Saturday on an official visit to discuss with US officials several joint issues.

He was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by a number of senior security officials.

Water reserves 96% capacity

Electricity maintenance to  
leave areas without power

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The strategic water reserves of the country exceeded 96 percent of the total storage capacity during the summer season of 2025, say sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources confirmed this increase is the result of the ministry's efforts to address the high daily consumption rates during summer each year.

In a press statement, the ministry revealed that the highest daily water consumption rate was recorded on June 4, at 533 million imperial gallons, while the lowest daily consumption rate was 504 million imperial gallons on July 4.

The ministry stated that it laid down plans to increase strategic reserves before the summer season and succeeded in doing so through the implementation of various water production projects, thereby, ensuring the stability of the water system and meeting the needs of citizens and expatriates.

Sources pointed out that the ministry continues to implement projects to increase water production and storage stations in order to enhance its ability to cope with the population growth and future urban expansion, while ensuring long-term water security in the country.

Sources said the ministry is expediting the completion of several water projects serving new cities, including the water projects in Mutlaa City, which constitute an integrated system currently being implemented for rapid utilization.

The ministry called on all consumers to rationalize water consumption and make rationalization a daily practice to preserve the country's energy and water resources, given the scarcity of natural water resources in the country and its complete reliance on seawater desalination. It affirmed its commitment to carry out periodic maintenance work in pumping stations, main reservoirs, and distribution networks throughout the year to ensure efficient service continuity and reduce sudden breakdowns, thus, contributing to the sustainability of the water system.

Meanwhile, Fatima Hayat, the official spokesperson of the ministry, announced that the ministry will begin the periodic maintenance work in various components of the electrical system on Sunday, starting with power generation units, then the transmission networks, and the secondary transformer stations.

In a press statement on Saturday, Hayat affirmed this is part of the annual plan of the ministry to improve the efficiency of the electrical network, guarantee its readiness, and minimize emergency breakdowns.

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Municipality urges tough action  
to reduce littering across Kuwait

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Municipality spokesperson and Director of the Public Relations Department Muhammad Al-Sindan says the daily increase in violations of the public hygiene regulations places a burden that exceeds the capacity of sanitation workers in public areas.

He stressed the need to expedite the imposition of deterrent fines against violators.

In a press statement obtained by Al-Seyassah, Al-Sindan pointed out that Kuwait Municipality's oversight bodies, responsible for monitoring public cleanliness levels, urgently need to impose fines commensurate with the severity of violations, similar to those enforced in traffic, electricity, water, and environmental laws.

He indicated that toughening penalties for public cleanliness violations will contribute significantly and effectively to reducing littering in roads, squares, public parks, beaches, and markets.

Kuwait raid frees trafficked workers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The General Department of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Residency Affairs Investigations Department, raided a domestic worker recruitment office in Fa-haheel, and arrested its officials, along with 29 Asian workers found in the office's residence, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, the Ministry of Interior explained that it had received information indicating the office was selling visas and illegally sheltering workers, and that it was involved in human trafficking and facilitating visa applications in exchange for financial compensation.

A security team was formed in coordination with the Domestic Labor Department of the Public Authority for Manpower. After obtaining a warrant from the Public Prosecution, an ambush was carried out, the office was raided, and the officials and workers were arrested. During the inspection of the office, receipts, waivers, and ready-to-use documents were found.

Investigations revealed that the office was issuing visas for KD 120 each, then reselling the workers' contracts for amounts ranging between KD 1,100 and KD 1,300, in addition to the official fees approved by the relevant authorities.

Continued on Page 5

2 Kuwaitis freed; gov't  
exerting efforts for 3rd

Kuwait thanks allies after release of flotilla citizens



KUNA photo

Part of the signing ceremony of an MoU to enhance health collaboration between Kuwait and Bahrain.

Kuwait, Bahrain sign MoU on boosting health collab

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait and Bahrain inked on Saturday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance their health collaboration, in the presence of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and his Bahraini peer Dr. Jaleela bint Sayed Jawad and Bahrain's Ambassador to Kuwait Salah Al-Malki.

After signing the memo, Dr. Hesham Kelendar, Health Ministry's Assistant Un-

dersecretary for Foreign Health Services Affairs, said the MoU embodies the sisterly relations between the two countries and represents a strategic partnership.

This partnership contributes to developing and upgrading healthcare services to be compatible with the sustainable development goals, and enhancing regional health security, he added in a press release.

It also aims to open new horizons of future cooperation in terms of training, sharing efficiencies or developing research and technical fields, he noted.

The MoU seeks to cement collaboration between both sides in diverse healthcare field that include medical expertise and knowledge and others.

— See Also Page 2 —

Fishing for mullet 'meide' resumes  
in Kuwait Bay after 22 years ban

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Fishing for mullet fish, known locally as "meide", has officially resumed in Kuwait Bay after a 22-year suspension, following approvals from relevant government bodies. The move is expected to boost the availability of this popular species in local markets at affordable prices.

Last week, Director General of Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Eng. Saleem Al-Hai issued an exceptional de-

cision allowing the fishing of "meide" in Kuwait Bay, based on directives from the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy and Minister of Finance, Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem. The decision specifies that fishing will occur in designated locations on a trial basis and will be closely monitored and supervised by PAAAFR.

In this regard, Chairman of the Kuwait Fishermen's Union, Abdullah Al-Sarheed, announced that the decision to resume fishing for mullet fish "meide"

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Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Local vendors showcase mullet ('meide') at Kuwait markets as fishing resumes, helping stabilize supply and prices.

Residents sue over  
Muthanna eviction

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Several investors and residents of the Muthanna Complex have filed lawsuits against the real estate company managing the complex and the Ministry of Finance, due to the "sudden closure and the breaking of doors without allowing them to retrieve their medications and belongings", reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to informed sources, the notices posted on the complex's doors demanded immediate evacuation, despite being posted during the summer vacation when many residents were out of the country.

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Newswatch

AMMAN: Jordan on Saturday welcomed Hamas' positive response to US President Donald Trump's proposal to end the war on Gaza Strip, hailing it as a significant step to stop the war and its catastrophic impacts.

In a press release, Spokesperson for the Jordanian Foreign Ministry Fuad Majali also welcomed US President Trump's statements calling for an immediate ceasefire to implement a prisoner exchange deal within Trump's formula, which Hamas accepted, in a bid to halt Palestinian bloodshed in Gaza.

Majali voiced his country's appreciation of the "pivotal" role of Egypt and Qatar in efforts to reach a permanent ceasefire agreement. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya declared on Saturday that two Kuwaiti citizens who participated in the Al-Sumud flotilla to relieve Gaza have been released and were on their way back home.

In a statement to KUNA, Minister Al-Yahya said the department personnel have been closely following up since the first moment on various developments concerning the Flotilla participants' detention.

He has affirmed that the released Kuwaiti nationals are in good condition and exerting follow-up efforts to free a third Kuwaiti citizen who participated in Al-Sumud flotilla to secure his safe comeback.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday expressed gratitude of the State of Kuwait for Bahrain, Jordan, Turkiye and other brotherly and friendly states for their cooperation that led to the release of Kuwaiti citizens.

The ministry alluded to the fresh release of two Kuwaiti nationals who were on board of the humanitarian Sumud flotilla to relieve Gaza.

In the statement, the ministry affirmed that all efforts would be exerted for the release of a third Kuwaiti who remained in detention.

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Kuwait, Guinea  
extol historic ties at  
Independence Day  
celebration



Gulf Bank signs  
partnership agree-  
ment with the IBS



National Invest-  
ments Company  
signs strategic  
agreement to de-  
velop & implement  
an AI-powered En-  
terprise Resource  
Planning (ERP)  
system



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:24	Asr .....	14:59
Sunrise ..	05:42	Maghrib ..	17:31
Zohr .....	11:37	Isha .....	18:47

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Hot with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-38 km/h.  
**By Night:** Rather hot to mild with light to moderate northwest-

Weather			
erly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	40	28	
Kuwait Airport	39	27	
Abdaly	39	21	
Bubyan	37	17	
Jahra	40	26	
Failaka Island	38	24	
Salmiyah	35	28	
Ahmadi	36	25	
Nuwaisib	39	25	
Wafra	39	25	



The 11th Meeting of the GCC Health Ministers' Committee.

## GCC health ministers adopt initiatives to enhance co-op

Kuwait leads push for unified Gulf healthcare standards

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA):** Health ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states approved a number of decisions and initiatives during the 11th meeting held on Saturday in Kuwait aimed at developing the GCC health system and enhancing joint cooperation among the Council's member states.

The Secretariat-General said in a press statement that the meeting results included the adoption of the GCC strategic outcomes for combating drugs concerning the treatment and rehabilitation component, in addition to approving a unified action plan for the Council's Health Ministers Committee for the period 2026-2030.

Furthermore, the meeting emphasized importance of strengthening the work of the Joint Committee for Healthy Cities in line with the future visions of the Council's member states, the statement added.

The health ministers also stressed on launching the GCC Health Excellence Award, which aims to promote innovation and the quality of health services.

They urged innovation and digital transformation in the GCC health sector, enhancing joint health cooperation with countries and international and regional organizations, and reducing the causes of disabilities.

Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, Chairman of the GCC Health Ministers' Committee, said on Saturday that the GCC health cooperation is progressing steadily toward improved services.

During the 11th committee meeting hosted by Kuwait, Minister Al-Awadhi highlighted the strong Gulf cooperation and shared commitment to prioritizing the health of GCC citizens.

He noted that the meeting's agenda covers the Gulf



KUNA photos

Minister of Health and Chairman of the current session of the Committee of Health Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, delivers a speech during the meeting.

Strategy for Combating Drugs (2025-2028), a unified response to a cross-border threat requiring coordinated efforts to protect youth and secure the region's future.

The meeting also covers the Gulf Public Health Plan (2026-2030), which serves as an integrated roadmap emphasizing prevention, regional integration, and positioning health as a pillar of sustainable development, he added.

Minister Al-Awadhi emphasized the importance of International Health Regulations in enhancing GCC preparedness for epidemics, and highlighted the Healthy Cities Initiative as a model for integrating health into urban development.

He added that digital transformation and innovation are key to advancing Gulf health systems, noting that the GCC Innovation and Excellence Award encourages creativity and supports excellence in the sector.

He said the meeting serves as a platform to unify visions and shape a shared Gulf health future, ex-

pressing hope for outcomes that advance progress and bolster the GCC's regional and global standing.

He expressed his thanks to the GCC General Secretariat, technical committees, and organizers for their efforts.

The Kuwaiti Minister also extended his gratitude to Qatar for its distinguished chairmanship of the Ministerial and Technical Committees in 2024, commending its role in advancing joint Gulf cooperation.

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al-Budaiwi said Saturday pioneering health achievements have promoted the bloc as an integrated system capable of translating the leaders' vision into concrete reality.

Addressing the 11th meeting of GCC Health Ministers' Committee, held in Kuwait on Saturday, Al-Budaiwi said the Gulf health system has achieved quantum leaps in developing and boosting its ability to prevent and fight diseases, and improving medical services as well as training medical teams.

He added that the GCC member states are taking steady steps towards pan-Gulf integration by means of unifying health criteria and protocols and building strategic partnerships with international organizations.

The GCC chief pointed out existing cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) over the adoption of the WHO's Health Cities Program, which is meant to promote health and welfare in sustainable and society-friendly Gulf cities.

He added that Gulf leaders believe that health marks the core pillar of sustainable development and significant human investment, citing over 204,000 Gulf citizens' benefitting from government medical services outside their own countries in 2023 as proof of pan-Gulf integration.

He also boasted that the number of hospitals has jumped to more than 863, an annual growth rate of 1.5 percent, and that of health centers and complexes to over 3,400, up 2.5 percent per annum.

Crown Prince, PM extend wishes

## Amir congratulates Lesotho, Germany on national events

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA):** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Saturday to King Letsie III of Lesotho on the occasion of his country's National Day, wishing him good health and continued progress and prosperity for the friendly nation. On Friday, His Highness also sent a congratulatory cable to President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany on German Unity Day, wishing the president everlasting well-being and further progress and prosperity for Germany and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Saturday to King Letsie III of Lesotho, wishing continued progress and prosperity for the friendly nation. On Friday, the Crown Prince congratulated President Steinmeier on German Unity Day, wishing him good health and further development for the Federal Republic of Germany.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable on Saturday to King Letsie III of Lesotho on his National Day, and on Friday to President Steinmeier on German Unity Day.

### Boosting research, training and policy

## PAFN, AIU ink cooperation deal on food and nutrition

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4:** The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) signed a bilateral memorandum of cooperation with the American International University (AIU) in Kuwait, under the patronage and in the presence of PAFN's Chairman and Director-General Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij, and AIU Board of Trustees member Dr. Nael Al-Awadhi.

The memorandum aims to establish an institutional framework for scientific and practical cooperation between the two parties on important areas such as exchanging technical and scientific expertise in food and nutrition, organizing joint training and qualification programs for university students and PAFN employees, providing students and researchers opportunities to participate in applied and field programs within PAFN, and supporting joint studies and research to build a national knowledge base that enhances food policies.

### Development and Support

Dr. Al-Fulaij emphasized that this

agreement aligns with PAFN's national role in promoting food safety and protecting public health.

She said, "The signing of this memorandum reflects PAFN's commitment to benefit from the distinguished academic capabilities of the American International University and opens new horizons for developing food policies based on scientific evidence, in addition to supporting national competencies through practical training and specialized academic qualifications."

She stressed that the cooperation represents a fundamental step toward achieving Kuwait's strategic goals in food security and nutrition and enhances PAFN's position as a major partner in building a sustainable, healthy society.

Dr. Al-Fulaij highlighted that this cooperation stems from PAFN's belief in the importance of partnerships with academic institutions in enriching knowledge and developing competencies, while the American International University continues its educational and research role in preparing future leaders through innovative programs that support national development.



PAFN photo

PAFN Director-General Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij and AIU Board of Trustees member Dr. Nael Al-Awadhi exchange a commemorative plaque during the signing of a cooperation memorandum in Kuwait.

KFAED loans bridge friendship and progress

## Kuwait, Guinea extol historic ties at Independence Day celebration

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah /Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4:** Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Nayef Al-Mudhaf affirmed that Kuwait's relations with the Republic of Guinea are "long-standing and historic."

Al-Mudhaf made the statement during the celebration of the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea of the 67th anniversary of the independence of Guinea at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, with a number of ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and members of the consular corps in attendance.

He highlighted the role played by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in providing 14 loans to Conakry -- estimated at KD64 million -- to finance major infrastructure and road projects there.

He revealed that trade with Guinea is acceptable compared to other African countries, indicating there are five agreements under negotiation between the two countries, including a labor agreement that is currently under discussion and it is expected to be finalized soon.

On Kuwaiti contracts with African countries, he said Kuwait is in the process of negotiating with all countries that express a desire to sign labor agreements, stressing that Kuwait is keen on diversifying its labor sources.

Considering it a strategic choice, he pointed out that Kuwait has had experience with Ethiopia, Benin and a number of other countries. "Today, we have agreements with around 10 countries. Kuwait is a large market. We are ready to discuss such an agreement with any country that is willing to provide workers, ensuring the diversification of resources and the regulation of the labor market."

Meanwhile, Guinean Ambassador to Kuwait Mamady Traoré stressed that Oct



Photo by Mohammad Morsi

Guinea's Ambassador to Kuwait Mamady Traoré and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Nayef Al-Mudhaf join dignitaries in cutting a cake to mark Guinea's 67th Independence Day celebration in Kuwait.

2, 1958 is a turning point in the history of the Guinean people, as the late President Ahmed Sékou Touré declared Guinea's independence as the first French-speaking country in sub-Saharan Africa. He asserted that this historic decision ignited a wave of freedom throughout the African continent.

Traoré explained that his country, despite the political and economic challenges it faced, continues to implement comprehensive reforms led by President General Mamady Doumbouya, aimed at strengthening democracy, combating corruption, developing infrastructure, and improving the people's standard of living.

Speaking about bilateral relations, he affirmed the strength of the partnership with Kuwait, describing it as a "distinguished partner" in his country's foreign policy. He praised the role of KFAED in financing vital projects in the fields of health, education, rural development and infrastructure. He also revealed the forthcoming inauguration of two major projects in

the capital, Conakry, that will alleviate traffic congestion and promote urban development.

He expressed his deep gratitude to the political leadership of Kuwait, represented by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, while appreciating the efforts of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya in supporting and strengthening relations between the two countries.

He also praised the exemplary behavior of the Guinean community in Kuwait and their commitment to adhere to the laws and regulations of the country.

He emphasized that the Independence Day is an opportunity to renew the resolve to build a strong nation and strengthen bridges of friendship with Kuwait and other countries, promising to continue working towards a brighter future for the Guinean people.

### Other Voices

## What does the Japanese Dr. Wada say?

By Ahmad alsarraf

AGING is often seen as a gradual decline, the fading of hopes and ambitions, and the acceptance of infirmity. However, psychologist Dr. Hideki Wada doesn't just offer a list of health tips but goes deeper.

He encourages the elderly to live boldly and joyfully, even in the final stages of life, inspiring us to embrace the coming years with hope and happiness.

With over 30 years of experience caring for elderly patients and helping them navigate physical decline and emotional challenges, Dr. Wada has compiled his insights into a book titled "The Eighty-Year Wall."

Dr. Wada summarizes his experiences in 44 actionable scientific facts. However, I will keep them brief so they are easy to remember and sufficient to change our outlook on the years to come.

After 70, a period of diminished physical independence often begins, and the risk of social isolation increases.

Instead of obsessing over prevention and restriction, Dr. Wada advocates living joyfully, comfortably, and independently. He recommends that we not just stay alive, but live well.

Here are some tips from the book:

1. Keep moving. Stillness, sitting, and excessive sleeping are harmful.
2. Take a deep breath when angry.
3. Get enough exercise to avoid stiffness.
4. Always drink more water when using air conditioning in the summer.
5. Don't hesitate to use diapers if it helps increase your mobility. The fear of needing the bathroom unexpectedly can confine us to a limited range.
6. The more you chew, the more mentally and physically active you become.
7. Memory loss is not caused by aging but by a lack of brain use.
8. There is no need to overuse medications.
9. There is no need to unnecessarily lower your



alsarraf

blood pressure and blood sugar.

10. Loneliness is not just a feeling, but a necessary time to spend quietly with yourself.

11. Laziness is not a flaw.

12. Do what you enjoy, not what others expect.

13. Innate desires, including sexual ones, remain even in old age.

14. Do not stay home all the time under any circumstances.

15. Eat what you like; slight obesity is preferable.

16. Do what you love and perform all movements with caution.

17. Avoid befriending people you don't like.

18. Don't watch TV all the time.

19. Instead of fighting illness, learn to coexist with it.

20. Eat fresh fruits and salads.

21. Showering should not take more than 10 minutes.

22. If you can't sleep, don't force yourself to go to bed.

23. Enjoyable activities increase brain activity.

24. Express your feelings and don't overthink.

25. Find a family doctor as soon as possible.

26. Don't be impatient or pushy. Being old means you have courage, which is a good thing.

27. It's okay to change your mind sometimes.

28. If you stop learning, you age faster.

29. The harder something is, the more interesting it becomes.

30. Sunbathing brings happiness.

31. Do what benefits others.

32. Spend your day at ease.

33. Desires are the secret to a long life.

34. Live happily.

35. Breathe with ease.

36. Accept everything calmly.

37. Cheerful people are loved by everyone.

38. Smiling brings good luck.

Aging is a gift. With the right perspective and daily habits, the years after 60 can be some of the most fruitful of your life.

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After honestly reviewing the points above, I found that I follow at least 35 of them. I don't like lying in the sun, wearing diapers, or breathing deeply. Still, I recommend reading the book carefully.

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# diwaniya



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## Is Kuwait a tourist country?

"THE recent statements by the Minister of Information claiming that Kuwait has immense potential in tourism and entertainment sectors drew comments from various individuals and senior journalists. Having worked briefly at the Tourism Enterprises Company, I would like to share a few observations on the matter," columnist Eng. Adel Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Kharafi

"When a senior official such as the Minister of Information talks about Kuwait becoming a tourist destination, it brings to mind the waterfront project, which was intended to serve as a recreational space for citizens and residents. A huge budget was allocated for its development, yet the project was never completed and was instead halted for a period of time.

"Then, priorities shifted. Since then, the remaining phases of the project have not been implemented. Meanwhile, some entertainment sites were shut down, and others were demolished. One minister, citing the need for rationalization, cut nearly 50 percent of the budget for the coastal front project, despite its potential to generate significant public revenue and serve as a foundation for tourism infrastructure.

"Looking back at the circumstances of that period, including the decline in oil prices, it becomes clear that the mindset was not geared toward long-term national economic benefit. Yet even when oil prices later rose to KD 100 per barrel, there was still no serious interest in completing this vital project. Thus, developing tourism requires thinking outside the box. How can Kuwait position itself as a tourist destination while the government plans to increase fees on all services?

"What incentive would attract tourists to Kuwait in the absence of recreational facilities found in nearly every other country? Is the current infrastructure in Kuwait even capable of supporting tourism on a meaningful scale? I know that the Minister of Information may now hold more authority than his predecessors, due to the suspension of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers assuming both legislative and executive powers. As a result, the minister currently has full decision-making authority. How long will it take for Kuwait to become a tourist destination, and are there specific areas the country can capitalize on in this regard?

"The state-owned Tourism Enterprises Company is a clear example, as most government institutions are reluctant to process its transactions. Why does this continue to happen?

"Tourism investors are also being targeted, despite their adherence to local customs and traditions. While realizing the Minister of Information's vision is not a complex equation, it does require specific capabilities and a supportive culture. Achieving this goal depends on the coordinated efforts of all official institutions to develop necessary elements such as cultural tourism, festivals, recreational activities, desert tourism, island development, and more."

□ □ □

"It is clear that we all aspire for our country to advance, develop, and prosper... there is no doubt about that, as every citizen loves this beloved homeland. In this article, I address those who overlook the importance of true citizenship. I will not go into its full meaning, but I must stress that every citizen bears a national and moral responsibility, and this is beyond question," columnist Major General Faisal Al-Jazaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Jazaf

"However, what we constantly wit-

ness is widespread chaos and a disturbing level of indifference, reflected in unethical behavior and blatant disregard for the law in public spaces. Despite the existence of strict penalties, some people still intentionally litter streets and parking lots. This behavior has nothing to do with responsible citizenship. Where is the sense of national awareness? Where is the culture of ethics?

"The first point I wish to make is that some areas in front of government institutions and buildings are littered with trash and neglected waste. This not only causes visual and environmental pollution but also tarnishes the image of these institutions. An example is Sabah Al-Salem University (Shaddadiya University), which should be a symbol of civilization and refinement, as it is a center of education and knowledge. It is therefore necessary to beautify the vacant and neglected spaces around it to improve the overall visual appeal. The second point I wish to make is that sports are the crown jewel of a healthy society.

"May God have mercy on our martyrs, protect our beloved Kuwait, and bless the efforts of all those working for its progress under the leadership of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness the Crown Prince. May God protect them both."

□ □ □

"I don't know who is urging Kuwait to call for reforming the United Nations at every opportunity. What does Kuwait hope to achieve by insisting on reforming the UN? Although we are not among the founding members of the United Nations, all member countries have equal rights. Kuwait joined the United Nations in 1963, following its independence from the United Kingdom in 1961," Kuwaiti journalist Hassan Ali Karam wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.



Karam

"The permanent members of the Security Council supported Kuwait's accession after the Soviet Union withdrew its veto and abandoned its opposition. If it weren't for the veto power held by these five countries, the

United Nations would become a platform for advancing personal interests, resembling a tender awarded to the highest bidder. Yes, politics is a dirty game, and countries pursue their own interests. Without the support of the international community, weak and poor countries would struggle to secure their rights.

"We must remember who first benefited from Kuwait's membership in the United Nations. In 1961, the Soviet Union used its veto, leaving Kuwait waiting for three years until the fall of the Iraqi regime, which was allied with the Soviet Union. Only then did the Soviet Union withdraw its veto. Kuwait has been elected to the Security Council twice. Both times, the Palestinian cause was a primary concern for Kuwait, despite the fact that Palestinians mistreated Kuwait before, during, and after the brutal Iraqi invasion of August 1990.

"If the Palestinians achieve independence with their promised state, will they remember Kuwait's role in supporting their cause? Kuwait's constant and unjustified calls for reforming the UN's mechanisms remind me of the popular saying from the 1960s that 'Kuwait is a superpower'."

"What would Kuwait gain if member states responded to its reform demands? Would Kuwait gain or be granted a permanent seat on the Security Council, or enjoy veto power? If the Arabs secured a permanent seat on the Security Council, would Kuwait share in international positions? Kuwait has already lost its seat in international sports organizations. Will it gain political positions? Kuwait must focus on maintaining its historical relationships with major powers."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

# Kuwait reaffirms human rights, and technical aid commitment

GCC welcomes UNHR efforts, urges support for Yemen

**GENEVA, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on Friday welcomed UN efforts to integrate human rights into national laws and policies, enhance the implementation of sustainable development goals, and establish national institutions to protect human rights.**

This came in a speech delivered by the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations in Geneva, Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, during the general discussion on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The discussion also covered technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights for States and the report of the National Commission to Investigate Violations in Yemen, in accordance with the Human Rights Council resolution.

Ambassador Al-Hayen, who also chairs the Council of Ambassadors of the GCC, welcomed the issuance of the 13th report of the Independent Yemeni National Commission and its efforts, along with those of legitimate Yemeni institutions, to investigate human rights violations.

During the meeting, the GCC countries called on the international community to continue supporting the commission to enable it to complete the investigation.

He stressed the importance of the efforts made Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman to revive



KUNA photo

Ambassador Nasser Al-Hayen, Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations in Geneva

the political process in Yemen to find a comprehensive and sustainable political solution.

Ambassador Al-Hayen renewed the call for the GCC countries to participate in the Food Security Conference in Yemen to be held at the GCC General Secretariat on October 27 and 28, 2023, calling for calling for providing humanitarian and development support to the Yemeni people.

In a related context, Ambassador Al-Hayen commended the efforts made by both Libya and Soma-

lia and the important initiatives they have taken, calling on the international community to continue providing technical support and capacity building to these two countries, thus contributing to strengthening their commitments to human rights.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations in Geneva on Friday reaffirmed Kuwait's strong interest in promoting technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.

Moreover, Kuwait stressed their importance as key instruments to help countries fulfill their international obligations and to enhance the ability of developing nations to contribute to justice and sustainable development amid current global challenges.

This came in a statement delivered by a Diplomatic Attache Rahf Khuraibet during discussions on the report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning technical assistance and capacity-building before the UN Human Rights Council held in Geneva.

Khuraibet underscored the significance of technical assistance and capacity-building as the true spirit of international cooperation calling for these processes to remain technical and professional away from politicization or selectivity.

She pointed out the progress made in integrating human rights principles into national policies and in strengthening institutional capacities, while noting the importance of addressing funding shortfalls that pose risks to the continuity of such programs.

She renewed Kuwait's commitment to continuing constructive engagement with all partners in order to maximize the effectiveness of technical cooperation programs and further develop their mechanisms to achieve concrete and lasting results.

## KD 20,000 penalty imposed

## Court voids residential plot swap contract over breach

By Jaber Al-Hamoud  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Commercial Court ruled to annul a contract between two citizens regarding the exchange of residential plots allocated by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), and ordered the defaulting party to pay a penalty of KD 20,000, as specified in the contract, and refund the real estate office commission amounting to KD 2,000.

The two parties had agreed to exchange a plot in Mutlaa for another in the Wafra residential expansion, with the signing procedures to be completed at PAHW by a specific date.

However, one party breached the agreement by failing to appear at PAHW on the agreed date and later signed a separate exchange contract with another individual.

Lawyer Mubarak Al-Nuwaibit proved that the original exchange contract between the Mutlaa and Wafra plots was valid and compliant with relevant regulations.

He stressed that the second party intentionally violated the contract by failing to adhere to the scheduled signing date and subsequently entered into another exchange contract.

## News in Brief

## Kuwaiti busted for vehicle theft and drug possession

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 3: Ahmadi officers arrested a Kuwaiti citizen with a criminal record found in possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

According to a security source, the suspect was apprehended in Jaber Al-Ali after allegedly stealing a vehicle. Officers found drugs and drug paraphernalia on him, and referred him with the seized items to the concerned authorities.

□ □ □

**2 mln captagon pills seized:** The General Administration of Customs (GAC) announced on Wednesday that it, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, had foiled an attempt to smuggle approximately two million Captagon pills from an Arab country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, GAC explained that the General Department of Criminal Investigation had received information about a 20-foot container arriving from an Arab country at Shuwaikh Port. The container appeared to be carrying glass panels, but upon inspection, the edges of the panels were found to be used for concealing a large quantity of narcotic pills.

## Kuwait, OHCHR discuss boosting co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah held a telephone contact on Friday with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Volker Turk, discussing means of cementing cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), considering its membership in the UN agency.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali affirms commitment

## Kuwait's Defense Minister inspects northern military medical complex

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Sabah visited the Northern Region Medical Directorate (Northern Military Medical Complex) on Wednesday, accompanied by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the visit, the minister was briefed on the progress of work, the provision of medical and preventive services, and the directorate's advanced medical equipment and capabilities.

In a press statement, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ali affirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting and developing the military medical sector to keep



KUNA photo

The Minister of Defense listens to a comprehensive briefing on the tasks of the Northern Region Medical Services.

pace with the latest medical standards.

He praised the directorate's staff for their great efforts and their humanitarian mission in serving the nation, military personnel, and their families.

During the visit, the minister received a com-

prehensive briefing on the directorate's roles and responsibilities, including its efforts to improve the efficiency of health services and enhance care, treatment, and prevention programs, thereby contributing to the health and safety of army personnel and their families.

## Farwaniya Governor meets organizers of 'This Is Your Role' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received in his office at the governorate headquarters on Thursday morning the organizers of the "This Is Your Role" national environmental volunteer campaign, organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with various government agencies and volunteer groups.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, the campaign aims to promote social responsibility and a sense of national belonging by cleaning and greening public areas throughout Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Director of the Women, Children, and Community Development Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs Fayeze Al-Dihani, Community Development Supervisor Ibtisam Al-Mutairi, Public Relations Supervisor Hanan Al-Saqrani, along with several ministry employees.

Also present were Dr. Sara Al-Azmi and Iqbal Al-Jiran from the Fazaa Al-Dhahaya volunteer group, Ahmed Al-Madiyan from the Lens of the Environment team, Mukhtar Abdullah from the Social Initiative team, and a number of volunteers representing various other groups.

During the meeting, the organizers presented an overview of the goals and objectives of the "This Is Your Role" national campaign to the governor.

The discussion also focused on ways to enhance cooperation and coordination among



Farwaniya Governorate photo

Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with the organizers of the 'This Is Your Role'.

Farwaniya Governorate, government agencies, and volunteer groups.

Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser affirmed his full support for national initiatives, especially those focused on the environment, and emphasized the importance of promoting sustainability, environmental awareness, and a strong

sense of social and national responsibility.

At the end of the meeting, the attendees expressed their gratitude to the governor for his ongoing support of environmental efforts, his encouragement of volunteer initiatives, and his commitment to improving services and quality of life in all areas of Farwaniya Governorate.

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# Al-Huwailah: Elderly care a shared responsibility of state and society

Kuwait affirms commitment to seniors

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah affirmed that caring for the elderly is not solely a government responsibility, but a national and societal duty to honor a generation that dedicated its life to serving the nation and family, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Huwailah made the statement during a speech marking the International Day of Older Persons on Wednesday, coinciding with Kuwait's hosting of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs of the GCC member states and the Gulf Statistical Center.

She affirmed that Kuwait, under its wise leadership, has prioritized the welfare of the elderly through legislation that guarantees their protection, as well as through programs and services provided by the ministry in cooperation with state institutions and civil society organizations.

The minister said the ministry continues to implement the national strategy to enhance the quality of life for the elderly, in line with New Kuwait 2035 vision, while complementing the Arab Strategy for the Elderly and reinforcing the shared visions of the GCC countries.



Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah and Undersecretary of the Ministry Khalid Al-Ajmi during the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons.

She explained that the celebration, attended by senior officials from the Ministries of Social Affairs and Development in the GCC, along with representatives from the GCC General Secretariat, the United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), aimed to develop the Gulf Index for the Quality of Life of the Elderly and to strengthen re-

gional and international partnerships for advancing social policies.

Dr. Al-Huwailah emphasized that the elderly are a source of happiness in homes and a valuable part of a nation's history, due to which they deserve comprehensive care that ensures a safe, healthy life, preserved dignity, and active participation in the community.

## National cadres gain offshore skills

### KOC empowers women as oil strategy 2040 advances

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) places great emphasis on its female employees, recognizing their vital role in supporting the sector and working along with men to manage the country's oil resources.

According to an official statement, the number of female employees at KOC reached 1,885 Kuwaiti women and approximately 454 non-Kuwaiti women, making up 20.07 percent of the company's total workforce of about 11,649 employees in the first quarter of 2025.

Kuwaiti women hold senior positions in KOC, including one in the CEO and deputies category, two in the directors or equivalent category, and seven in the advisors category. There are 52 Kuwaiti women serving as team leaders, while 1,823 Kuwaiti women occupy roles at grade 16 and below.

In efforts to strengthen the capabilities of national cadres in offshore drilling and exploration, starting with the Nukhda and Julai'a fields, sources explained that KOC aims to expand and develop its national workforce, as these cadres are noted for their high skills and rapid, uncomplicated acqui-

sition of experience. KOC is implementing a comprehensive plan to enhance the capabilities of its workforce in exploration, drilling, and offshore production, focusing on building expertise and efficiency among national talent, as these employees are expected to lead Kuwait's oil sector in the future.

Through these initiatives, KOC seeks to boost Kuwait's hydrocarbon reserves in line with the Oil Sector Strategy 2040.

In addition, KOC has offered some of its national employees the opportunity to join the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), whose operations and projects span most continents.

KUFPEC previously accepted five KOC employees, with the assignment period not exceeding one year, which may be extended for an additional year.

KOC has also increased external training opportunities, particularly with international oil companies, benefiting approximately 3,500 employees through external development programs.

The sources stated that KOC places equal importance on developing the talents of new hires, such as by enrolling them in a training program in Seoul, South Korea.

## MoHE opens unified admission test registration from October 7

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: As part of preparations for students applying for foreign scholarships after high school, the Ministry of Higher Education announced that online registration for the Unified National Admission Test will begin on Tuesday, October 7 at 10:00am via the Kuwait University website, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a statement, the ministry explained that test sessions will be held on November 8,

November 29, and December 13.

The first two days of registration will be reserved for students who have not previously taken the test. Registration will remain open until all available seats are filled.

The ministry urged all students wishing to take the test to register promptly according to the announced dates and wished them success in their academic journey.

## 1,583 violations recorded in Sept

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Faisal Al-Ansari, Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, announced that the total number of violation reports recorded by the department in September reached 1,583.

This is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to monitor commercial markets and protect consumer rights.

Al-Ansari explained that these reports included 1,450 violations detected during field inspections by control teams, along with 133 reports based on consumer complaints received by the department.

He noted that the violations were distributed across 34 different categories, with the most frequent concentrated in five main areas:

- Violations of regulations governing the advertising of prices for goods, food, and services, totaling 228 reports;

- Violations for failure to use Arabic on signs and labels, with 176 reports;

- Violations related to the exchange and return of goods, including 172 reports due to the absence of visible Arabic signage explaining the exchange policy;

- Violations concerning commercial licenses, with 102 reports for operating without a license;

- Commercial fraud violations, with 92 reports involving deception or fraud regarding the type, origin, or composition of goods.

Al-Ansari explained that inspectors from the Control Department closed a shop specializing in the installation of wooden doors in the capital, following a consumer complaint about breach of contract terms and procedures, in addition to repeated previous violations.

Inspection teams also issued four citations against a company specializing in the sale of gifts and luxury goods in the capital. The citations came after multiple consumer complaints regarding violations of regulations governing the sale of goods and services, failure to comply with exchange and return policies, and the sale of products that breached consumer agreements.

Al-Ansari affirmed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry continues to intensify inspection campaigns and follow up on consumer complaints, stressing that any violations affecting consumer rights or breaching applicable laws and regulations will be met with immediate and decisive action.

He pointed out that these measures are part of the ministry's commitment to enhancing market transparency and protecting consumers from misleading commercial practices.

Al-Ansari urged citizens and residents to report any violations promptly via the ministry's hotline or official electronic channels.

He emphasized that the ministry conducts daily inspections of various commercial activities, noting that the goal is not only to record violations but also to improve market conditions and ensure merchants comply with regulations, thereby boosting confidence in the commercial environment and protecting consumers from deceptive or illegal practices.

Al-Ansari said the administration gives special attention to consumer complaints and handles them quickly and transparently, stressing that cooperation between consumers and the ministry is the first line of defense against illegal practices.

## PAAET urges students to confirm course registration after mergers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Deanship of Admission and Registration at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has called on college students to carefully review their schedules following the recent merger and closure of several academic departments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Deanship explained that this review is essential to ensure the smooth progress of the educational process and to prevent any scheduling conflicts resulting from course modifications made by the colleges. The merger and closure procedures were carried out in accordance with

the academic plan requirements and available capacity.

The Deanship affirmed the importance of students accessing the electronic system to thoroughly check their schedules and confirm their registration for the required courses, as failure to do so may lead to scheduling conflicts or a reduction in registered credit hours.

It noted that the colleges' guidance and counseling offices are available to support students and address any questions about schedule changes, adding that students are urged to adhere to deadlines and follow official announcements closely.

## Shuwaikh beach cleanup completed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Municipality announced that the Capital Governorate Cleaning Team completed the cleanup drive at Shuwaikh Beach immediately after the families left the site, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Municipality said the cleaning workers removed the waste left behind by visitors, stressing the importance of maintaining cleanliness at the beach to protect the environment and preserve its overall appearance.

## MoSA renews Volunteer Work Supervision Committee

By Fares Ghaleb  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi issued a decision to renew the Volunteer Work Supervision Committee, which is responsible for developing general policies to regulate volunteer work, monitoring the volunteer registry, receiving and registering applications, and reviewing and ruling on submitted appeals. It is also responsible for evaluating and classifying the performance of volunteer teams, investigating complaints filed by or against them, and preparing periodic reports on their activities to be

submitted to the Undersecretary.

The committee will be headed by the Assistant Undersecretary for Social Care and Development, and will include the Director of the Women, Childhood and Community Development Department, the Vice President and Supervisor of the same department, two representatives from the Legal Affairs Department, and representatives from the External Relations Department, the Charitable Societies and Endowments Department, and the Civil Society Organizations Department.

The decision stipulates that the committee shall meet at the invitation of its chairperson or deputy chairperson, and meetings will only be valid with a

majority of members present. Committee decisions will be made by majority vote of those present. In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote will be the deciding factor. Minutes of the meetings are to be recorded and signed by all attending members, and decisions will be documented in the beneficiaries' files.

The decision is effective from the date of issuance and remains valid for one year.

Dr. Al-Ajmi emphasized the importance of volunteer teams registering through the "Badir" website to obtain official approval to carry out their activities, adding that any volunteer group that initiates a project without registering and obtaining prior approval will face legal action.



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Photos during the visit of Assistant Foreign Minister for Saud N. Alsabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute (KDI) Ambassador Nasser Alsabeeh to Qatar.



KUNA photos

# Kuwait seeks stronger academic, training ties with GCC diplomatic institutes

DOHA, Oct 4, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Saud N. Alsabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute (KDI) Ambassador Nasser Alsabeeh affirmed on Thursday the country's eagerness to enhance academic and training collaboration with GCC diplomatic institutes.

Alsabeeh made the statement during an official visit he paid to Qatar where he held some meetings with senior officials of Qatari Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Institute and reviewed its training programs.

Both sides discussed the possibility of holding plans of joint workshops in diverse fields, he noted.

He stressed the importance of bolstering coordination channels among GCC diplomatic institutes and evolving training programs in a manner that keeps pace with regional and international developments.

He pointed out that he met with some officials at Georgetown University in Qatar and discussed means of academic collaboration and outstanding programs provided by the university in international politics.

During the meeting, they focused on organizing joint lectures and activities, and benefiting from academic and research expertise of the university.



Ministry of Finance photo

Photo during the meeting.

## Finance Ministry undersecretary meets economic reform expert

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Sulaiman Al-Munaifi received Professor Attia Waris, an independent expert on economic reform policies and external debt, as part of her official visit to Kuwait.

According to a press release issued

by the Ministry of Finance, the two sides exchanged views on several financial and economic issues, including economic and fiscal reform plans and their impact on the state's public finances.

Officials from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the meeting.

# MEW's revenues reach record KD 632.6 million in 2024/2025

Collection mechanisms attributed to increase

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Ministry of Finance's report for the period from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 revealed that the Ministry of Electricity generated revenues of KD 632.583 million during this period.**

The report highlighted an increase of KD 148.975 million compared to the previous fiscal year's revenues of KD 483.608 million.

These revenues include collections from electricity sales, electricity connection fees, installation inspection fees, as well as revenues from fresh and solid water, treated water, and water connections.

According to informed sources from the ministry, the collected revenues represent the highest in the ministry's history.

They attributed the increase to the collection mechanisms implemented by the Customer Services Sector, which offers electronic services through the ministry's website, particularly for

payment and settlement of outstanding debts, as well as coordination with the Ministry of Interior to require expatriates to settle their debts before leaving the country.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) opened a tender to connect various Ministry of Foreign Affairs sites with the National Control Center.

Four bids were accepted and will be referred to the ministry for review and technical evaluation within 30 days to select the best offer. The chosen bid will then be submitted to the State Audit Bureau for approval.

## Kuwait to host GCC, EU ministerial meet Oct 5-6


KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Assistant Foreign Minister for Gulf Cooperation Council Affairs Ambassador Najib Al-Badr chaired a high-level virtual coordination meeting on Thursday with senior officials from the foreign ministries of the GCC countries.

The meeting is to follow up on preparations for the joint ministerial meetings between the GCC and the European Union, scheduled to be held in Kuwait on October 5 and 6.

In a statement to (KUNA), Amb. Al-Badr said that the upcoming meetings will witness the

convening of the second high-level forum for dialogue and security between the two sides, in addition to the 29th joint ministerial meeting between the foreign ministers of the GCC countries and the EU.

The meetings will discuss a wide range of political, security, economic, environmental, and humanitarian issues of common interest, Al-Badr added, stressing that they represent a pivotal moment for strengthening the strategic partnership between the two sides and consolidating institutional dialogue on regional and international issues.



Ministry of Finance photo

Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Acting Finance Minister and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs with the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

## Minister Dr. Al-Mukhaizeem meets Uzbekistan Ambassador

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait's Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Acting Finance Minister and Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem, received the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Kuwait, Dr. Ayub Khan Yunusov.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance, the meeting was aimed at enhancing bilateral relations between the two friendly countries in trade and investment in sectors offer-

ing promising opportunities, and on following up the outcomes of previous official meetings.

Discussions also covered preparations for the second session of the Kuwaiti-Uzbek Joint Ministerial Committee, set to be held in Kuwait in December 2025.

Both sides exchanged views to ensure the best outcomes in areas that serve the common interests of both countries.

Several officials from the Ministry of Finance and Kuwait Investment Authority were present at the meeting.

Continued from Page 1

## King of

It is a serious mistake for some parties to portray recent events as a new wave of the 'Arab Spring'. Throughout its history, brutality has never been a principle of governance in Morocco, instead, ongoing dialogue has been the preferred path, as it always leads to constructive outcomes.

While King Mohammed VI conveys the voice of the people to officials within a constitutional monarchy that has proven its strength and stability, the young Crown Prince Hassan bin Mohammed bin Hassan speaks the language of his generation and approaches issues realistically and with courage. Hence, when he called on protesters to clearly express their demands, he was, in effect, sending a message to officials and institutions that certain practices are being questioned and must be addressed directly.

Based on this reality, Morocco is doing so well and enjoying a vibrant social democratic movement. Therefore, all members of Parliament have adopted a clear position that can be summarized as follows: What is happening now is considered a collective call to review political and institutional performance, without falling into the quagmire of squabbling, exchanging accusations, and selectively putting responsibility on other parties.

The social media incitement emanating from outside the Kingdom is very strange. Facts on the ground prove that what is circulating on social media is utterly false. The storms raised on social media quickly fade, because they contradict the facts, so the people ignore them.

The Kingdom of Morocco is rich in resources, foremost of which are the human resources capable of doing miracles in that strategic region.

Thus, the social demands seem normal to anyone familiar with Morocco's vast landscape and its constant presence in global investment forums as a promising destination. These facts make addressing urgent problems easier, while following the path set by King Mohammed VI, who is open to his people.

This is the reason why in his last Throne Speech, King Mohammed VI made it clear: "We know very well that I will not be satisfied, regardless of the level of economic development and infrastructure, if it does not contribute to improving the living conditions of citizens from all social classes and in all regions. Therefore, we have always attached special importance to promoting human development, universalizing social protection, and providing support directly to needy families."

With these words, King Mohammed VI laid down the broad guidelines for the government and Parliament to fulfill their roles faithfully. King Mohammed VI emphasized that his goal is to advance Morocco to a level that satisfies the people. The King is the voice of his own people and he is their sincere representative.

I reiterate that Moroccan democracy is mature enough to move to a new phase of performance improvement, in accordance with the instructions that King Mohammed VI conveyed to institutions, which reflect the demands of the people.

On this basis, Morocco is doing so well and it will be better in the future under the wise royal rule.

## 2 Kuwaitis

It also affirmed that safety of Kuwaiti citizens abroad is a basic priority for the department.

On Friday, the International Committee to Break the Siege of Gaza announced some Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) activists launched hunger strike, protesting against the occupation navy's interception of their boats.

In a statement, the committee said the Israeli occupation held about 470 activists aboard ships, and the occupation navy intercepted all ships totaling 42 carrying humanitarian aid to the Strip. It noted that Marinette was the last ship intercepted today by the occupation.

Meanwhile, Tunisian President Kais Saied declared on Thursday intense diplomatic efforts are being exerted for the release of all Tunisians detained by the occupation authorities.

Tunisian presidency said diplomatic action has been ongoing for days, and the state will never give up its national responsibility.

The Israeli occupation had detained over 10 Tunisian activists; three of them are journalists, while Tunisian ships are carrying 30 persons.

## Fishing for

in Kuwait Bay after a 22-year suspension came with the approval of the Environment Public Authority (EPA), PAAAFR, and the General Directorate of Coast Guard.

He revealed that fishing operations are permitted until November 30 and will be carried out under strict regulations to ensure the sustainability of marine life and the protection of marine reserves.

Both officials affirmed that the reintroduction of "meide" fishing aims to restore balance to the fish market, stabilize prices, and contribute to food security, all while adhering to environmental and regulatory standards.

## Kuwait raid

The workers informed investigators they were forced to work, confined to the residence, and subjected to mistreatment. The workers were placed in a shelter, while those involved were referred to the Public Prosecution.

A lawsuit was registered under No. 727/2025 at the Criminal Investigation Department on charges of human trafficking and facilitating visas in exchange for money. All defendants were remanded to the Central Prison for 21 days pending investigation.

The Ministry of Interior stressed that human traffick-

## Electricity maintenance

She explained that some maintenance works may require a temporary power shutdown in certain areas, as per the previously announced schedule, starting at 8:00 am for a period of four hours. She stressed that the work teams adhere to an organized schedule, which ensures the rapid completion of tasks. She added the ministry will notify customers affected by the maintenance work through the 'Sahel' application, based on data registered with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). She revealed a link will be provided through the official social media accounts of the ministry to follow the maintenance process from start to finish. She said these efforts are in line with the ongoing plan of the ministry to develop its networks and the quality of services provided.

She expressed her gratitude to the citizens and expatriates for their cooperation and understanding of the importance of such efforts.

She disclosed that the maintenance works cover the following areas: Jaber Al-Ahmad Block Six and Block Seven, Fahaeel Block One, Abu Futaira Block One, Qortuba Block One, Rumaithiya Block Three, Riqqa Block Six, Northwest Sulaibikhat Block One, Khaitan Block Nine and Farwaniya Block Six.

On the other hand, a report issued by the ministry showed that the number of its Kuwaiti employees increased to 35,683 by the end of August, compared to 34,541 at the beginning of the period from January to August 2025 -- an increase of 1,142.

The report stated that the total number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees in the ministry during the same period reached 36,467, with Kuwaitis accounting for 97.9 percent of the total workforce.

It attributed this increase to new appointments in the technical and administrative sectors over the past eight months, which were made through the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in accordance with the annual manpower needs of the ministry.

## Residents sue

The breaking of doors should have been carried out with a warrant issued by the Public Prosecution. The real estate company managing the complex on behalf of the Ministry of Finance should have negotiated with the ministry on behalf of the tenants. Also, the company should have given at least six months' notice before eviction.

## Kuwait taps rainwater to 'revive' desert ecosystem

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): In recently repeated scenes in some areas in Kuwait, barren lands have turned into green oases due to rain floods, triggering a notable change in plant coverage that reveals the favorable impact of rainwater harvesting.

On the road leading to Al-Forda Market in Sulaibiya in Kabd area, rain torrents have gathered only to give the area an exceptional beauty thanks to its green space and diverse herbs amidst drought-surrounded water swamps.

This transformation is considered to be a vivid reflection of the ability of rainwater and floods to give a new life to the environment at a time when many countries are doing their utmost to find sustainable solutions to stem desertification and water scarcity.

This marked vegetation, which, in fact, looks like a flash of life, emerged following a wave of heavy rain and flood that hit Kuwait in November 2018, thus turning its dry soil into striking green coverage.

However, this highlights the significance of necessarily capitalizing on this untapped treasure that has stupendous environmental potential by means of reviving the dry area and buttressing vegetation in a desert environment that makes up 90 percent of Kuwait's total area.

Following the 2018 rain floods, water flowed into the area to create a giant lake that has anomalously changed the characteristics of the place and contributed to the growth of herbs and plants in a scene that reflects the importance of rainwater.

The process of directing floods to more than area is deemed one of the sustainable solutions for environmental revival, particularly in desert countries like Kuwait, given that investing floodwater and distributing it among separate areas would unquestionably lead to invigorating the soil and spurring vegetation growth.

Nevertheless, due to surging summer temperature, it is inescapably essential to feed water ponds through a set of environmental and engineering methods such as establishing basins and reservoirs to collect and direct floodwater carefully with a view to backing the ecosystem and preserving rain-created vegetation.

It is considered one of the effective environmental solutions to ensure the sustainability of green areas and prevent soil dryness amid scorching summer weather by means of supplying them with excess or triple-treated water.

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Democrats refuse to budge

# US govt funding vote fails again in Senate as hopes fade for quick end to shutdown

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): Hopes for a quick end to the government shut-down faded Friday as Democrats refused to budge in a Senate vote and US President Donald Trump readied plans to unleash layoffs and cuts across the federal government.

On the third day of the shutdown, another Senate vote to advance a Republican bill that would reopen the government failed on a 54-44 tally - well short of the 60 needed to end a filibuster and pass the legislation. Meanwhile, House Speaker Mike Johnson announced that the chamber would close for legislative business next week, a move meant to force the Senate to work with the government funding bill that has been passed by House Republicans.

Following the failed vote, senators quickly headed for the exits of the Capitol, expecting no more votes over the weekend and showing few signs of any real progress towards ending the congressional standoff. Instead, both sides dug in for a prolonged shutdown fight that thrusts federal workers into more uncertainty, threatens to ripple into the broader economy and gives

the Trump administration an opportunity to reshape the federal government.

"I don't know how many times you're going to give them a chance to vote no," Senate Majority Leader John Thune said at a news conference Friday. After the vote, he said he was flying home to South Dakota for the weekend, adding, "I'll be available."

The vote showed hardening lines in the Senate. The same three members of the Democratic Caucus - Sens Catherine Cortez Masto, John Fetterman and Angus King - who voted for the funding bill previously did so again, and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky was once again the only Republican opposed.

"They thought they could bludgeon us and threaten us and scare us. It ain't working," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

Democrats are demanding that Congress extend healthcare benefits, while Republicans are refusing to commit to anything until the government is reopened. They are trying to wear Democrats down to vote for a House-passed bill that would reopen the government temporarily, mostly at current



spending levels.

Although Republicans control the White House and both chambers of Congress, the Senate's filibuster rules make it necessary for the government funding legislation to gain support from at least 60 of the 100 senators. That's given Democrats a rare opportunity to use their 47 Senate seats to hold out in exchange for policy concessions.

The party has chosen to rally on the issue of health care, believing it could be key to their path back to power in Washington.

Their primary demand is that Congress extend tax credits that were boosted during the COVID-19 pandemic for health care plans offered under marketplaces set up under the Affordable Care Act, former President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

"Everyone is about to experience dramatically increased premiums, co-pays and deductibles because of the Republican health care crisis. Everyone," warned House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries during a news conference Friday.

Democrats are running the high-risk strategy of effectively voting for a government shutdown to make their stand. Trump has vowed to make it as painful as possible for them.

The Republican president has called the government funding lapse an "unprecedented opportunity" to make vast cuts to federal agencies and potentially lay off federal workers, rather than the typical practice of furloughing them.

Trump shared a social media video Thursday night that depicted White House budget director Russ Vought as a grim reaper.

Vought has already announced that he is withholding billions of dollars for infrastructure projects in states with Democratic senators, and on Friday morning, he said he would withhold another \$2.1 billion for Chicago infrastructure projects to extend its train system to the city's South Side.

Democratic leaders have displayed no signs of budging under those threats.

"The cruelty that they might unleash on everyday Americans using the pretense of a shutdown is only going to backfire against them," Jeffries said during an interview with The Associated Press and other outlets at the Capitol Thursday evening.

Still, the shutdown, no matter how long it lasts, could have far-reaching effects on the economy. Roughly 750,000 federal employees could be furloughed, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and they could lose out on \$400 million in daily wages.

## Lawsuit seeks to stop Trump's \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas

# Federal appeals court rules WH can't end birthright citizenship

BOSTON, Oct 4, (AP): A federal appeals court in Boston ruled on Friday that the Trump administration cannot withhold citizenship from children born to people in the country illegally or temporarily, adding to the mounting legal setbacks for the president's birthright order.

A three-judge panel of the 1st US Circuit Court of Appeals became the fifth federal court since June to either issue or uphold orders blocking the president's birthright order. The court concluded that the plaintiffs are likely to succeed on their claims that the children described in the order are entitled to birthright citizenship under the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The panel upheld lower courts' preliminary injunctions, which blocked the birthright order while lawsuits challenging it moved ahead. The order, signed the day the president took office in January, would halt automatic citizenship for babies born to people in the US illegally or temporarily.

"The 'lessons of history' thus give us every reason to be wary of now blessing this most recent effort to break with our established tradition of recognizing birthright citizenship and to make citizenship depend on the actions of one's parents rather than - in all but the rarest of circumstances - the simple fact of being born in the United States," the court wrote.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, whose state was one of nearly



20 that were part of the lawsuit challenging the order, welcomed the ruling.

"The First Circuit reaffirmed what we already knew to be true: The President's attack on birthright citizenship flagrantly defies the Fourteenth Amendment of the US Constitution and a nationwide injunction is the only reasonable way to protect against its catastrophic implications," Bonta said in a statement. "We are glad that the courts have continued to protect Americans' fundamental rights."

A second appeals court ruling on

Friday also found in favor of several organizations that challenged the birthright citizenship order. The plaintiffs, including New Hampshire Indonesian Community Support and League of United Latin American Citizens, were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The federal appeals court today reinforced that this executive order is a flagrant violation of the US Constitution - and we agree," said SangYeob Kim, senior staff attorney at the ACLU of New Hampshire. "Our Constitution is clear: no politician can decide who

among those born in this country is worthy of citizenship."

**Also:**

**SEATTLE:** In what appears to be the first major challenge to the new \$100,000 fee required for H-1B visa applications, a coalition of health care providers, religious groups, university professors and others filed a federal lawsuit Friday to stop the plan, saying it has "thrown employers, workers and federal agencies into chaos."

President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on Sept. 19 requiring the new fee, saying the H-1B visa program "has been deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers with lower-paid, lower-skilled labor." The changes were slated to go into effect in 36 hours, which caused panic for employers, who instructed their workers to return to the U.S. immediately.

The lawsuit, filed in US District Court in San Francisco, said the H-1B program is a critical pathway to hiring healthcare workers and educators. It drives innovation and economic growth in the U.S., and allows employers to fill jobs in specialized fields, the lawsuit said.

"Without relief, hospitals will lose medical staff, churches will lose pastors, classrooms will lose teachers, and industries across the country risk losing key innovators," Democracy Forward Foundation and Justice Action Center said in a press release.

## Protests escalate

# Portland braces for federal troops

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct 4, (AP): Five years after protests roiled Portland, Oregon, the city known for its history of civil disobedience is again at the center of a political maelstrom as it braces for the arrival of federal troops being deployed by US President Donald Trump.

Months of demonstrations outside Portland's immigration detention facility have escalated since Trump said last week he was sending federal troops to the city, which he described as "War ravaged." Police made a few arrests late Thursday after fights broke out in the crowd, including of conservative influencer Nick Sortor on a disorderly conduct charge.

On Friday, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said the agency would send additional federal agents and the Justice Department was launching a civil rights investigation into the circumstances surrounding Sortor's arrest, and whether the Portland Police Bureau engages in viewpoint discrimination.

City leaders adamantly deny any such discrimination and say they don't need the National Guard to help handle the single block outside the ICE facility where the protests have occurred.

"Last night, the arrests that we made, we made based upon probable cause, not based upon individuals," Police Chief Bob Day told a



news conference Friday. "There is no political bias associated with our enforcement."

Meanwhile, a federal judge heard arguments - but did not immediately rule - on whether to temporarily block Trump's call-up of 200 Oregon National Guard members, which the administration said is needed to protect the ICE facility and other federal buildings.

The escalation of federal law enforcement in Portland, population 636,000 and Oregon's largest city, follows similar crackdowns to combat crime in other cities, including Chicago, Baltimore and Memphis.



Protesters pour into the streets outside the parliament building in Tbilisi, Georgia, on Nov. 29, 2024. (AP)

# Russia-like crackdown in Georgia targeting protesters, rights activists and media

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 4, (AP): Almost every day for nearly a year, Gota Chanturia has joined rallies at Georgia's parliament against the government and its increasingly repressive policies. He's done this despite mass arrests and police violence against demonstrators.

And the civics teacher keeps marching even though he's racked up an astonishing \$102,000 in fines from the protests. That's about 10 times what the average Georgian earns in a year.

"We've said that we will be here until the end, and we're still here," Chanturia told The Associated Press as he participated in yet another demonstration this week in the capital of Tbilisi.

The protests began when the government halted talks about joining the European Union. That move came af-

ter the longtime ruling party Georgian Dream won an election that the opposition alleged was rigged.

The rallies, big and small, continue despite a multipronged crackdown by the government through laws that target demonstrators, rights groups, non-governmental organizations and independent media.

More protests are planned for this weekend to coincide with local elections.

The repression in the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million has drawn comparisons to Georgia's powerful neighbor and former imperial ruler Russia, where President Vladimir Putin has stifled dissent. Georgian Dream has been accused of steering the country into Moscow's orbit of influence.

Human Rights Watch says Georgia

is suffering a "rights crisis." The clampdown is unprecedented in the country's independent history and is escalating steadily, said Giorgi Gogia, the group's Europe and Central Asia associate director.

But Georgia's vibrant civil society is pushing back, and it has become a question of "who would blink first," Gogia said. If it's the public and civil society, they could wake up in an authoritarian country, "which would be a huge transformation from what Georgia used to be up until now," he added.

Ketuna Kerashvili joined a rally in rainy Tbilisi on Wednesday despite the fact that her 30-year-old brother Irakli was arrested in December, convicted of disrupting public order, and sentenced to two years in prison. He had rejected the charges as unfounded.

# Dozens hurt in 'savage' Russian drone strike on Ukrainian railway station

KYIV, Oct 4, (AP): Dozens were injured in a "savage" Russian drone strike Saturday on a Ukrainian railway station, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as Moscow stepped up strikes on Ukraine's rail and power grids ahead of the fourth winter since its all-out invasion.

At least 30 people sustained injuries, Zelenskyy said of the attack on Shostka, a city northeast of Kyiv that lies some 70 kilometers from the Russian border.

"All emergency services are already on the scene and have begun helping people. All information about the injured is being established," he said in a post on X.

Russia struck two passenger trains in quick succession, first targeting a local service and then one bound for Kyiv, said Oleksiy Kuleba, Ukraine's deputy prime minister and reconstruction minister.

"Medical teams have already transported the injured to hospitals and are providing necessary assistance. Others (who were at the site) are in shelters overseen by rescuers," Kuleba wrote on Telegram on Saturday. He said an air raid alert was ongoing at the station.

Both Zelenskyy and local Gov. Oleh Hryhorov posted what they said were



photos from the scene showing a passenger carriage on fire.

Moscow has recently stepped up airstrikes on Ukraine's railway network, which is essential for military transport, hitting it almost every day over the past two months. As in previous years since the full-scale invasion on Feb 24, 2022, the Kremlin has also ramped up attacks on Ukraine's power grid, in what Kyiv calls an attempt to weaponize the approaching winter by denying civilians heat, light and running water.

## Babiš to stage electoral comeback

# Czech Republic support for Ukraine at stake

PRAGUE, Oct 4, (AP): Czechs cast ballots on Saturday in the second and final day of a parliamentary election that could put the country on a course away from supporting Ukraine and toward Hungary and Slovakia, which have taken a pro-Russian path.

Billionaire Andrej Babiš is predicted to be the latest populist leader in Central Europe to stage an electoral comeback. Opinion polls favor Babis to beat a pro-Western coalition led by Prime Minister Petr Fiala that defeated him in the 2021 vote.

With the victory, Babis would join the ranks of Prime Ministers Viktor Orbán of Hungary and Robert Fico of Slovakia, whose countries have refused to provide military aid to Ukraine, continue to import Russian oil and oppose European Union sanctions on Russia.

The Czech Republic has been a staunch supporter of Ukraine since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. The country has donated arms including heavy weapons to the Ukrainian armed forces and is behind



People wait in line at a polling station for a general election at a polling station in Brno, Czech Republic on Oct 3. (AP)

an initiative that acquires artillery shells Ukraine badly needs from countries outside the EU.

Babiš has questioned such support and also refused to fully endorse a NATO commitment to significantly increase defense spending.

He joined forces with his friend Orbán last year to create a new alliance in the European Parliament, the "Patriots for Europe," to represent hard-right groups, a significant shift from the liberal Renew group that Babiš previously belonged to.

## Europe

**1 killed in Ireland as storm hits Europe:** London's famed Royal Parks shut their gates Saturday and road, rail and sea travel faced major disruption as a storm walloped the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia with heavy rain and high winds.

More than 200,000 properties in Ireland and Northern Ireland were left without power, and a man died in Letterkenny, northwest Ireland, on Friday in what police called a weather-related incident, without giving details.

Britain's Met Office weather agency said a gust of 96 mph (154 kph) was recorded Friday on the island of Tiree off Scotland's west coast.

In Scotland, many ferry services were suspended and roads and railway lines blocked by fallen trees.

Fraser Wilson of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks said engineers were working to restore power to about 62,000 customers.

We expect because of the extent of damage to the network and conditions we are still going to be facing today that this will take some time," he told the BBC. "This storm is not over by any means." (AP)

**Germany's Munich Airport reopens:** Germany's Munich Airport reopened Saturday morning after authorities shut it down the night before for the second time in less than 24 hours after more suspected drone sightings, the airport said in a statement.

The closures are the latest after mysterious drone overflights in the airspace of European Union member countries.

The airport, one of Germany's largest, reopened gradually beginning at 7 a.m. local time (0500 GMT) Saturday. Planes typically begin taking off at 5 a.m.

At least 6,500 passengers were impacted by the overnight closure Friday into Saturday, the airport said.

The previous closure, Thursday night into Friday, affected almost 3,000 passengers. (AP)



Asia

**Australian says he was improperly arrested:** An Australian man arrested in Thailand on a defamation charge that he says originated with Malaysia’s government said Thursday he is a victim of transnational repression, in which Southeast Asia countries cooperate in seizing dissidents or critics of third countries.

Independent scholar and writer **Murray Hunter**, 66, told The Associated Press that he believes he was improperly arrested by Thai police Monday for articles he had written about Malaysia in 2024 on his online Substack newsletter, and he questioned how his case falls under Thai jurisdiction.

Concerns about cross-border repression have been documented by rights groups and U.N. rights experts, who in a July report expressed “profound concern regarding the reported rise in transnational repression ... to deter, silence or punish dissent, criticism or human rights advocacy.”

The report to the UN Human Rights Council said suspected human rights violations also included serious claims of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances implicating Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, allegations that have been denied by all those countries.

Hunter, who lives in southern Thailand, was arrested at Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi Airport as he was about to board a flight to Hong Kong. He was jailed overnight and then released on 20,000 baht (\$620) bail, pending a Nov 17 court appearance. (AP)



Hunter

**Thai court sentences gunman to life:** A court in Bangkok on Friday sentenced a Thai man who shot and killed an opposition politician from Cambodia to life in prison. The January shooting in Thailand’s capital was

widely seen as a political assassination but who might have ordered the killing was not revealed in the trial.

Lim Kimya, a former lawmaker from the dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party, was fatally shot on Jan. 7 in broad daylight near Bangkok’s Khaosan Road, a neighborhood popular with backpacking tourists.

The gunman, who fled the scene and made his way across the border to Cambodia, was identified as Ekkalak Pheanoi. He was arrested and deported from Cambodia, and later confessed, according to authorities.

Ekkalak told authorities that he was hired to carry out the shooting, but the trial never established ultimate responsibility for the killing.

The Bangkok Criminal Court formally sentenced Ekkalak to death for the killing but his sentence was immediately reduced to life imprisonment because he had confessed and cooperated with the authorities. (AP)

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**Crews pull more bodies from rubble in Indonesia:** The death toll from a school collapse in Indonesia rose to 14 on Friday after recovery crews pulled multiple bodies from beneath the rubble. Dozens of students remain unaccounted for and the death toll is expected to rise.

Rescuers initially searched by hand for survivors after the building caved in Monday. But with no more signs of life detected by Thursday they turned to heavy excavators equipped with jackhammers to help them progress more rapidly.

By Friday evening, they had found nine bodies, bringing the confirmed death toll to 14, with nearly 50 students still unaccounted for.

The structure fell on top of hundreds of people on Monday in a prayer hall at the century-old al Khoziny Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo on the eastern side of Indonesia’s Java island.

Two of the bodies found Friday were in the prayer hall area and one was found closer to an exit as if he had been attempting to escape, according to Suharyanto, the head of Indonesia’s National Disaster Mitigation Agency, who goes by one name as is common in Indonesia. (AP)

China activates emergency flood response as Typhoon Matmo brings heavy rainfall

BEIJING, Oct 4, (Agencies): China’s Ministry of Water Resources on Saturday activated a Level-IV emergency flood control response in four provincial-level regions, as Typhoon Matmo is forecast to bring heavy rainfall.

From Oct 4 to 7, Matmo -- the 21st named storm of the 2025 Pacific typhoon season -- will bring heavy rain across south and southwest China, particularly in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan and Yunnan. During the period, the water levels of multiple local rivers are expected to exceed warning marks.

Bracing for possible flooding, the ministry has urged local water conservancy authorities to monitor the typhoon’s path and rainfall development closely, and to issue warnings to the public in a timely manner.

While stepping up their patrol and protection of levees, authorities should also focus on responding to potential mountain torrents, river flooding and urban waterlogging to ensure the safety of lives and property, the ministry said. To date, it has dispatched three guiding teams to Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan.

China has a four-tier emergency response system, with Level I being the most severe response. Enditem



This grab from video shows buildings and trees being blown during storm in Dinapigue, Isabela province, Philippines on Oct 3. (AP)

Also:

**HANOI:** Typhoon Bualoi and ensuing floods and landslides have killed 51 people, left 14 others missing and injured 164 across northern and central Vietnam, with preliminary economic losses estimated at nearly 15.9 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 608 million U.S. dollars), the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management Authority said in a report on Friday.

The typhoon damaged or sub-

merged more than 238,000 houses, inundated nearly 89,000 hectares of rice and other crops, and caused losses to over 17,000 hectares of aquaculture and nearly 50,300 hectares of forests.

The typhoon also severely damaged infrastructure, with over 8,800 electricity poles downed and nearly 468,500 households still without power, while nearly 1,500 schools were damaged, according to the report.

‘I made history for the LDP’

Japan’s ruling party elects Takaichi as new leader, likely to become first female PM

TOKYO, Oct 4, (AP): Japan’s governing party on Saturday elected former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country’s first female prime minister.

In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the 64-year-old Takaichi makes history as the first female leader of Japan’s long-governing conservative Liberal Democratic Party. She is one of the most conservative members of the male-dominated party.

An admirer of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi is a protegee of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ‘s ultra-conservative vision and a regular at the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of Japan’s wartime militarism, which could complicate Tokyo’s relations with its Asian neighbors.

Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in a vote by the LDP on Saturday.

Takaichi replaces Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the party hopes to regain public support and stay in power after major election losses.

She is likely to be Japan’s next prime minister because the party remains by far the largest in the lower house, which determines the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered.

As the runoff results were announced, Takaichi stood up and bowed to fellow party members.

“I made history for the LDP,” said Takaichi, thanking those who supported and voted for her. “Right now, instead of savoring joy, I’m overwhelmed by what’s ahead, a mountain of challenges that I have to tackle with help from all of you.”

“We must make our party one that is more energetic and cheerful so that we can change the people’s worries into hope,” Takaichi added, calling for cooperation from LDP lawmakers. “Otherwise, we can’t rebuild our party.”

The LDP, whose consecutive losses in parliamentary elections in the past year have left it in the minority in both houses, needs its new leader to quickly bring



Sanae Takaichi, the newly-elected leader of Japan’s ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), attends a press conference after the LDP presidential election in Tokyo on Oct 4. (AP)

back voter confidence and stability and to address challenges in and outside Japan. Takaichi will also need cooperation from key opposition groups to implement her party’s policies.

Ishiba, who achieved a 15% tariff deal with Washington and put Japan’s ties with South Korea and other Asian countries on track during his one-year stint, said “I hope the LDP will band together under new (party) president Takaichi to serve

for the country and the people, as well as the world and for the new era.”

Ishiba, a centrist known as archrival of Abe, was virtually forced into resigning by ultra-conservative wings in the party.

Five candidates - two currently serving and three former ministers - vied for the LDP presidency.

Saturday’s vote only involved 295 LDP parliamentarians and about 1 million dues-paying members. It only reflected 1% of the Japanese public.

A parliamentary vote is expected in mid-October. The LDP, which has been criticized by opposition leaders for creating a prolonged political vacuum, needs to hurry because the winner will soon face a diplomatic test: a possible summit with US President Donald Trump, who could demand that Japan increase its defense spending. A meeting is reportedly being planned for late October. Trump will travel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting Oct 31.

The LDP’s choice of Takaichi, instead of the more centrist-to-liberal Koizumi, apparently underscores the party’s hope to win back conservative voters who supported emerging far-right groups such as Sanseito in the July parliamentary election.

But the LDP also needs help from the opposition, which it has long neglected. The party will likely look to expand its current coalition with the moderate centrist Komeito with at least one of the key opposition parties, which are more centrist.

Takaichi like other candidates called herself a “moderate conservative” during the run-up to the election to show their willingness to work with the opposition and stayed away from stressing her opposition to liberal social issues or anti-China policies.

She supports bigger fiscal spending for growth, a stronger military and cyber-security, as well as tougher regulations on increasing foreign tourists and laborers. She was criticized for citing unconfirmed reports to slam foreigners for kicking deer in Nara, her hometown, and saying many foreign law offenders escaped indictments due to a shortage of translators.

Subcontinent

**Cyclone Shakti intensifies in India:** Authorities in the western Indian states of Gujarat and Maharashtra sounded an alert as Cyclone Shakti intensified into a severe cyclonic storm Saturday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the cyclone is likely to move west-southwestwards and reach the northwest and adjoining west-central Arabian Sea by Sunday. India’s prime minister is **Narendra Modi**. Authorities in Maharashtra have sounded an alert for Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg. Accordingly, the instructions for preparation in response to Cyclone Shakti have been issued.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall in the interior regions of Maharashtra, particularly East Vidarbha and parts of Marathwada, has been predicted.

Officials say low-lying areas of North Konkan may face flooding due to intense cloud formation and moisture infiltration.

The fishermen have been advised not to venture into the Northwest Arabian Sea, adjoining areas of the north-east Arabian Sea, the central Arabian Sea and along and off Gujarat-north Maharashtra coasts until Tuesday. (Xinhua)



Modi

**North India blast kills 2 student:** At least two students died and around 10 were injured when a blast occurred in an underground septic tank in India’s northern state of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, confirmed a local police officer over the phone.

The incident happened at a coaching center in the state’s Farrukhabad district, in an area falling under the Kadri Gate police station. Students were taking coaching classes when the blast occurred.

According to the police, the blast occurred due to an

excess concentration of methane gas inside the tank. The impact of the blast was such that its sound was heard at a distance of 1 km from the coaching center. Several houses and vehicles parked near the blast site were badly damaged, said the police. (Xinhua)

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**7 terrorists killed in Pakistan:** Seven terrorists were killed during an operation of security forces in Pakistan’s southwest Balochistan province, the military said on Friday.

The operation was conducted in Sherani 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.

Security forces effectively engaged the terrorists at their location, resulting in the killing of the terrorists, said the ISPR, adding that a huge cache of weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the terrorists’ hideout.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area, said the statement.

Sanitization operation is being carried out in the area to eliminate the presence of terrorists from the area, it added.

The military said that the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country. (Xinhua)

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**Afghanistan deadly clash kills 5:** A deadly clash between two families in eastern Afghanistan’s Kapisa province claimed five lives, local media outlet TOLONews reported late Friday.

The violent incident took place in Dara Daram region of Tagab district on Friday afternoon, TOLONews cited Abdul Fatah Fayeez, the provincial police spokesman, as saying.

The conflict stemmed from longstanding family hostility, the official said, without providing further details.

Family feuds that often escalate into bloodshed remain a persistent problem in Afghanistan, especially in remote and mountainous areas, where long-standing rivalries and land disputes have claimed numerous lives over the years. (Xinhua)

Maldives police arrest eight during opp’n party protest

MALE, Maldives, Oct 4, (AP): Police in Maldives arrested eight people during an overnight protest Friday accusing the government of corruption and curtailment of basic freedoms.

The protesters violated conditions agreed upon before the march, used unauthorized roads and threw rocks and water bottles, the Maldives Police Service said in a post on social media platform X.

The opposition Maldivian Democratic Party issued a statement condemning police for using pepper spray and riot shields to stop the march and called on the government of President Mohamed Muizzu to free all the protesters unconditionally.

The MDP organized the demonstration to demand the government reverse constitutional changes narrowing fundamental rights and expanding the president’s powers. The party also seeks universal public health care.

Protesters called for a stop to restrictions on the use of decentralized power by island councils, withdrawal of a new law enabling fines and suspension or cancellation of media licenses and mismanagement of state enterprises.



Opposition supporters wave Maldivian national flags during an anti-government protest in Male, Maldives on Oct 3. (AP)

US escalates criticism of Colombia’s prez at UN, calls for action against drug trafficking

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 4, (AP): The United States accused Colombia’s president on Friday of undermining progress to lasting peace and urged its government to make combating violence and drug trafficking by “narco-terrorist groups” a priority.

US Ambassador Mike Waltz told a UN Security Council meeting that President Gustavo Petro’s policies in Colombia and around the world “are frankly irresponsible failures” that have led the country to greater instability and violence.

Relations between the United States and Colombia reached a new low last week after Petro, a leftist, participated in a pro-Palestinian protest during the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly. The US State Department revoked Petro’s visa after the protest.

Petro has angered senior US officials by denying American extradition requests as well as criticizing the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown and its efforts to combat drug trafficking in neighboring Ven-



Colombian President Gustavo Petro holds up a portrait given to him by a supporter during a rally in Ibague, Colombia on Oct 3. (AP)

ezuela.

The Security Council meeting took place as the Trump administration announced its fourth deadly strike in the Caribbean on boats it says were traf-

ficking narcotics. Petro accused the US of committing “murder” and said there were no “narco-terrorists” on the boats just “poor Caribbean youth.”

Waltz strongly disagreed.

cumbent Lazarus Chakwera to return to office. (AP)

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**Floods kill 19 in South Sudan:** Widespread flooding caused by heavy rains in South Sudan has killed 19 people and affected an estimated 639,225 others across 26 counties in six states, a United Nations (UN) humanitarian agency said on Friday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said nearly 175,000 people are displaced, sheltering on higher ground in 16 counties.

“Health risks are rising, with increasing cases of malaria, respiratory infections, and diarrhea,” OCHA said in its latest humanitarian report released in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.(Xinhua)

Africa

**Mutharika sworn in as Malawi president:** Peter Mutharika was sworn in as Malawi’s president Saturday after a political comeback at the age of 85 to win last month’s election.

Thousands gathered at Kamuzu Stadium in the commercial capital, Blantyre, for Mutharika’s inauguration. He previously served as president of the southern African nation from 2014 to 2020.

He lost office in 2020, after a 2019 election he won was nullified by a court because of widespread irregularities and ordered to be rerun the following year. He won a Sept. 16 election with 56% of the vote compared with 33% for in-

10 Lat-Am countries condemn US incursion near Venezuelan shores

CARACAS, Oct 4, (Agencies): Latin American regional bloc of 10 member states on Friday condemned “the recent illegal incursion of US combat aircraft” detected near the Venezuelan coast.

The incursion, detected only 75 km off the coast of Venezuela on Thursday, has drawn criticism from Venezuela.

“This act constitutes a serious provocation that undermines national sovereignty and represents a direct violation of international law, putting at risk the peace and stability of the entire region,” the bloc, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-People’s Trade Treaty, said in a statement.

These maneuvers of military harassment violate the fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence between states and seek to generate tension, fear and destabilization in Latin America and the Caribbean, it said.

The Alliance warned that “these types of actions not only affect a member State, but also compromise civil and commercial air safety in the Caribbean, creating unacceptable risks for the peoples of the region.”

On Friday, Venezuela complained to the United Nations regarding the US



US Defense Secretary Pete Heggseth speaks to a gathering of top US military commanders at Marine Corps Base Quantico on Sept 30, in Quantico, Va. (AP)

incursion.

Also on Friday, US forces killed four people in an attack on a boat off the coast of Venezuela that was allegedly trafficking drugs, BBC news reported, noting that Friday’s attack is the fourth by the United States in a month.

“The strike was conducted in international waters just off the coast of Venezuela while the vessel was transporting substantial amounts of

narcotics -- headed to America to poison our people,” US Defense Secretary Pete Heggseth wrote in a post on X.

US media reported US President Donald Trump notified Congress on Thursday that his administration has determined that members of drug cartels are “unlawful combatants” with which the United States is engaged in “non-international armed conflict.”



Kuwait crude oil down to \$65.80 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti crude oil price fell 59 cents during Friday's trading down to USD 65.80 per barrel (pb), compared with USD 66.39 pb a day earlier, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Saturday. Brent futures went up by 42 cents to USD 64.53 pb and West Texas Intermediate rose by 40 cents to USD 60.88 pb.

Other Voices

KPC in search of funds for its \$66B future investment plans

By Kamel Al-Harami  
Independent Oil Analyst

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) is seeking funds for future expansion and development in various hydrocarbon projects, including increasing crude oil production capacity, refining, and petrochemical projects. The goal is to ultimately reach production volumes of 3 million to 3.5 million barrels per day, and eventually 4 million barrels per day, which is a long-term process from its current production of 3.6 million barrels per day.



Kamel Al-Harami

One way involves leasing or renting its facilities on a long-term basis instead of selling assets to generate cash. However, KPC faces challenges in renting or entering joint ventures with international oil companies in its Kuwaiti refineries. Alternatively, KPC could consider selling parts of its non-core businesses, such as its marine agency (Minatank) or its aviation fuel services at Kuwait airport.

There are several other options beyond leasing its maximum pipeline capacity of about 140 kilometers, which includes crude oil, petroleum products, and gas pipelines.

Why doesn't the KPC board take a bold decision to allow private or foreign participation in our oil industry, and gain more advanced technical know-how directly from the lion's mouth? Why do we continue with only bits and pieces of foreign partnerships instead of fully opening up to generate the necessary cash and upgrade our facilities?

KPC and we no longer have the capacity or experience to handle the upgrading of our oil infrastructure. On top of that, we retire experienced staff early, after about 30 years of service, only to see them recruited by operating oil companies in Kuwait.

Where is the harm or disadvantage in inviting foreign companies to operate Kuwait's oil facilities? Why don't we face reality? Why does the KPC board always seek government approval and hesitate to campaign for foreign operators to bring their expertise, like other Gulf countries, from Iraq and Iran down through the Arabian Gulf?

There is no harm in entering joint operations with reliable foreign oil companies. Just look around at our neighboring oil-producing countries; all of them have foreign operators working along with them.

Why wait another three to four years, or even longer, to develop our oil facilities? Why doesn't KPC cooperate fully with foreign oil companies that have global experience in almost every field?

We will save time and accelerate the development of our oil industry with greater efficiency, updated technology, and advanced know-how. This is how we generate the needed cash in a shorter period.

There is no substitute for partnering with experienced oil companies that can deliver results more efficiently and quickly.

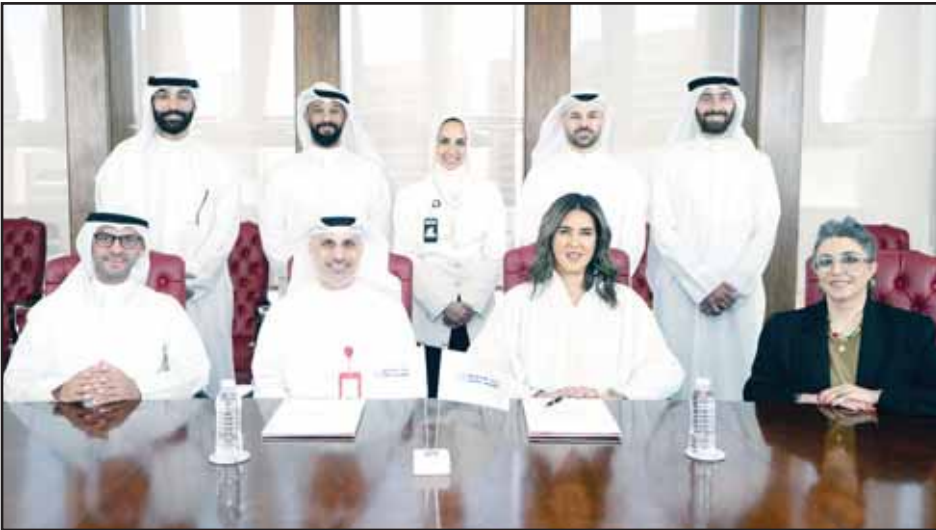
KPC needs cash, and the easiest way to generate it is by privatizing and selling its non-core businesses. Local investors are fully prepared, waiting for KPC's announcement with cash ready.

It is time to advance our oil industry and stop lagging behind our neighboring oil countries. The KPC board must take decisive action now.

Email: [naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com)



Rana Al-Nibari and Bader Al-Ali exchange a partnership agreement.



A group photo of officials from both sides after signing the agreement.

To train and prepare employees as part of its transition to a Sharia-compliant bank

Gulf Bank signs partnership agreement with the IBS

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Following the preliminary approval granted by the Central Bank of Kuwait, Gulf Bank has announced the signing of a strategic partnership with the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS) to provide specialized training programs, reinforcing the Bank's ongoing efforts to transition into a Sharia-compliant institution.

The agreement was formally signed by Mr. Bader Al-Ali, General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, and Mrs. Rana Al-Nibari, Director General of the Institute of Banking Studies. The signing took place in the presence of senior representatives from both institutions, underscoring the importance of this strategic collaboration. From Gulf Bank, Mr. Hamed Al-Tamimi, Assistant General Manager of Human Resources, attended the ceremony and reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to investing in the development of its human capital. Representing the Institute of Banking Studies, the event was also attended by Eng. Suha Isaac Ameen, Head of Training Department and Acting Head of the Academic Certificates and Scholarships Department, and Mr. Bassam Alshamali, Head of Operations Department and Acting Head of Business Development and Quality Control, both of whom highlighted the Institute's role in delivering specialized training programs that meet the evolving needs of the banking sector.

The partnership aims to implement a comprehensive training program designed to equip Gulf Bank employees with a strong foundation in the principles of Islamic banking, with particular emphasis on the key distinctions between conventional and Sharia-compliant banking services.

Following the signing, Mr. Bader Al-Ali stated:

- **Bader Al-Ali:** The partnership marks a significant milestone in Gulf Bank's transition to Islamic banking.
- **Nada Razzouqi:** We are pleased to partner with the Institute of Banking Studies to achieve this important milestone.
- **Rana Al-Nibari:** We are committed to delivering specialized training programs tailored to Gulf Bank's needs during this critical stage.

"Our collaboration with the Institute of Banking Studies represents a significant milestone in Gulf Bank's transition toward Islamic banking. This partnership underscores our commitment to equipping our employees with the knowledge and capabilities necessary to excel in a fully integrated, Sharia-compliant financial environment."

He further emphasized the Bank's unwavering commitment to developing its human capital through strategic partnerships with leading local and international institutions, aimed at delivering pioneering training programs.

This approach, he noted, is fully aligned with Gulf Bank's vision of investing in its people as the cornerstone of the Bank's long-term growth and sustained success.

Acting General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, Mrs. Nada Razzouqi, stated:

"We are pleased to collaborate with the Institute of Banking Studies to achieve this important milestone, as part of our preparations for Gulf Bank's transition

into a Sharia-compliant institution."

She added: "We are proud that Gulf Bank is one of the leading banks that generously invests in human capital to enhance the competencies of its employees, considering them the main driver for achieving its strategic goals. This is done by equipping them with the latest expertise and skills necessary to keep pace with the major developments taking place in the banking industry."

For her part, Ms. Rana Al-Nibari emphasized the importance of such partnerships in strengthening Kuwait's banking sector and facilitating the transition toward practices more closely aligned with Sharia principles. She affirmed that the Institute will provide tailored training programs specifically designed to address Gulf Bank's requirements during this critical phase of transformation.

She added:

"This collaboration with IBS represents a key milestone in Gulf Bank's transformation journey and underscores its commitment to achieving operational efficiency, full regulatory compliance, and meeting the requirements for becoming a Sharia-compliant bank."

It is worth noting that Gulf Bank received preliminary approval from the Central Bank of Kuwait on August 18, 2025, to proceed with its transition to a Sharia-compliant bank. This approval is based on Law No. (32) of 1968 concerning currency, the Central Bank of Kuwait, and the regulation of the banking profession and its amendments, as well as on the feasibility study conducted by a specialized global consultancy firm, in addition to the legal and technical requirements submitted to the Central Bank of Kuwait.

SRC rated A1/A/A+

KIB Group appointed Joint Lead Manager in \$2.5 bln SRC Sukuk

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) Group, through its investment arm KIB Invest, announced its appointment as Joint Lead Manager (JLM) in the successful issuance of a USD 2.5 billion government-guaranteed dual-tranche Sukuk by the Saudi Real Estate Refinance Company (SRC).

This landmark issuance is considered one of the largest and most significant sukuk offerings in the region, as it is directly guaranteed by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the Ministry of Finance, providing the highest levels of credibility and security for global investors.

The Saudi Real Estate Refinance Company, fully owned by the Saudi Public Investment Fund, plays a key role in achieving the objectives of the Housing Program under Saudi Vision 2030, which aims to increase the homeownership rate among Saudi citizens. The company supports this goal by providing liquidity to lenders, enabling them to offer affordable housing finance to individuals, while working closely with partners to strengthen the housing ecosystem in the Kingdom.

Commenting on the achievement, Ma'ab Mohammed Qassem, General Manager of International Banking and Financial Institutions at KIB, stated: "At KIB Group, we are proud to have been entrusted with a key role in this strategic transaction, which marks a new milestone in the realm of sovereign-backed issuances across the GCC. Being recognized among the leading institutions in the region is a clear testament to our growing expertise and capabilities in the capital markets space."

She added: "This achievement reaffirms KIB Group's commitment to expanding its presence, building strong partnerships, strengthening client relationships, and enhancing Kuwait's position in global capital markets. This new Sukuk issuance not only highlights the continued growth and attractiveness of the sukuk market in the GCC countries, but also reinforces KIB Group's position as a trusted financial partner capable of arranging landmark international transactions that contribute to the financial and economic development of the region."

From his side, Jamal Hamad Al Barak,

CEO of KIB Invest, said: "We are pleased to participate as Joint Lead Manager in this issuance, which was structured across two tranches with maturities of three and 10 years, attracting exceptional global demand that generated an orderbook exceeding USD 13.5 billion – more than 5.4 times oversubscribed. The transaction's strong momentum during the book-building process reflected the robust contribution of KIB Invest, which added significant value and supported its ultimate success. This milestone also highlights the company's role among the world's leading Sukuk arrangers, working alongside a consortium of premier regional and international institutions."

Al-Barak added: "With participation exceeding 65% from Europe and Asia, the strong investor appetite for these Sukuk underscores the confidence of international markets in GCC issuances and in the joint lead managers who led this transaction."

The Saudi Real Estate Refinance Company, rated A1 (Stable) by Moody's, A (Stable) by S&P, and A+ (Stable) by Fitch, worked with some of the world's leading banks to arrange the deal. KIB Invest was selected alongside other major international financial institutions to help manage and distribute the Sukuk. HSBC and J.P. Morgan were mandated as Joint Global Coordinators, with DBS Bank, KFH Capital, Mizuho International, Standard Chartered Bank, Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, and KIB Invest serving as Joint Lead Managers and Bookrunners.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait, KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.



Ma'ab Qassem



Jamal Al Barak

Easy access to SELECT card via Weyay App for student users

Weyay Bank signs partnership agreement with talabat to offer SELECT clients a 30% cashback

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Weyay Bank, the first digital bank in Kuwait, announces a new partnership with talabat, the leading on-demand delivery platform in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), to offer a unique benefit to its SELECT cardholders. This collaboration aims to enhance the digital lifestyle of Weyay's student customers and give them added value for their daily use of the talabat app.

This announcement comes within the framework of Weyay Bank's strategy to form partnerships with major brands that align with the interests and aspirations of its customers, specifically student allowance customers. This partnership allows SELECT customers to benefit from an exclusive 30% cashback on all their purchases through the talabat app, making it easier for them to enjoy their favorite meals or order their daily needs at reduced prices.

This partnership goes beyond offering cashback and exclusive offers to Weyay Bank customers as the Bank believes in the importance of helping its customers manage their finances smartly. This offer empowers SELECT cardholders to enjoy spending on their favorite meals and treats through the talabat app, while also saving money effortlessly. With smart features like Hide Balance and Lock Pot in the Weyay app, managing expenses becomes both fun and financially savvy.

Student allowance customers can easily get a SELECT card through the Weyay app by simply transferring their student allowance to their Weyay Bank account within minutes via the Bank's app. This card allows them to benefit from a wide range of exclusive



Weyay x talabat signing ceremony.

offers with cashback of up to 40% and discounts on a variety of brands in various categories.

In her comment on this partnership, Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank, said: "Our partnership with talabat aligns with our vision to deliver a seamless digital banking experience that goes beyond traditional financial

services. We recognize the important role talabat plays in our student customers' daily lives, and that is why we are committed to offering real value that helps them manage their spending smartly and efficiently."

For his part, Bader Al-Ghanim, Vice President & Managing Director at talabat Kuwait, said: "We are delighted

to collaborate with Weyay Bank, this leading digital bank that shares our vision of providing the best digital services and experiences for users. This partnership reflects our commitment to delivering added value to our app users, and we are confident that this offer will resonate strongly with our young audience."

Inaugural celebrations held at Kuwait and Abu Dhabi Airports

Jazeera Airways resumes flights to Abu Dhabi & Al Ain

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Jazeera Airways marked the resumption of flights to Abu Dhabi and Al Ain with inaugural celebrations held at Jazeera Terminal 5 in Kuwait and in Abu Dhabi. The airline has launched two weekly flights each from Kuwait International Airport (KWI) to Zayed International Airport (AUH) and Al Ain International Airport (AAN).

The milestone was attended by Mohammad Al Mousa, Vice Chairman, Barathan Pasupathi, CEO, and Paul Carroll, CCO of Jazeera Airways, alongside H.E. Dr. Matar Hamed Al Neyadi, Ambassador of the UAE to Kuwait.

This expansion strengthens connectivity between Kuwait and the UAE, offering passengers greater convenience and affordability. With the addition of Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, Jazeera Airways now serves three destinations across the UAE – enhancing travel and trade between the two nations.

As part of the celebrations, the guests also visited Jazeera Airways' Hayakom Lounge which will be opening soon to cater to passengers at Jazeera Terminal 5 (T5).



J9 - Abu Dhabi and Al Ain launch.





■ **Faleh Sultan: This agreement marks a key milestone in NIC’s digital journey, establishing the new system as the company’s “intelligent core” that drives future growth and strengthens its leadership in both local and regional investment markets, while paving the way for greater agility, intelligence and prosperity**

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: In a move reflecting its commitment to a smarter and more agile investment future, National Investments Company has signed a strategic agreement to develop and implement an integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. This initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with Kuwait’s leading digital solutions provider, Ascot, and Germany’s Onfinity, a global ERP specialist.

National Investments Company stated in a press release that this partnership represents a significant

## In collaboration with Kuwait’s leading digital solutions provider ‘Ascot’ and Germany’s ‘Onfinity’

# National Investments Company signs strategic agreement to develop & implement an AI-powered Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system

milestone in its comprehensive digital transformation journey, enhancing its technological capabilities and reinforcing its position as a leading player in the local and regional investment sector. The project aims to develop an integrated system that improves resource and internal operations management, provides a more flexible operating environment, and enables faster responses to market changes. It will also incorporate advanced AI-driven analytics tools to improve investment decision accuracy, strengthen transparency and governance,

and empower teams to manage data through a unified intelligent platform that supports sustainable growth in the years ahead.

In this context, Faleh Sultan, Managing Director of the Information Technology Sector at National Investments Company, described the agreement as a pivotal moment in the company’s digital transformation journey. He emphasized that it paves the way for a smarter, more agile, and prosperous future, while the partnership with Ascot and Onfinity represents a strategic leap toward digital excellence. Sultan added that the new system is not merely a technical infrastructure upgrade but the “intelligent core” that will drive the company’s future and reinforce its leadership in the investment sector.

Sultan explained that adopting this system is a cornerstone of the company’s strategic roadmap, enabling it to implement global best practices in business management and service development, aligned with the highest technical standards. The project will streamline and modernize operations to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, while supporting innovation by aligning technological solutions with business objectives. This will provide teams with advanced tools to manage and analyze data accurately.

He further noted that the new system will strengthen the company’s capacity for sustainable growth rooted in governance and transparency, while building a solid foundation for future investment expansion. The impact of this transformation will extend beyond internal operations, boosting shareholder and client confidence through a fully integrated smart framework that ensures performance continuity and agility in adapting to market changes.

Concluding his remarks, Sultan said: “Through this partnership, National Investments Company reaffirms its commitment to innovation and market leadership. We are entering a new era of smart investment. This agreement represents a strategic step toward the future. Aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035, the company aims to be a key driver of digital transformation in the national economy, placing innovation at the core of its operations and redefining how it serves its clients. This strengthens value creation and positions NIC as a trusted partner and a beacon of leadership and modern

financial management, delivering sustainable growth and reinforcing the trust of shareholders and clients alike.”

### Trusted Partner

Ascot expressed its pride in collaborating with the National Investments Company, and in being the trusted partner in this transformative journey, one that reflects firm confidence in our expertise and our ability to provide innovative solutions that support digital transformation strategies at the highest levels.

Ascot added that this collaboration embodies the company’s commitment to supporting institutional and governmental digital transformation in the State of Kuwait. It emphasized that the project represents an advanced step toward achieving the objectives of an integrated digital economy under Kuwait Vision 2035, by providing smarter and more efficient systems that contribute to enhancing competitiveness in both the local and regional markets.

### New Horizons for Innovation

On the other hand, Onfinity highlighted that its platform opens new horizons for innovation powered by artificial intelligence and seamless process integration. The solution enables institutions to achieve advanced operational performance while leveraging data more effectively to drive strategic decision-making.

The company further emphasized that the Onfinity cloud-based, open-source platform represents a modern alternative to traditional systems. It provides a fully integrated environment that unites artificial intelligence, business intelligence, customer relationship management, and document management tools, delivering comprehensive solutions that boost operational efficiency and foster sustainable operational intelligence.

Onfinity underscored that the platform is purpose-built to accelerate digital transformation, simplify the integration of diverse systems, and empower teams to manage data and processes with greater efficiency. In doing so, it opens the door to innovative strategies that adapt to evolving market dynamics and strengthen competitiveness at both the local and regional levels.

## High-level panel on financial infrastructure, Islamic finance leadership

# Warba Bank to share vision at IMF Annual Meetings in Washington

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Warba Bank announced its participation in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), scheduled to take place from October 14 to 18 in Washington, D.C. The Bank will be represented by its Deputy Chairman, Mr. Bader Khaled Al Shalfan, who will present Warba’s vision, its added value to the Kuwaiti economy and its successful experience in driving innovation, digital transformation and expansion in the Islamic banking sector.

This participation holds special strategic significance, as it will feature in a high-level panel discussion on the sidelines of the IMF Meetings under the title: “Financial Infrastructure as a Platform: Resilience of the Kuwaiti Banking Sector, Leadership in Islamic Finance and Innovation in Digital Banking”. The panel will bring together regional and global policymakers and economists to discuss the future of the financial industry and share success stories and innovative models. Warba Bank will showcase its pioneering contributions to the Kuwaiti banking sector, particularly in Islamic banking, as an example for the global stage.

### A Strategic Vision Driving Transformation

Commenting on the participation, Al Shalfan said: “Our engagement in this important global dialogue comes at a time when Warba Bank is witnessing remarkable progress in both its investment and financing portfolios. Against the backdrop of growing global interest in Islamic banking, which has proven its resilience and success amid global economic challenges, we see this platform as an opportunity to gain further insights, present our innovative business model and explore avenues of cooperation with potential international partners. This will further reinforce the distinguished position that Warba aspires to achieve at the forefront of global Islamic banking.”

He added: “Our participation in this significant international forum reflects our commitment to being part of the global conversation on the future of the banking industry. We firmly believe that the Kuwaiti banking sector possesses the capabilities and expertise to serve as a benchmark for the region and beyond, particularly in areas such as digital innovation, financial inclusion and sustainable Islamic banking.”

### A Practical Model of Innovation and Leadership

Warba Bank’s presence at this global event is supported by a solid track record of achievements and a clear strategic vision that emphasizes its renewed commitment to being the bank of the people, by the people, for the people.

Highlighting this strategy, AlShalfan noted: “This year has been a milestone in Warba Bank’s journey, with notable growth across multiple fronts, most prominently the acquisition of a 32.75% stake in Gulf Bank, a landmark achievement that crowns 15 years of steady, well-founded growth. Today, we are entering a new stage of development focused on innovation and excellence.”

He also highlighted the success of Warba’s recent capital increase, which earned the full trust of shareholders, and said: “The Bank has achieved the highest-ever capital increase subscription value in



Bader Al Shalfan  
Deputy Chairman

Kuwait’s history, a testament to the confidence in our policies and future direction.”

AlShalfan added: “Our participation in international forums such as the IMF Annual Meetings reflects our commitment to building a stronger bank that matches the ambitions of our customers and supports the Kuwaiti economy. We take pride in being a Kuwaiti bank working together to build a brighter tomorrow.”

### Achievements and Growth

Over the past year, Warba Bank has recorded exceptional growth across all its business sectors, achieving a significant increase in its customer base, deposits, and financing portfolio. The Bank’s comprehensive strategy has contributed to strengthening its position as one of the leading Islamic banks in Kuwait, by focusing on product and service innovation and the advancement of banking technologies.

The Bank also achieved major milestones in digital transformation, launching advanced banking platforms powered by the latest technologies, enabling customers to access fast, secure and Sharia-compliant banking services. Warba’s digital services witnessed a surge in customer adoption, reflecting the success of its continuous modernization and development strategy.

On the social responsibility front, Warba Bank continued its pioneering role in supporting the Kuwaiti community through various programs and initiatives aimed at advancing sustainable development, education and innovation. The Bank was recognized with the award of “Most Sustainable Bank in Kuwait for 2024” in recognition of its distinguished efforts in this field.

### A Comprehensive Strategy for Sustainable Growth

Warba Bank’s renewed strategy focuses on three main pillars designed to reinforce its position as a leading Islamic financial institution.

The first pillar focuses on excellence in Islamic banking services, where the Bank remains committed to providing advanced Islamic products and services that meet the diverse needs of its customers, with an emphasis on innovation, quality and full compliance with Sharia principles.

The second pillar is digital transformation and technological innovation. Warba continues to invest in advanced banking technologies to develop cutting-edge digital platforms that deliver a seamless and convenient customer experience. The Bank aims to position itself as a leader in Islamic banking technology in the region.

The third pillar underscores the Bank’s commitment to corporate social responsibility and sustainable development through programs and initiatives that promote education, innovation and entrepreneurship. Warba Bank seeks to be an active partner in achieving Kuwait Vision 2035 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### A Global Platform for Economic Dialogue

The IMF Annual Meetings provide a unique platform for global dialogue on policies among high-level decision-makers, including central bank governors, ministers, regulators, standard-setting bodies for both conventional and Islamic finance, CEOs of leading private and public financial institutions and academics. The aim is to formulate a shared vision for sustaining global financial sector growth and to establish a framework for ongoing collaboration to achieve positive outcomes and overcome challenges facing the industry.

The Annual Meetings include the Development Committee, the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Group of Ten, the Group of Twenty-Four and several other member groups, during which governors make decisions on how to address pressing international monetary issues.

### Future Outlook

Warba Bank looks ahead to continued growth and development in the coming years through the implementation of its strategy centered on excellence, innovation and social responsibility. The Bank aims to further strengthen its position as one of the leading Islamic banks in the region, while maintaining its strong Kuwaiti identity.

The Bank’s plans include expanding the scope of its services and developing new products that meet the evolving needs of customers, with a particular focus on youth and small and medium-sized enterprises as key strategic segments. Warba Bank also seeks to reinforce its role in supporting the Kuwaiti economy, contributing to economic diversification and sustainable development.

Warba Bank has achieved significant success in a short period, establishing itself as a pioneer in Islamic digital banking services. It is also among the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, bringing it closer to all segments of society. This achievement further reaffirms the Bank’s position as a trusted financial partner that combines innovation with social responsibility in delivering best-in-class services and products.



Hamad Al Marzouq  
KFH Chairman



Khaled AlShamlan  
KFH Group CEO

## Advancing Islamic banking vision

# KFH to join 2025 IMF–World Bank annual meetings in Washington

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) will participate in the 2025 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group, scheduled for October 13–18 in Washington, D.C. The KFH delegation will be headed by Group Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq and will include Group Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, alongside other senior executives.

The IMF and World Bank Group Annual Meetings provide a vital platform for fostering collaboration with global financial institutions. They also spotlight the Islamic Banking industry, KFH’s achievements and its role in promoting financial stability and advancing sustainable development. Additionally, the meetings highlight the strength and resilience of Kuwait’s economy and its robust financial and banking sector.

During the event, KFH representatives will engage in high-level discussions with finance ministers, central bank governors, and leaders of major financial institutions to explore strategies for enhancing global economic growth and strengthening the financial sector. KFH will also participate in a dialogue session, “Foundations for a New Era”, hosted in partnership with George Washington University, focusing on Kuwait’s economic transformation. Additionally, the delegation will conduct bilateral meetings with global bankers, investors, and

policymakers.

The 2025 IMF and World Bank Group meetings are expected to address critical global issues, including economic growth amid geopolitical challenges, inflationary pressures, public debt management, financial sustainability, climate change, and digital transformation.

KFH’s participation reinforces its position as a leading Islamic banking institution with a presence in 10 countries, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Supported by a network of over 600 branches, KFH remains focused on its strategic vision to rank among the world’s top 100 banks.

In addition to Al Marzouq and AlShamlan, the delegation will include CEO of KFH-Bahrain, Dr. Shadi Zahran, CEO of KFH-Turkey, Ufuk Uyan, CEO of KFH Capital, Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq, Deputy Group CEO of Treasury and Financial Institutions, David O’Loan, Chief Treasury Officer Kuwait, Ahmad Al-Sumait, Group Chief International Banking Officer, Abdullah Al Haddad, and Head of Public Relations and Media, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh.

The IMF and World Bank Group Annual Meetings are among the most significant global economic forums, providing a platform for dialogue on pressing financial and economic challenges and strategies to address them.

## Food, housing, and education costs drive price pressures

# Türkiye’s inflation rises to 33.29% in Sept

ANKARA, Oct 4, (Xinhua): Türkiye’s consumer inflation rose in September for the first time in over a year, underscoring persistent price pressures and raising questions over the central bank’s plan to continue cutting interest rates.

Data from the Turkish Statistical Institute on Friday showed the country’s annual inflation climbed to 33.29 percent from 32.95 percent in August. Monthly inflation accelerated to 3.23 percent, up from 2.04 percent a month earlier and above market forecasts.

The rise reflected sharp increases in food, housing, and education costs, which economists said will make it harder to meet the government’s year-end inflation target of 28.5 percent and could constrain

the central bank’s easing cycle.

The bank cut its policy rate by 250 basis points to 40.5 percent in September, after a 300-point reduction in July, pledging to align policy with its disinflation outlook. Analysts said the September data complicates that stance.

“The latest inflation data puts pressure on the central bank and raises concerns for the year-end forecast,” said Senol Babuscü, a banking professor at Ankara’s Baskent University. “Cutting rates aggressively before seeing a consistent disinflation path was a risky choice.”

Timothy Ash of BlueBay Asset Management said on X that policymakers had moved “too early and too aggressively,” warning the bank risked losing credibility.

However, Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek said that the “underlying trend of inflation indicates that disinflation will continue.”

Türkiye has wrestled with high inflation since a 2018 currency crisis. Economists say the central bank is under pressure to juggle growth and stability, with GDP targeted to expand 3.3 percent in 2025 and 3.8 percent in 2026.

“Türkiye is in a bind,” said Istanbul-based economist Mustafa Sonmez. “Households are struggling with the high cost of living, while businesses and the government are pressing for lower rates.”

The central bank’s next policy meeting is scheduled for Oct. 23.

## CBE cuts key interest rates by 1%

CAIRO, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) cut on Thursday its overnight deposit rate, overnight lending rate, and the rate of the main operation by one percent (100 basis points) to 21.00 percent, 22.00 percent, and 21.50 percent, respectively.

The CBE also cut the discount rate to 21.50 percent, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which is in charge of policymaking, announced following its meeting today.

Since the start of 2025, the CBE announced four cuts to interest rates in 2025, with a total reduction of 6.25 percent.

The committee said the move reflects its updated assessment of inflation dynamics, noting that headline inflation decelerated to 12 percent in August 2025 from 13.9 percent in July, while core inflation slowed to 10.7 percent from 11.6 percent.

The easing trend was driven by falling food prices and relative stability in non-food categories.

Real GDP growth also accelerated to 5 percent in 2Q 2025, up from 4.8 percent in the previous quarter, with non-petroleum manufacturing, tourism, and trade leading the expansion.

For FY 2024/25, GDP growth averaged 4.4 percent, almost double the 2.4 percent recorded the previous year.

Looking ahead, the CBE projects inflation to average between 12 and 13 percent in 3Q 2025, down from 15.2 percent in the previous quarter, with a further decline expected over the medium term.

The committee stressed that future decisions on the pace and magnitude of monetary easing will be made on a meeting-by-meeting basis, depending on data and risk assessments, to safeguard price stability and anchor inflation expectations.



The definitive compact FR sports sedan, perfected for a new generation

# Lexus redefines the sports sedan with the new IS

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Powering the ultimate driver’s dialogue Lexus world premiered the new IS – a vehicle born from a relentless pursuit of driving exhilaration and a direct connection between driver and car. Its aggressive, sportier design is a testament to this philosophy, while an enhanced Lexus Safety System + and next-generation multimedia system provide advanced safety and peace of mind.

Since its debut in 1999, the first-generation IS has embodied the pursuit of driving enjoyment as a compact FR sports sedan. Over time, it has come to represent the very essence of the Lexus driving experience, earning enduring praise for its dynamic performance and bold, sporty design.

With cumulative sales of approximately 1.3 million units across 40 countries and regions, the IS has continued to resonate with drivers around the world for more than 25 years. Its development has involved rigorous testing at key locations worldwide, in a relentless effort to refine the distinctive performance feel known as the “Lexus Driving Signature.” The latest update introduces\*1



Lexus world premieres new IS sports sedan.

two variants: the IS 300h and IS 350. With “Refinement in performance and design” as the key development theme, the IS has been further polished to enhance the qualities it has long pursued, an “Engaging driving experience that allows dialogue with the car”

and an “Aggressive, sporty design”. The new model will go on sale in various markets starting in early 2026.

**Key features of the new IS include:**

- Refined performance that enhances the dialogue between driver and car
- An exterior design that refines the IS’s signature aggressiveness to its fullest
- A driver-focused interior design paired with the latest multimedia system
- Expanded features that support safer, more comfortable driving

According to Yasushi Muto, Lexus International Chief Engineer “In refining the IS, our unwavering focus was on achieving true dialogue between car and driver, where the driver’s intentions are faithfully conveyed to the vehicle, and the car’s responses are clearly felt in return. With that ideal in mind, we’ve pursued development without compromise, always aiming for the next level. Building on the IS’s distinctive ride comfort and outstanding vehicle control, the model has evolved to deliver an even more engaging experience from within the cabin.”

# Apple and Google remove apps tracking US immigration agents

Authorities claim apps endanger ICE officers’ safety

CHICAGO, Oct 4, (AP): Apple and Google blocked downloads of phone apps that flag sightings of U.S. immigration agents, just hours after the Trump administration demanded that one particularly popular iPhone app be taken down.

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said such tracking puts Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at risk. But users and developers of the apps say it’s their First Amendment right to capture what ICE is doing in their neighborhoods - and maintain that most users turn to these platforms in an effort to protect their own safety as President Donald Trump steps up aggressive immigration enforcement across the country.

ICEBlock, the most widely used of the ICE-tracking apps in Apple’s app store, is among the apps that have been taken down. Bondi said her office reached out to Apple on Thursday “demanding that they remove ICEBlock” and claiming that it “is designed to put ICE agents at risk just for doing their jobs.”

Apple soon complied, sending an email Thursday to the app’s creator, Joshua Aaron, that said it would block further downloads of the app because new information “provided to Apple by law enforcement” showed the app broke the app store rules.

According to the email, which Aaron shared with The Associated Press, Apple said the app violated the company’s policies “because its purpose is to provide location information about law enforcement officers that can be used to harm such officers individually or as a group.”

In a Friday interview, Aaron decried the company for bending to what he described as “an authoritarian regime.” And immigration rights advocates like Kica Matos, president of the National Immigration Law Center, added that these actions marked “a disturbing example of how tech companies are capitulating to Trump.” “These apps are a lifeline for communities living in uncertainty and fear of when ICE might show up to tear their families apart,” Matos said in a statement.

Downloads of apps like ICEBlock have surged since Trump took office for his second term earlier this year. Aaron said he launched the app in April as a way to help immigrant communities protect themselves from surprise raids or potential harassment. It had more than 1 million users, he said.

While not specifying details on the total number of platforms removed, Apple confirmed to the AP on Friday that they removed “similar apps” due to potential safety risks that were raised by law enforcement. Google fol-



Pedestrians yell at federal agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection as they walk along North Clark Street near West Oak Street in the River North neighborhood, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025, in Chicago. (AP)

lowed their move, saying that several similar apps violated their policies for Android platforms.

While some advocates don’t find all of these apps particularly useful - pointing to potential misinformation and false alarms - they echoed criticism of moves to suppress them.

“What really worries me is the kind of precedent that this sets” where the government can “basically dictate what kinds of apps people have on their phones,” said civil rights attorney Alejandra Caraballo, who works at Harvard University’s Cyberlaw Clinic.

Caraballo said outside the U.S., government pressure to block apps has been “kind of a hallmark of an authoritarian regime,” such as when Chinese pressure in 2019 led Apple to remove an app that enabled Hong Kong protesters to track police.

Bondi warned over the summer against apps that allow people to communicate about the location of law enforcement officers and specifically called out ICEBlock’s Aaron.

“We are looking at him and he better watch out because that’s not a protected speech,” Bondi said in a July interview on Fox News.

Those warnings escalated last month after a gunman opened fire on an ICE facility in Dallas. Officials including FBI Director Kash Patel said the gunman had searched for apps that tracked the presence of ICE agents, though they haven’t said if he actually used one of the apps or whether any of them played a role in the attack.

Aaron said tying the gunman to the apps made little sense because the app

only works if somebody else is reporting ICE activity within a 5-mile radius of another iPhone user.

“You don’t need an app to know that ICE agents are at an ICE detention facility,” he said. “This is just an easy excuse for them to use their power and leverage to take down something that was exposing what they are doing - and that is the terror that they are invoking on the people of this nation every single day.”

He also said the app worked similarly to popular navigation apps like Waze, Google Maps and Apple’s own Maps app, which allow users to report police speed traps.

It’s “not illegal in any way, shape or form, nor does it dox anybody,” he said, adding that ICEBlock is similarly “an early warning system for people.”

Those who use the apps or other on-line methods to monitor ICE activity say most people who use them do so for their own safety or out of concern for their loved ones.

“People are extremely scared right now,” said Sherman Austin, who founded Stop ICE Raids Alert Network in February. He pointed to rising fears around racial profiling and violent arrests impacting families.

“They want to know what’s going on in their neighborhood and what’s going on in their community,” Austin said, describing people getting violently thrown to the ground by ICE agents in broad daylight.

Also known as StopICE.Net, Austin’s platform similarly uses crowd-sourcing, but instead allows its users to track ICE activity more broadly online

or through text alerts, without the need to download a separate app. Austin says the platform has reached more than 500,000 subscribers as of Friday.

The group has similarly criticized the Trump administration for what it says are retaliatory attacks targeting those who are exercising their First Amendment rights. Last month, the platform said it learned that the Department of Homeland Security has subpoenaed Meta for data on StopICE.Net’s Instagram account.

Austin said StopICE.Net immediately challenged the action, adding on Friday that the subpoena is now temporarily blocked and pending a hearing with a judge.

Meta declined comment Friday. DHS did not directly respond to a request for comment about the subpoena on Friday, instead directing the AP to a statement from Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, who reiterated that “ICE tracking apps put the lives of the men and women of law enforcement in danger” and criticized media outlets for framing Apple’s “correct decision” to remove apps like ICEBlock as “caving to pressure instead of preventing further bloodshed.”

Developers like Austin, meanwhile, say removals of these apps and other federal threats should alarm everyone.

“We’re up against a regime, an administration that’s going to operate any way it wants to - and threatens whoever it wants in order to get its way, in order to control information and in order to control a narrative,” he said. “We have to challenge this and fight this any way we can.”

## Gold and bonds also surge

## Wall Street hits record highs despite US govt shutdown

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (AP): If the U.S. government’s latest shutdown can’t stop the stock market, what can?

Stock prices keep rising, even as the shutdown delays important economic reports that usually steer trading. The S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average set all-time highs Friday.

It’s not just Big Tech driving the market, which has often been the case in recent years. Sure, Nvidia and other darlings of the artificial-intelligence frenzy are still climbing, but almost everything on Wall Street is coming up a winner. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks has set a record after taking nearly four years to get back to its prior all-time high. Gold also hit a record in an unusual confluence, while the most popular U.S. bond fund is on track for its best year in at least five.

Past shutdowns have had minimal effect on the stock market or on the economy, and the bet on Wall Street is that something similar will happen again. Many professional investors expect the market to climb still more, even after a 35% surge from its low in April.

That’s not to say there aren’t risks. Much of the optimism is built on expectations for certain things to happen. If they don’t, the pretty picture on Wall Street could become much uglier. Among the potential concerns:

This is the easiest criticism to make about the stock market following its nearly relentless rally since April. Stock prices tend to follow the path of corporate profits over the long term, but stock prices have surged much faster than profits lately.

One measure popularized by Nobel-winning economist Robert Shiller, which looks at profits over the preceding 10 years, shows the S&P 500 near its most expensive level since the 2000 dot-com bubble. Some critics have made parallels between that bubble, which saw the S&P 500 eventually halve in value, and the recent AI bonanza.

It’s not just the big household names in the S&P 500 index raising concern. Ann Milette, head of equity investments for Allspring Global Investments, has been struck by how much stock prices have shot up for speculative kinds of stocks, such as smaller, money-losing companies. They’ve done much better than their profitable counterparts in recent months.

### Optimistic

She said she’s feeling relatively optimistic about conditions for stocks going into 2026, but “it’s these little bubbles that are concerning to me. When you see things like this, it’s generally not a good thing.”

To be sure, signals suggesting a too-expensive stock market are famously bad at predicting turning points in the market. Stocks can stay expensive for a while, as long as investors stay willing to pay the high prices.

For stocks to look more typical in valuation, either stock prices need to drop, or corporate profits need to rise. That’s raising stakes for the upcoming profit reporting season.

Companies are lining up to tell investors how much profit they made during the summer, with PepsiCo and Delta Air Lines scheduled to lead off on Thursday. JPMorgan Chase and other big banks will follow quickly afterward.

Analysts are looking for S&P 500 companies to report collective growth of 8% in earnings per share from a year earlier, according to FactSet. They’ll need not only to hit that target, but also to forecast continued growth for the rest of this year into next.

That’s even though companies are still trying to figure out how to deal with tariffs, stubbornly high inflation and other shifts in an uncertain economy.

One of the main reasons the stock market has boomed is the expectation that the Fed will deliver a string of cuts to interest rates.

Lower rates give the economy a boost by making it cheaper for U.S. households and companies to borrow and spend. They can also make investors willing to pay higher prices for stocks, bonds and other investments.

Traders on Wall Street are largely expecting the Fed to cut interest rates at least three more times by the middle of next summer, according to data from CME Group. Fed officials themselves have indicated they’re likely to cut because the job market is slowing.

But Chair Jerome Powell has insisted they may have to change plans quickly. That’s because inflation has remained stubbornly above the Fed’s 2% target, and lower interest rates can give inflation more fuel.

“I feel like interest rates and expectations of what the Fed is going to do are driving everything right now,” Milette said.

“If the Fed doesn’t cut as much as people are expecting, any of these areas that look a little speculative, because they’re not based on fundamentals, those areas will have some real problems.”

“This is the question of the decade,” said Yung-Yu Ma, chief investment strategist at PNC Asset Management Group.

Ma does not feel that AI-related stocks look too expensive, even after their big climbs, but that’s only as long as gangbusters growth and sales for the industry keep going.

Hopes for AI also seem to be helping to keep down longer-term interest rates and worries about inflation. AI will need to make the economy more productive in order to offset the upward pressure on inflation and interest rates that are coming from the huge mountains of debt that the U.S. and other governments worldwide are building.

“If we do achieve these benefits for companies and for people’s lives, everything can go well for years,” said Ma. “I think everyone is tying their fortunes to that ship, whether they realize it or not.”

# China urges Mexico to follow WTO rules in anti-dumping cases

BEIJING, Oct 4, (Xinhua): China urges Mexico to comply with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in its anti-dumping investigations, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, the Ministry of Commerce said on Friday.

A spokesperson for the ministry made the remarks in response to a media inquiry about Mexico’s recent four anti-dumping investigations into Chinese products, including float glass and PVC tarpaulins. China firmly opposes protectionist measures that harm its legitimate rights and interests, and will monitor the development of the investigations closely, the spokesperson said.

It was noted that this year, Mexico has opened 11 anti-dumping investigations into Chinese products to date -- nearly twice last year’s total -- while China has

continued to exercise restraint in launching trade-remedy investigations.

Against the backdrop of the United States’ excessive use of tariffs, China holds that all countries should work together to oppose unilateralism, curb the spread of protectionism, and refrain from imposing restrictions on China under various pretexts due to external coercion, according to the spokesperson.

In response to Mexico’s proposed tariff increases and other restrictions, the ministry has launched an investigation into trade and investment barriers in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. “Based on our findings and actual circumstances, China will take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies, including measures in trade and investment,” the spokesperson said.



She is not ready to hand over the pop crown

## On Swift’s ‘The Life of a Showgirl,’ love, reputation on the line

LOS ANGELES, Oct 4, (AP): Who is Taylor Swift’s heir apparent? Her 12th album, “The Life of a Showgirl,” offers an answer. It’s Taylor Swift.

Her last album, “The Tortured Poets Department,” ended with the cautionary “Clara Bow,” an allegory that seemed to suggest her tenure atop the cultural mainstream was inherited from stars of the past, like the namechecked Stevie Nicks - and that a new generation of younger, elastic female pop performers could soon take her place. In 2025, there are many to choose from: Consider Chappell Roan’s full-throated theatrics, Olivia Rodrigo’s fiery punk-pop feminism, Sabrina Carpenter’s cheeky sexuality. In the knotty themes of Friday’s “The Life of a Showgirl,” best illustrated in the title track, Swift asserts that the baton hasn’t been passed, but rather shared. Because she isn’t going anywhere.

“And all the headshots on the walls/Of the dance halls are of the b----- /Who wish I’d hurry up and die,” she sings with a wink. “But I’m immortal now, baby dolls/I couldn’t if I tried.” Notably, if she has a chosen successor in someone else, it’s

the album’s sole feature: Carpenter, who sings on the stomp-clap closer in her newly adopted twang. The mournful glissando of lap steel - the album’s most country moment - arrives only with Carpenter’s introduction. The western genre is Swift’s past and Carpenter’s future.

If Swift is co-signing Carpenter, she’s also learning from her. Carpenter has cornered the market on tight pop songs with pert, provocative messages; Swift does the same with the manspreading swagger of the George Michael-interpolating “Father Figure,” which mentions a protegee, and the funky “Wood.” (A carefully veiled PG-13 lyric: “His love was the key/That opened my thighs,” she sings. “Girls, I don’t need to catch the bouquet/To know a hard rock is on the way.”) Intertwoven are suggestive, sensual ad-libs ... and a direct reference to fiancée Travis Kelce’s podcast.

Across a brisk 12 tracks - Swift’s tendency toward abundance doesn’t manifest itself in a double album this time around, but instead in her endless vinyl variants - “The Life of a Showgirl” mostly delivers on

its promise of up-tempo pop “bangers,” to borrow her own vernacular. Fans need not wait up for the long-anticipated “Reputation (Taylor’s Version),” because “The Life of a Showgirl” pulls from its essence. But this time, with a lot of affection, like a truer “Lover” era.

Swift has long internalized criticisms and responded to them in her art, most directly in 2017’s “Reputation.” Here, she is once again concerned with her perception, articulated over booming, lush production on “Cancelled!” or “Elizabeth Taylor.” On the latter, she sings, “Hollywood hates me/ You’re only as hot as your last hit, baby.” Except this time, her love acts as an anchor. “I can’t have fun if I can’t have you,” she flirts.

For “The Life of a Showgirl,” Swift enlisted Swedish producers Max Martin and Shellback, the hitmaking duo she collaborated with on 2012’s “Red,” 2014’s “1989” and, of course, “Reputation.” Notably absent is her frequent producing partner Jack Antonoff. It’s a wise decision: In years past, Swift, Shellback and Martin’s pop experiments shifted not only her career trajectory but the genre itself.



Taylor Swift performs at the Paris Le Defense Arena during her Eras Tour concert in Paris, on May 9, 2024. (AP)

Before “I Knew You Were Trouble,” an EDM drop in the middle of a radio pop hit was unimaginable. After, the style would dominate for half the decade.

“The Life of a Showgirl” isn’t as seismic, but there are addictive and

idiosyncratic Swiftisms here: acerbic wit and thick literary references in glassy pop hooks. Where a song like “Opalite,” if attempted by another other performer, would lose its weightlessness under its voluble aspirations, Swift manages to swoon. Stacked, opalescent harmonies and a vintage swing give the song, fittingly, an almost iridescent quality.

And there are bops, like the undeniable opener “The Fate of Ophelia” with its 1980s-via-Robyn synth-pop and momentary “Summertime Sadness” vocal delivery.

There’s a treasure trove of deliciously quotable lines, too, as expected. “Please God bring me a best friend who I think is hot,” she manages to make effortless in the “Midnights”-esque “Wi\$h Li\$t,” a lovely song about the mundanity of romance and the suburban fantasy of “a couple kids ... a driveway with a basketball hoop.”

Swift’s dense vocabulary is on full display, often full of charm. But it is sometimes unwieldy, a common criticism of “The Tortured Poets Department,” like when she overstuffs “Our thoughtless ambition sparked the ignition on foolish decisions which led to

misguided visions” into “Father Figure,” momentarily overvaluing clever writing over clever cadence.

Or she is too modish. The colloquial “Eldest Daughter,” for example, mentions “trolling,” “memes” and “comments,” immediately dating itself. But sonically, it is a thoughtful acoustic ballad with emo movement, in which Swift contends with her “terminal uniqueness” and deep dedication to a loved one. It juxtaposes nicely with something like the casually cruel, pop-punk affected “Actually Romantic.” It’s hard not to hear some brief Hayley Williams in the distorted speakerphone vocals in the song’s coda or boygenius in its harmonies: another example of Swift pulling from those she’s influenced - and enlisted on her tours.

Swift has said “The Life of a Showgirl” is meant to embody her “Eras Tour” - a singular global phenomenon, a canonical event in the history of pop performance that, in its over three-hour runtime, was a sensory explosion. On these 12 tracks, she’s approximating glitz and glamour with humanity and humor. She spends no time waiting in the wings. So let the show begin.

### People

Mogul’s fall

### Combs gets 4-yr prison sentence

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (AP): **Sean “Diddy” Combs** was sentenced Friday to four years and two months in prison for transporting people across state lines for sexual encounters, capping a sordid federal case that featured harrowing testimony and ended in a forceful reckoning for one of the most influential figures in hip-hop.

Since Combs has already served a year in jail, the sentence means that the 55-year-old could get out in about three years.

While prosecutors sought a sentence of more than 11 years, his lawyers wanted him freed immediately and said the time behind bars has already forced his remorse and sobriety.

Combs was convicted in July for transporting his partners and others across the country to participate in drug-fueled encounters at various locations over several years. However, he was acquitted of more serious charges, including sex trafficking and racketeering, which could have resulted in a life sentence.

“Why did it happen so long?” US District Judge Arun Subramanian asked as he handed down the sentence. “Because you had the power and the resources to keep it going, and because you weren’t caught.”

Subramanian, who also fined Combs \$500,000, the maximum allowed, praised the accusers who testified at trial. They effectively spoke for countless others who experienced abuse, the judge said: “You gave them a voice. You stood up to power.”

Combs, sitting at the defense table, looked straight ahead as the judge spoke. He remained subdued afterward and appeared dejected, with none of the enthusiasm and smiles he displayed while interacting with his lawyers and family earlier in the day.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry,” he said to his family right before leaving the courtroom.

Combs’ lawyers said they’ll appeal.

“What we feel today is that the judge acted as a 13th juror, one we did not choose, and that he second guessed the jury’s verdict,” defense lawyer Mark Agnifilo told reporters after leaving court.

Before sentencing, Combs wept as his defense lawyers played a video portraying his family life, career and philanthropy, and he went on to make a plea for leniency.

“I ask your honor for a chance to be a father again,” Combs said, “a son again ... a leader in my community again ... for a chance to get the help that I desperately need to be a better person.” He apologized to the people he hurt physically and mentally with his “disgusting, shameful” actions, and said the domestic violence was a burden he would carry for the rest of his life.

His nearly two-month trial in a federal court in Manhattan featured testimony from women who said Combs beat, threatened, sexually assaulted and blackmailed them. Prosecutor Christy Slavik told the judge Friday that sparing Combs serious prison time would excuse years of violence.



Combs

### Film



This image released by A24 shows Dwayne Johnson in a scene from ‘The Smashing Machine.’ (AP)

An MMA story about vulnerability

## Johnson delivers big in ‘The Smashing Machine’

LOS ANGELES, Oct 4, (AP): Benny Safdie’s “The Smashing Machine” isn’t what you think it is, especially if you think it’s a movie about a British guy who thinks his typewriter is the tops.

“The Smashing Machine” would seem to bear all the hallmarks of something grittier, darker and more disturbing than it is. It’s the solo directorial debut of the younger Safdie, whose films with his brother, Josh, have rarely not sprinted headlong into unsettling tumult. Add that sensibility to a true-life tale of a mixed martial arts fighter in the late ’90s, and it’s only natural to spend much of “The Smashing Machine” bracing for tragedy, for some ear-splitting descent into macho calamity.

Yet “The Smashing Machine,” starring Dwayne Johnson as MMA pioneer Mark Kerr, is something simpler and less curious. A lack of probing was never anything you could accuse a Safdie brothers’ movie of; these are the filmmakers who plunged a camera into the body cavity of a jewelry-store owner in “Uncut Gems.” But, despite its grainy, VHS aesthetics, “The Smashing Machine” is a surprisingly conventional and oddly untroubled movie, albeit one that gives Johnson an indie-film platform for one of his finest performances.

As Mark, Johnson has drained away much of his big-screen charisma. The part - brawny, often shirtless, frequently raging in the ring - is immediately so close to Johnson’s own professional wrestling background that early scenes look almost documentary-like. But gone is the megawatt grin and the dashing eyebrow lift. Johnson’s normally polished bald head is here covered with a closely cropped dark head of hair.

In the movie’s opening, Mark rhapsodizes about his feeling of domination. An opponent’s fear, he says, you can “smell in their

scent.” At this point, Mark has known only victory in thumping triumphs that leave him feeling like a god. Losing, he confesses, is unfathomable.

The laws of moviedom decree, of course, that Mark will soon lose, and his well-earned sense of invincibility will shatter. “The Smashing Machine” bounces between Mark’s home and Japan, where the Pride Fighting Championship takes place. That’s where Mark, a much-celebrated champion, is taken down by an illegal but nevertheless humbling move. After the fact, the match is ruled a tie, but the stink of defeat never dissipates.

The real battle, in any case, is at home. Mark’s dependence on opioids for the punishing extremes he endures is becoming desperate. “The Smashing Machine” is based on John Hyams’s 2002 documentary of the same name, and part of the nature of that film was the curiosity of Mark’s extreme violence in the ring and his otherwise sweet passivity. In Safdie’s film, Mark is asked in the doctor’s waiting room if fighters hate each other during a bout. “Absolutely not,” he replies.

But while we don’t doubt Mark’s sincerity - he’s as earnest as he is muscle-bound - Johnson also exudes an inner turmoil, and a struggle to keep his rage at bay while nursing mounting wounds to his ego. His body is so stiff, it’s like he could snap at any moment.

That’s the case for Mark, most of all, around his wife, Dawn Staples (Emily Blunt), a former Playboy model who’s shown as alternatively supportive and insensitive to Mark’s situation. They feud often, sometimes immediately before a match, sometimes over how to make his shakes. When he tries to give up opioids, he takes her late-night drinking as a provocation. “Treat me like a man,” he

tells her.

It’s an awkward, perhaps judgmental characterization that would be all the more glaring if it weren’t for Blunt’s tact as a performer. But it throws “The Smashing Machine” off course, especially when the movie seems to want to lean more on its other central relationship: that of Mark and his friend, trainer and sometimes competitor Mark Coleman (played by former Bellator champion Ryan Bader).

In his films with his brother, Safdie has long brought real-life figures into their movie worlds, blurring fictional boundaries. Bader gives “The Smashing Machine” a dose of documentary in his presence, but I’d argue that Johnson’s proximity to this world gives the movie its most compelling real-life echoes.

I happen to think Johnson is also very good in full movie-star mode, especially when he has the chance to wrily undercut his big-screen presence in comedies like “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” or “The Tooth Fairy.” But it’s also captivating to see him so thoroughly settled into a character like he is in “The Smashing Machine” while totally shorn of his charisma.

Yet the potency of that performance is let down by a movie that fails to really grapple with the violent world around Mark, resorting instead for a blander appreciation of these MMA combatants. What does resonate, though, is the portrait of a human colossus who learns to accept defeat - a mountain of a man who looks like he could, without barely trying, rip someone’s head off at any moment. Instead he takes a deep breath, and doesn’t.

“The Smashing Machine,” an A24 release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language and some drug abuse. Running time: 123 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

### Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** A judge remained undecided Friday on the treatment and placement plan for a man charged with stalking **Jennifer Aniston** and ramming his car into the front gate of her home.

Jimmy Wayne Carwyle, a 48-year-old from Mississippi, has pleaded not guilty to felony stalking and vandalism. But in May, Judge Maria Cavalluzzi found him not competent to stand trial after evaluations from two experts. At Friday’s hearing in a Los Angeles court dedicated to mental health cases, she heard arguments on Carwyle’s treatment and placement.

Aniston’s lawyer, Blair Berk, spoke on her behalf for the first time, detailing two years of Carwyle’s harassment and stalking, including various failed attempts to make physical contact with the actor.

Cavalluzzi said she leaned toward sending Carwyle to a mental health treatment alternative to imprisonment. She requested another hearing, scheduled for later this month, to hear from a mental health professional before making a final decision.



Aniston

Prosecutors and Aniston’s attorney will have a chance to weigh in, Cavalluzzi said.

The judge acknowledged Aniston’s “very real” fear, but she said she can’t ignore the opinions of mental health professionals who have evaluated Carwyle and deemed him not a danger to society. The alternative treatment option offers community-based housing, treatment and support services as opposed to incarceration. (AP)

**NEW YORK:** Live from New York! It’s a new “SNL” season, with faces both fresh and familiar.

After a fanfare-filled 50th season celebrating the past, “Saturday Night Live” looks to the future with a cast that includes five new featured players. As for the high-wattage early hosts, none other than Bad Bunny kicks things off on Saturday.

The music superstar is having what can only be described as an enormous week: in another kickoff moment, he’s been announced as headliner for the Super Bowl halftime show.

Bad Bunny is also coming off a historic residency in Puerto Rico, which ends Saturday. In his second “SNL” hosting gig, he’ll be joined by musical guest Doja Cat, making her debut in that role.

He’ll be followed in subsequent weeks by Amy Poehler and Sabrina Carpenter. All three were highlights of the 50th season celebrations, with Bad Bunny performing at the “SNL50: The Homecoming Concert” and also serving as the final musical guest of the season.

Carpenter, who was a major attraction of the anniversary celebrations, is pulling double duty as host and musical guest on Oct. 18. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Tyrese Gibson was booked into a Georgia jail early Friday, a week after he failed to turn himself in following an arrest warrant for cruelty to animals, police said.

Gibson was released the same day on a \$20,000 bond, Fulton County Police Captain Nicole Dwyer said. He has still not turned his four Cane Corso dogs to police, who authorities say killed a neighbor’s small dog in mid-September and had roamed the neighborhood unsupervised at various times over the past few months.

“We are glad he did the right thing and turned himself in,” Dwyer wrote to The Associated Press, noting the four dogs are still unaccounted for.

Gibson’s lawyer, Gabe Banks, wrote to the AP Friday that his legal team secured a consent bond, meaning the terms of his bond were set before he voluntarily turned himself in. Banks wrote Gibson “has cooperated fully with legal authorities and will continue to do so until this matter is resolved.”

Banks had previously told AP that the actor wasn’t home when the incident took place and “immediately made the difficult decision to rehome his dogs to a safe and loving environment,” including two adult dogs and their three puppies. (AP)



Broadway star enters celebrity travel scene with ‘Breaking Bread’

Tony Shalhoub explores global cultures through bread

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (AP): To make bread, you need flour, water, salt and, usually, a rising agent, like yeast. To break bread, CNN has enlisted someone special - Tony Shalhoub.

The Broadway and “Monk” star enters the crowded field of celebrity travel hosts this fall with “Breaking Bread,” which follows the actor across the globe as he explores cultures and food through the lens of bread.

“It is about bread, but bread really as a kind of a vehicle, a vessel, to illustrate and billboard history and culture and people and find out what they do and why they do what they do,” he says.

The series, which debuts on Sunday night, follows Shalhoub as he samples baguettes and bouillabaisse in Marseille, France, and scarfs down fluffy milk bread and red bean paste buns in Tokyo.

The first episode is set in Shalhoub’s current hometown of New York City and he eats old-fashioned pumpernickel and rye breads, as well as Irish soda bread scones. He goes to Chinatown for fried dough and the Little Caribbean neighborhood in Brooklyn for black cake and currant rolls.

“I don’t know how you convinced people to make this a show. We just get to eat delicious bread,” guest Lin-Manuel Miranda tells Shalhoub as he munches on an everything bagel with cream cheese and jam.

Shalhoub finds himself in Brazil in the second episode, reveling in the influences Lebanese immigrants like him have given to São Paulo’s food scene: Flatbreads, za’atar, pistachios and kibbeh. He visits a cassava farm, learns about fermentation and Afro-Brazilian heritage in things like a deep fried bread ball made from black eye pea flour.

It may be a show about different breads, but Shalhoub and his team are happy to try various local foods and drinks. “This used to be a show about bread,” he jokes onscreen after pounding a caipirinha, the Brazilian cocktail. (“Because of the schedule, there’s no shortage of day drinking,” he notes in the interview.)



This image released by CNN shows Tony Shalhoub, center, in a scene from his series ‘Breaking Bread,’ which follows the actor across the globe as he explores cultures and food through the lens of bread. (CNN)

Shalhoub is part of a crowded field of celeb travel hosts, which includes Rainn Wilson, Eugene Levy, Stanley Tucci, Orlando Bloom, Zac Efron, José Andrés, Chris Hemsworth, Will Smith, Eva Longoria and Ewan McGregor.

They are all following in the wake of the late Anthony Bourdain, whose “Parts Unknown” series on CNN was part travelogue, part history lesson and part love letter to food.

Amy Entelis, executive vice president for talent, CNN Originals and creative development for CNN Worldwide, worked on Bourdain’s show and greenlit Shalhoub’s.

“No one we work with tries to be Tony Bourdain and nobody thinks they’re going to be,” she says. “We try to work with people to go on that mission, but to make it theirs.”

Shalhoub collected three Emmy Awards for his work as obsessive-compulsive private detective Adrian Monk over eight seasons. After the show ended in 2009, Shalhoub went on to earn three Tony Award nominations, winning in 2018 for “The Band’s Visit” and starred in “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” winning another Emmy.

“I don’t want the show to be about me. I feel like I’m acting more as a tour guide, so to speak. I want it to be more about the other people - the people that I meet, the people I interview, the new places that I get to visit,” Shalhoub says.

“I don’t know that TV audiences need to see that much more of me after all these years. I certainly don’t want to see that much of me.”

“Breaking Bread” is a travel and food show, but it’s also a family affair, with Shalhoub’s oldest child, Josie, joining him in Marseille as they trace his father’s 1920 journey through the city. His wife, Brooke Adams, and daughter Sophie join him in Iceland, while his siblings and nephews feature in a Wisconsin-based episode.

“Bread to me is tied to memory, tied to our childhood, tied to our parents and our grandparents and all their contemporaries,” he says. “We’re drawing from the past, but it’s also something that we want to pass down to my grandchildren and forward and onward.”

Television

Miyake imagines clothes with a will of their own

Yamamoto pares back to essentials in Paris show

PARIS, Oct 4, (AP): Yohji Yamamoto presented a Paris Fashion Week collection Friday that distilled his language to its core: monochrome, urban, fluid silhouettes, touched with flashes of rebellion.

The show opened with pared-down black looks, some bearing graffiti motifs, before soft fringed ensembles in sandals lent the severity a gentler sway.

Tartan arrived in shredded, deconstructed form, interrupting the meditations on black with a jolt of pattern, followed by white gowns that trailed in strips, ethereal yet raw. Foliage-like bands traced torsos like abstract vines. Finally, red emerged in sculptural coats - a flourish of drama that underlined his instinct for subtle spectacle.

At 81, Yamamoto has long resisted fashion’s cycles. He is still the master of deconstruction: puzzle-piece coats, layered bustles, and Cubist geometries have defined his decades of work. Here, though, he leaned into simplicity, echoing his recent shows where fragility and empowerment are in balance, and where black becomes a multidimensional canvas.

The staging was hushed, the models’ slow stride amplifying the sense of timelessness. In an era of constant reinvention, Yamamoto’s refusal to chase novelty reads as radical. His clothes remain unmistakably his: esoteric, emotional, and enduringly chic.

Issey Miyake

Issey Miyake’s spring 2026 show at Paris Fashion Week posed a question: what if clothing were alive?

Booming electronics inside the Centre Pompidou venue Friday accompanied an opening of crisp monochrome shirts and high-waisted trousers, shoulders drawn upward into a compact line, as if struggling to the guests.

The concept arrived quickly and clearly: in this collection the wearer served the garment’s will, not the other way round.

Silhouettes remapped the body - trousers integrated sleeve-like panels at the sides that impacted the model’s stance, and single-sheet wraps and supple faux leathers seemed to “grow” around the torso. A netted, scuba-like look packed with toylike objects turned accumulation into profile, as if the clothes themselves consumed and imposed contour.

Jackets with displaced openings forced new ways of entering and moving. Black-and-white tailoring stayed taut while shoulders lifted seemingly of their own accord, creating a springy, insouciant line.

Branded shoe boxes telegraphed the ongoing footwear collaboration as models circled a DJ in the round, but on the body the idea was autonomy: garments that oriented posture, choreographed gait, and treated the air between cloth and skin as living volume.

Founded by Issey Miyake in 1970 in Tokyo, the iconic house became famous for reframing the concept of fashion as material engineering - innovative pleating, paper and washi blends, single-piece construction - yielding light garments with sculptural force. Under current designer Satoshi Kondo, that legacy continues in movement-driven form and an ongoing dialogue with art and performance.

At Pompidou, those signatures read cleanly: weightless volume, precise cutting, textures that shifted with motion, reinforced by a live soundscape that treated tex-



A model wears a creation as part of the Yamamoto Spring/Summer 2026 collection presented in Paris, Friday, Oct. 3. (AP)



A model presents a creation by Issey Miyake in Paris. (AP)

tiles as active matter.

The caveat is familiar. Concept occasionally edged toward prop theater - the boxes, the stuffed netting - and risks overshadowing everyday use. Commercial clarity can blur when silhouettes impose rather than accommodate.

Even so, this was among the label’s more fashion-forward recent



A model wears a creation by Issey Miyake in Paris show. (AP)



A model displays a creation by Loewe in Paris. (AP)

outings: controlled in line, vigorous in idea, and most persuasive when the garments led and the body followed.

**Proenza Schouler**

In a season crowded with fresh appointments, Loewe’s debut mattered: a standing ovation greeted Lazaro Hernandez and Jack McCollough, formerly of Proenza Schouler, as they followed Jonathan Anderson’s 11-year reinvention of the Spanish brand.

The iconic house, born from 19th-century Spanish leather artisans, now faces a recalibration toward edited, real-world dressing.

The American duo brought a New York-clean pragmatism to Madrid-born Loewe. Their reputation - color, texture, sculptural ease, and an It-bag instinct - set expectations. They met them.

Paris is in rare churn, with 14 debuts on the calendar. Jonathan Anderson opened at Dior womenswear; Miguel Castro Freitas bowed at Mugler; now Hernandez and McCollough step in at Loewe. With so many handovers, audiences are judging fast - on clarity, character and what will actually sell.

They opened with leather. A black jacket with a faint hourglass, saluted the craft heritage and set the brief: form led by material. The leather and cloth were deliberately stiff, holding their shape. The effect was chic and slightly Barbie-like, but never gimmicky. Lines stayed clear and silhouette did the talking.

Playfulness came in tight, controlled doses. Two-tone tights with different-colored shoes kept the humor dry. A 3-D-printed “towel” dress snapped phones into the air - an easy joke on first look, a disciplined column on second. That is Hernandez and McCollough’s signature move: novelty anchored to a workable cut.

Spain wasn’t a footnote. Midway through, a loose, blazing sweater in “Almodóvar red” swept by, and filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar leaned forward and pointed, smiling. A crisp, human beat - America’s new chapter at Loewe saluting a Spanish giant, and the giant nodding back.

Bags - the Loewe engine - balanced sense and mischief. Clean totes and everyday bags handled the baseline. Then the tease: a glass clutch with gallery polish and a mussel-adorned bucket bag that turned seaside kitsch into a luxury wink(le).

The strongest passages mixed structure with give. Silhouettes were lightly carved at the waist. Leather shaped the torso, then eased in motion. When the stiffness worked best, it suggested a tongue-in-cheek edge without tipping into costume.

The comparison with Anderson is unavoidable. He turned Loewe into a laboratory - craft prizes, artist tie-ins, surreal flourishes that sometimes resisted daily life. Hernandez and McCollough brought it back to clothes that move. The quirk remained, but it served the garment. The temperature read more New York than Paris: edited, pragmatic, ready to sell. In this market, that is a smart pivot.

This was not an attempt to out-Anderson Anderson, nor a retreat into basics. The show argued for pieces that wear easily, with enough oddity to spark want.

A debut sets coordinates, not conclusions. Quirky, more commercial, and confident. The bow was happy, and the room stood.

Loewe has a new cadence - brisk, precise, and ready to walk off the runway and onto the street.

Obit

Literary icon

Czech author Ivan Klíma dies

PRAGUE, Oct 4, (AP): **Ivan Klíma**, a Czech author and anti-communist dissident whose work and life were shaped by Europe’s 20th-century totalitarian regimes, has died.

His son Michal told the Czech ČTK news agency that Klíma died on Saturday morning at home after battling a long illness. He was 94.



Klíma

A prolific author, Klíma published novels, plays, short story collections and essays as well as children’s books, becoming an internationally known writer whose works were translated into more than 30 languages.

Born Ivan Kauders on Sept 14, 1931, in Prague, Klíma faced his first repressive regime during World War II when his family was transported to the Nazis’ Theresienstadt concentration camp. Against the odds, they all survived.

The new Communist regime that took power in Czechoslovakia in 1948 looked promising at first for Klíma and many others who had been persecuted.

Klíma belonged to a group of talented writers - including Milan Kundera, Pavel Kohout and Ludvík Vaculík - who turned to communism with high hopes after the war only to be bitterly disappointed by its totalitarian nature and its ruthless liquidation of opponents.

Klíma joined the Communist Party in 1953, the same year his father was imprisoned for political reasons. He was expelled from the party in 1967 after criticizing the Communist regime in a speech at a writers’ meeting.

Banned

A year later, his writings were banned after a Soviet-led military invasion in 1968 crushed the liberal reforms of Alexander Dubek’s government and ended a more liberal era known as the “Prague Spring.”

“The craziness of the 20th century that I write about has to do with the totalitarian ideologies which were responsible for unbelievable crimes,” Klíma told Czech public radio in 2010 about his two-volume memoirs “My Crazy Century.”

“And that happened despite the fact that those countries belonged to our civilization, they were the countries with a rich cultural tradition,” he said.

“The main character is dealing with a key topic for him,” Klíma said about his masterpiece, which was first published in German in Switzerland in 1979. “Has the society a right to take anyone’s life? And what has a judge who opposes capital punishment to do in the society that demands it?”

After returning from a teaching stint at the University of Michigan in 1969-1970, Klíma joined the Czech dissident movement. His books at the time were released at home only in underground publications.

Still, unlike many other opponents of communism, Klíma mostly did not have to do menial jobs just to make ends meet because of the support he received from author Philip Roth. The American writer visited Czechoslovakia repeatedly in the 1970s to help Klíma, Kundera and other banned authors, and oversaw the publication of their works in the United States.



Kuwaiti women encouraged to learn breast self-exams

MoH launches Breast Cancer Awareness campaign for Pink October

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Ministry of Health, represented by the Health Promotion Department, launched the National Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign on Wednesday, October 1, in observance of Pink October.

Director of the Health Promotion Department Dr. Abeer Al-Bahou stated that the campaign reflects the ministry's commitment to promoting health awareness within the community.

She revealed that the campaign's activities will take place in several locations both inside and outside Min-

istry of Health's facilities, in cooperation with public benefit organizations to help spread awareness among the community.

Dr. Al-Bahou explained that the campaign aims to educate women and girls on how to perform breast self-examinations while maintaining privacy, as well as raise awareness about early signs and changes that may indicate the presence of the disease.

The campaign also highlights risk factors that increase the likelihood of developing breast cancer, including early puberty, late menopause, having a first child after the age of 30, not breastfeeding, obesity, lack of physical

activity, smoking, genetic predisposition, and the long-term use of certain hormonal treatments.

Dr. Al-Bahou noted that breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women worldwide, with approximately 2.3 million cases diagnosed and 670,000 deaths recorded in 2022.

She revealed that breast cancer ranks first among cancers in Kuwait, placing the country 157th out of 185 globally in terms of the number of reported cases.

Dr. Al-Bahou emphasized that the ministry's campaign highlights the importance of early detection through monthly self-examinations, conducted three to five days

after the end of menstruation, and annual clinical exams starting at age forty, adding that the National Mammography Program is the most effective method for the early detection of breast tumors. She insisted that early detection saves lives by increasing the chances of full recovery and reducing potential complications.

Dr. Al-Bahou urged all women in Kuwait to take advantage of the services offered by the National Breast Early Detection Program and to actively participate in the campaign's activities, contributing to a healthier, more informed, and prevention-focused society.

It's time to get a flu vaccination

Flu shots critical for kids, pregnant women and seniors, warn experts

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): It's time to get a flu vaccine, and pediatricians are urging people to get them after last winter, when the US saw the most flu-related child deaths in 15 years.

October is the ideal month to get protected, experts say, because flu cases typically begin climbing in November.

"The best time is today. If you haven't already had it, get it. I got mine yesterday," said Dr. Laura Riley, of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Don't like shots? This year marks the first time that some people can try vaccinating themselves at home using the nasal spray vaccine FluMist.

Here's what to know.

Just about everyone age 6 months and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and major medical societies. Despite lots of recent misinformation and confusion about vaccines, the flu recommendations haven't changed.

Flu is particularly dangerous for people 65 and older, pregnant women, young children, and people of any age who have chronic health problems including asthma, diabetes, heart disease and weak immune systems.

About 71% of seniors roll up their sleeves every year, but less than 50% of other adults do. Last year, just under half of children got a flu vaccine, down from over 60% a few years ago.

Flu vaccines may not block all infections, but they do a really good job of preventing severe illness and hospitalization, said Dr. Sean O'Leary, of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Tens of thousands of Americans die from the flu every winter. But during last year's harsh season, the CDC counted 280 children who died of flu-related complications. Nearly half had no prior health problems and about



A pharmacist gives a patient a flu shot in Miami on Sept. 9, 2025. (AP)

90% hadn't been fully vaccinated.

Another concern from last season: The CDC counted more than 100 children who developed a rare flu complication - brain inflammation that can lead to seizures, hallucinations, or even death. Very few were vaccinated.

It's important for mothers-to-be to understand that a bad case of flu can put them in the hospital or cause their baby to be born prematurely, Riley said.

Flu shot protection also carries over to newborns, and infants too young for their own vaccinations are especially vulnerable to flu.

Riley stressed that years of flu vaccinations show that recommendation is safe for mother and baby.

High-dose shots and those with a special immune booster are designed for people 65 and older, but if they can't find one easily they can choose a regular all-ages flu shot.

For the shot-averse, the nasal spray

FluMist is available for ages 2 to 49.

FluMist has been available for more than 20 years, but the at-home option is newly available for certain adults on the vaccine's website. If they're deemed eligible according to their age and a medical questionnaire, they'll be shipped FluMist timed to arrive on a particular day, with instructions on how to administer it to themselves or their children.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the home administration option last year, too late to roll out for that season. It's currently only available in 34 states, according to manufacturer AstraZeneca, which hopes to expand access.

They're supposed to be free under Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurance plans if people use an in-network provider. Local health departments also can provide free or low-cost flu vaccinations for people who qualify.

‘Overcome anxiety after arguments’

‘Don’t go to bed angry’? Here’s why researchers say maybe you should

NEW YORK, Oct 4, (AP): It's late at night, and you have been stewing all day about something your partner did to annoy you. The time to resolve it is now because, as everyone knows, you should never go to bed angry, right?

Though it's conventional wisdom, many relationship experts say sticking to such a rule is counterproductive. It may even harm the relationship.

"It's completely wrong," said Samantha Whiten, a clinical psychologist in Maryland. "All it does is make sure that people are fighting when they're tired."

Instead, couples can learn habits that help them get rest while boosting the relationship long term.

It's understandable to want to discuss a problem before letting it fester, Whiten said, but it's unrealistic to expect conflicts to be wrapped up quickly and lovingly before drifting off to sleep.

"That sounds nice," she said. "That's like a fairy tale, though."

Some sources attribute the origin of the phrase to the New Testament book of Ephesians. Translations vary, but it's some version of: "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger."

The trouble is, couples shouldn't fight when they are "emotionally dysregulated," Whiten said. She referred to the acronym HALT, a common reminder in therapy that people should avoid serious discussions when hungry, angry, lonely or tired. Many people also drink alcohol at night, which doesn't help create a calm environment.

"They are more likely to say and do things impulsively that they may regret," she said.

Discussing problems at night might seem easiest because it's when your partner is most available, said Sabrina Romanoff, a clinical psychologist in New York City.

But it's better to acknowledge that something needs to be discussed, take a pause, and set a time to come back to it, she said. That could mean having lunch or coffee together the next day, or any time you're not rushing out the door.

The key is to follow through.

"It speaks to a skill, to trust that your partner is really going to return to this thing that's really important to you," Romanoff said, adding that most couples have to practice that.

It's also about understanding your partner and being empathetic to what each of you needs. When one partner needs space, it's incumbent on the other person not to interpret that space as rejection, Romanoff said.

Whiten said many couples in her practice have at least one person who feels they won't be able to sleep until they resolve a fight. That's often a sign of anxiety and a discomfort with uncertainty.

"People need to individually learn how they can regulate themselves and tell themselves it's OK," she said. "The idea of being able to self-soothe is really key."

The reverse - avoidance - is no better. Many people might need space to process an argument, but they're obliged to come back later to their partner to address the topic.

The goal is that both people feel secure enough to acknowledge the disagreement, remember their relationship is more important than one argument, and agree to talk about it later, Whiten said. "When people can learn to do that, it's really transformative."

Romanoff suggested that couples establish regular check-ins. They don't have to talk about the worst problems in their lives at a given point, but they should make a habit of small gestures of communication.

Even regularly asking how your partner's day went creates a kind of scaffolding of emotional safety, she said. It creates the space to address problems.

When there is an issue, use "I" statements, be clear about what you need, and try to create a plan for how the other person can deliver, she said. A request posed at an appropriate time will often be better received.

"Timing is everything when it comes to communication," she said.

Kuwait promotes knowledge exchange

Conferences imperative to boost scientific expertise: KDA president

BEIRUT, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait Dental Association (KDA) President **Dr. Saad Al-Shammari** affirmed on Friday the importance of partaking in medical conferences to enhance scientific experience of dentists.

Al-Shammari, also assistant secretary-general for organizational affairs in the GCC states at the Arab Dental Federation (ADF), made the statement to KUNA on the sidelines of participation of the 32nd Beirut International Dental Conference (BIDM).

He stressed KDA keenness on taking part in this congress and its associated exhibition to share knowledge and be aware of updates in diverse fields.

Al-Shammari said the Kuwaiti association is working on social, professional and educational axes.

Kuwait will host the second KDA national conference on November 20 that includes only Kuwaiti lecturers to support "our" scientific cadres, he noted.

Speaking to KUNA, ADF secre-



KUNA photo  
Companies showcase the latest innovations and medical equipment in the field of dentistry.

tary general and head of Oman Dental Society Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Ezri underlined the significance of partaking in medical and scientific conferences for communication and co-operation among varied syndicates.

Attending such conferences helps dentists keep pace with accelerating developments in some fields, he added.

The Arab region is rich in medical scientific competencies and expertise that should be invested in advancing dental services, as well as in education, training, and research, he pointed out.

The conference is featuring 140 lecturers from 20 Arab and Western countries to highlight the latest medical expertise in this field.

Child deaths

India warns on cough syrups

NEW DELHI, Oct 4, (Xinhua): Following the deaths of children allegedly linked to the consumption of cough syrups in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, India's health ministry has sought rational use of cough syrups among kids.

The advisory issued by India's Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) on Friday to all states has reiterated the "judicious prescribing and dispensing" of cough syrups for children.

According to DGHS, most acute cough illnesses in children are self-limiting and resolve without pharmacological intervention. It underlined that cough and cold medications should not be prescribed or dispensed to children under two years.

The DGHS said non-pharmacological measures, including "adequate hydration and rest," should be the first-line approach for children suffering from cough and cold.

Local media reports said 12 children -- nine in Madhya Pradesh and three in Rajasthan -- have died allegedly after developing complications following the consumption of cough syrups.

In both states, health authorities had issued restrictions on the cough syrups in question and ordered investigations into the deaths.

Meanwhile, about 22,000 Sri Lankans die annually as a result of alcohol-related causes, said the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol on Friday.

Speaking to journalists as Sri Lanka marked World Temperance Day, Dr. Ananda Rathnayaka, chairman of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol, warned that alcohol use remains a significant public health threat in the country, with 21 percent of the population consuming alcohol.



Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice



KUNA photos  
A play therapy room.

BACCH: A dignified life despite illness

In a quiet corner of Kuwait, Bayt Abdullah Children's Hospice (BACCH) offers a sanctuary for children facing life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses. Founded by the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH), the hospice provides more than medical care, it brings comfort, dignity, and hope.

Inspired by Abdullah, a young boy whose treatment abroad had failed, the hospice was created so children could live the remaining of their lives surrounded by love rather than hospital walls.

Abdullah's courage and joy be-

came the heart of a vision; a place where children could live fully, even in the face of serious illness.

Opened in 2012, Bayt Abdullah blends medical care with warmth and creativity. Children receive individualized treatment, therapeutic play, educational and recreational activities, and home care support. Free of charge and delivered with compassion, the hospice has become a pioneering model in the region, showing how care, love, and human connection can transform the final chapter of a child's life. (KUNA)

‘Over a quarter of the injured are children’

Nearly 42,000 in Gaza suffer life-changing injuries: WHO

GENEVA, Oct 4, (Agencies): A new World Health Organization (WHO) report released Thursday revealed that nearly 42,000 people in the Gaza Strip, one in four of them children, are suffering from life-changing injuries as a result of the ongoing conflict.

The report noted that these injuries account for a quarter of all reported cases while the number of amputations has surpassed 5,000. Cases of complex facial and eye trauma are also on the rise leaving many at risk of permanent disability and disfigurement.

Speaking at a press conference in Geneva WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that the two-year-long war has shattered Gazas health system and inflicted enormous suffering on its people.

He confirmed that WHO has documented 1,719 attacks on medical facilities in Gaza and the West Bank which killed nearly 1,800 health workers and at least 543 aid workers.

He reported that more than 66,000 people have been killed and over 170,000 injured since the start of the war with many of the injuries being catastrophic. These include amputations severe burns spinal cord and brain injuries as well as facial and eye damage that cause lifelong impairments and disfigurements.

The WHO chief added that only 14 of Gazas 36 hospitals remain partially functional with none operating at full capacity due to widespread destruction of health infrastructure.

He further noted that WHO has supported the medical evacuation of 7,841 patients for treatment outside Gaza most of them trauma victims and patients suffering from cancer heart disease and ophthalmic conditions. However some 15,600 patients including 3,800 children remain on the waiting list for evacuation.

Ghebreyesus welcomed the "Gaza peace plan" proposed by US President Donald Trump and backed

by several countries describing it as a potential step towards an immediate ceasefire the release of all hostages the resumption of humanitarian aid and the reconstruction of hospitals and health services in the Strip.

According to the report Estimating Trauma Rehabilitation Needs in Gaza, September 2025 Update, life-changing injuries account for one quarter of all reported cases, out of a total of 167,376 people injured since October 2023. More than 5,000 have undergone amputations, the WHO said. The findings, based on a wider data pool, remain consistent with the organization's earlier analyses.

The report documents widespread severe injuries, including damage to limbs, spinal cord, brain, and major burns, creating a massive demand for specialized surgical and rehabilitation services. Many families face long-term struggles as patients require intensive care.



A Palestinian man injured by Israeli artillery fire targeting a group of civilians fleeing from northern Gaza to the south is evacuated on a horse-drawn cart, in central Gaza, Wednesday, Oct. 1. (AP)



# Aces hold off Mercury in thrilling WNBA Finals opener



Phoenix Mercury forward Satou Sabally and Las Vegas Aces center Megan Gustafson, right, battle for a loose ball during the first half in Game 1 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series in Las Vegas. (AP)

## Saudi Arabia hopes to capitalize on home advantage

# Three years after stadium disaster, Indonesia is two wins away from qualifying for the World Cup

RIYADH, Oct 4, (AP): Almost 90 years after its first and only appearance at the World Cup, Indonesia is just two victories away from returning to the tournament.

It would mark a major turnaround in fortunes in just over three years since 135 spectators died at the Kanjuruhan stadium disaster in East Java as tear gas fired by security forces caused a stampede for the exits on Oct. 1, 2022 in a domestic match.

If Indonesia can defeat Saudi Arabia and Iraq on Oct. 8 and 11, respectively, in a qualifying tournament, then it will advance to 2026 World Cup to be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

“It will be a tough match, but until some time ago no party might predict Indonesia will undergo two crucial matches to qualify for the World Cup,” FIFA president Gianni Infantino said last week.

Infantino was behind the expansion of the World Cup from 32 teams in 2022 to 48 next year. Asia now has eight automatic places and Japan, South Korea, Australia, Iran, Uzbekistan and Jordan already qualified from the third round which ended in June.

That leaves two more spots available for six other teams, divided into two groups of three in the qualifying tournament. The winner of each goes to the World Cup.

Indonesia has been placed in



In this file photo, Indonesia's coach Patrick Kluivert speaks during a press conference ahead of the World Cup qualifying match against Australia at the Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

Group B to be hosted by Saudi Arabia. At the time of the disaster, the Southeast Asian nation was ranked 155th in the world and has since climbed to 119, a rise helped by wins over Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and China in the third round to move to the fourth. A recent program of naturalizing European-born players with Indonesian heritage has brought about better results.

With former Netherlands international Patrick Kluivert appointed as head coach in January, there

is a foreign flavor on the bench too - all six teams have tacticians from overseas in charge.

Herve Renard took Saudi Arabia to the 2022 World Cup and a win over Argentina, and the French coach returned in 2024 for a second spell. Results have been less impressive as the team finished third behind Japan and Australia in the third round.

Preparation in September was promising, with a draw against Czech Republic and a 2-1 victory over North Macedonia.

“The spirit was fantastic,” Renard said. “We changed five players for each game, but the spirit was the same - the way we started, the way we finished.”

An expected 60,000 fans at the King Abdullah Sports City will likely help the team qualify for a seventh World Cup. “Especially when we play in Jeddah, the atmosphere can be incredible. I think (the whole) country will be behind us,” Renard said.

Iraq has yet to return to the World Cup since its sole appearance in 1986 and appointed Graham Arnold, who took Australia to the knockout stage of the 2022 tournament, in March.

In Group A, two former coaches of Real Madrid meet. Carlos Queiroz took over Oman in July, two months after Julen Lopetegui was appointed as manager of Qatar, host of the 2022 tournament when it lost all three games.

“The prospect of playing at the World Cup is what spurs us on,” Lopetegui said. “Qatar has never qualified through the qualifiers before, and it’s a dream we’re determined to fight for. It’s within touching distance.”

UAE is the only team from Group A to have qualified for the World Cup and is keen to return after its 1990 debut.

“I think everyone understands the importance of the moment for the country and their careers,” Romanian boss Cosmin Olariu said in September.

## Wilson and Evans combine for 42

**LAS VEGAS, Oct 4, (AP): The Aces hadn’t spent a lot of time working on zone defense, so what better time than the fourth quarter of a WNBA Finals game?**

It worked out perfectly for Las Vegas.

The zone cooled off hot-shooting Phoenix just enough to allow the Aces, who received 21 points each from A’ja Wilson and Dana Evans, to rally for an 89-86 Game 1 victory.

Wilson scored 12 points over the final 14 minutes, and Phoenix’s Satou Sabally missed a long 3-pointer with 2 seconds left that would have tied it.

Game 2 is Sunday in Las Vegas.

The Mercury made 6 of 18 shots in the fourth quarter, including 2 of 12 from 3-point range. They entered that period shooting 52.1%, including 50% from 3.

“I was seeing them score too much against our man (defense),” Aces coach Becky Hammon said. “I thought them getting the ball in the paint, whether it was off a pass or penetration, was really hurting us. It was putting us very vulnerable on the back side with those 3s. So, just tried something different, so we didn’t give up the middle so easily. We were able to fan out a little better and find those shooters.”

Evans led an Aces bench that outscored the Mercury’s reserves 41-16. She also became the first player in a Finals game to record five 3-pointers and four steals.

“I’ve said multiple times that Dana’s our battery,” Wilson said. “She makes us play at a different pace. I told her we go as she goes. We’re always going to try to follow her because we know she’s very hard to stop in this league.”

Reserve Jewell Loyd scored 18 points for second-seeded Las Vegas, and starter Jackie Young had 10. Wilson had 10 rebounds, and Chelsea Gray had 10 assists.

Kahleah Cooper scored 21 points for the fourth-seeded Mercury. Sabally added 19 points, and Alyssa Thomas had 15 points, 10 rebounds, and nine assists.

Copper scored 19 points in the first half, one off her playoff career high for a half. Her personal best also came against the Mercury, when she scored 20 points for Chicago in the first half of Game 3 of the 2021 Finals. Copper’s five 3-pointers in the first half topped her previous high of four for a game.

If this game was any indication, these Finals - a best-of-seven series for the first time - figure to be tight throughout. The largest lead was nine points, and there were 12 lead changes and nine ties. The Mercury threatened to take control several times, only for the Aces to respond with a run. In the end, it was Las Vegas that nearly pulled away, only for Phoenix to keep it close.

With Phoenix down a point with 24.6 seconds left, Thomas went to the free-throw line but missed both. Young was fouled on the other end with 13.5 seconds remaining and made both free throws for the final margin.

After a day off, the Aces will either take a major step toward winning their third title in four years or the Mercury will even the series in hopes of tying the WNBA record with four championships.

“It’s going to be a great series,” Mercury coach Nate Tibbetts said. “It’s going to come down to the last possessions of the game. They’ve been through it together. We’ve handled these situations very well.”

The Mercury might have the Aces where they want them. Phoenix lost the opening game in each of its first two series before coming back to first knock out defending champion New York and then top seed Minnesota.

“We’ll walk through our mistakes and find better solutions for some things,” Sabally said. “And then we’ll just come back on Sunday and win this game.”

## James, Doncic sit out

# Lakers lose preseason opener

PALM DESERT, Calif., Oct 4, (AP): Austin Reaves scored 20 points and Bronny James added eight while the Los Angeles Lakers lost their preseason opener 103-81 to the Phoenix Suns on Friday night with LeBron James and Luka Doncic sitting out.

James is progressing deliberately in his return from a minor nerve injury to begin his record 23rd NBA season, while Doncic is also ramping up with caution after his busy summer playing for Slovenia at EuroBasket.

Both superstars watched from courtside while the rest of the Lakers lost to the new-look Suns, who jumped to a 27-point lead in the third quarter.

Lakers coach JJ Redick said before the game that Doncic will play at some point in the preseason, and he is hopeful LeBron James also will get at least one preseason game. Redick wants one preseason game with what he called “a dress rehearsal” for the regular season with the Lakers’ full roster.

Bronny James hit a 3-pointer late in the third quarter for his only field goal. He went 1 for 7 on 3-point attempts.

Devin Booker scored 24 points

and Dillon Brooks added 10 in his first game for Phoenix, which acquired the veteran agitator from Houston in the seven-team trade of Kevin Durant in July.

The Lakers opened their preseason in the same Coachella Valley arena where Bronny James first played alongside his famous father in Los Angeles’ two preseason games here one year ago.

With 40-year-old LeBron watching from courtside this time, Bronny was in the Lakers’ first substitution group, and he played nearly 23 minutes. Bronny, who turns 21 years old on Monday, didn’t make a shot in the first half and occasionally got beat on defense, but he hit five free throws and worked to run the Lakers’ offense.

Reaves led the Lakers’ starters, which included newcomers Deandre Ayton and Jake LaRavia with Rui Hachimura and Jarred Vanderbilt. Ayton had eight rebounds and just one point while taking only two shots in 18 minutes.

Grayson Allen added 13 points for Phoenix.

The Lakers’ preseason continues Sunday against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco.



Los Angeles Lakers center Jaxson Hayes, left, grabs a rebound away from Phoenix Suns center Oso Ighodaro during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Palm Desert, Calif. (AP)

## Diaz, James lead Colombia against Canada

# Messi, new faces in Argentina squad for US friendlies

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 4, (Xinhua): River Plate defender Lautaro Rivero was one of three uncapped players included in Argentina’s squad on Friday for friendlies against Venezuela and Puerto Rico.

Racing goalkeeper Facundo Cambeses and Palmeiras midfielder Anibal Moreno were also called up for the first time by Albiceleste manager Lionel Scaloni for this month’s friendlies in the United States.

In addition, Scaloni recalled Bournemouth defender Marcos Senesi, while Chelsea midfielder Enzo Fernandez returns after missing September’s World Cup qualifiers due to suspension.

As expected, the 28-man squad is led by captain Lionel Messi and also includes Liverpool midfielder Alexis Mac Allister, Real Madrid midfielder Franco Mastantuono, Atletico Madrid forward Julian Alvarez, and Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez.

Argentina will meet Venezuela in Miami on October 10 and Puerto Rico in Chicago three days later.

Argentina squad: Goalkeepers: Emiliano Martinez, Walter Benitez, Geronimo Rulli and Facundo Cambeses Defenders: Gonzalo Montiel, Nahuel Molina, Cristian Romero, Leonardo Balerdi, Nicolas Otamendi, Marcos Senesi, Lautaro Rivero, Nicolas Ta-

glicafico and Marcos Acuna Midfielders: Leandro Paredes, Anibal Moreno, Rodrigo De Paul, Enzo Fernandez, Nicolas Paz, Giovanni Lo Celso, Alexis Mac Allister, Thiago Almada and Franco Mastantuono Forwards: Giuliano Simeone, Nicolas Gonzalez, Lionel Messi, Jose Manuel Lopez, Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez

Bayern Munich winger Luis Diaz and Leon midfielder James Rodriguez were among 25 players named in Colombia’s squad on Friday for friendlies against Mexico and Canada in the United States.

Cafeteros manager Nestor Lorenzo also in-

cluded in-form Sporting CP striker Luis Suarez, who netted four goals in Colombia’s 6-3 away win over Venezuela in a World Cup qualifier last month.

Meanwhile, Fluminense forward Kevin Serna earned his first international call-up at the age of 27.

Colombia will face Mexico in Arlington, Texas, on October 11 and Canada in New Jersey three days later.

Colombia squad: Goalkeepers: David Ospina, Kevin Mier, Alvaro Montero Defenders: Alvaro Angulo, Andres Roman, Daniel Munoz, Davinson Sanchez, Jhon Lucumi, Johan Mojica, Yerry Mina, Yerson Mosquera Midfielders: Richard Rios, Kevin Castano, James Rodriguez, Jefferson Lerma, Juan Camilo Portilla, Juan Fernando Quintero Forwards: Jaminton Campaz, Johan Carbonero, Juan Camilo Hernandez, Kevin Serna, Luis Diaz, Luis Suarez, Yaser Asprilla, Rafael Santos Borre



Inter Miami’s Lionel Messi (10) takes a free kick against Toronto FC during the second half of a MLS soccer game in Toronto. (AP)

## Best of the Rest

**Hao claims two titles at worlds:** China’s rookie Wang Hao secured two gold medals in the men’s 60kg snatch and total on the second day of the IWF World Weightlifting Championships.

Wang, 27, who won the men’s 56kg title at the 2017 IWF World Junior Championships, made his senior world championships debut by topping the snatch with 138kg and achieving a winning total of 302kg, including 164kg in the clean and jerk.

“This was my first time at the world championships, and I was excited. Both my body and mind responded quickly, though I was somewhat emotional. The results were slightly below my expectations, but my coach advised me to avoid overexertion and maintain stable performance to gradually extend the lead during the competition,” said Wang, who began weightlifting at age 10.

“A world championship title is both a personal achievement and a tribute to the Olympic and world champions from my hometown Fujian, who are all my role models,” he continued. Wang comes from Fujian Province in southern China, which has produced at least seven Olympic champions, including Shi Zhiyong, Zhang Guozheng, and Zhang Xiangxiang. (Xinhua)

**Yamal has aggravated groin injury:** Lamine Yamal has aggravated an injury in his groin area and will be sidelined for two to three weeks, Barcelona said Friday.

That announcement came hours after Spain had called him up for World Cup qualifiers that he will now miss.

Barcelona said the “winger’s groin problem has reappeared” after its 2-1 loss to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League this week.

The injury has been a point of contention between Barcelona and Spain’s national team. Barcelona coach Hansi Flick had lashed out at Spain for using Yamal in two wins in early September, saying it had “not taken care” of him and insinuating that he had played while injured.

The 18-year-old Yamal then missed four games for Barcelona due to “discomfort in the pubic area”.

The Spain camp denied he had played while hurt, saying Yamal had passed all its standard medical procedures and that Barcelona had not indicated he had any fitness issues.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said earlier on Friday when he named his squad that he had “no conflict with Hansi Flick,” and defended his handling of the health of his players.

“We take zero risks, only the risks that any player takes on when one plays a sport,” De la Fuente said. “If a player comes with the team it means he is healthy, and if he plays it means he is in playing condition.” (AP)

**Change Name**  
I, Mohammed (current name in passport), holding Indian passport no. T4006403, having permanent address Adam Road, Sagwara, Raj, India 314025, residing in Kuwait at Present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under:  
Given Name - Mohammed, Surname - Bangali



# Kuwait participates in Rabab Arabian Horse Championship

CAIRO, Oct 4: The Rabab Championship for purebred Arabian horses is set to kick off its annual edition at the Rabab Equestrian Center from October 9 to 11, with Kuwaiti riders among the participants. The event features a variety of competitions, including children's contests and team events, with 182 horses representing Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Owned by Sheikh Khalid Bin Laden, the Rabab Equestrian Center is renowned for its extensive facilities, top-quality horses, and skilled riders. The center hosts all major equestrian tournaments and includes Egypt's largest arena, fully equipped for rider training. Riders from Rabab have consistently achieved top rankings in national and international competitions.

Horses as young as six months can participate in three age categories for both males and females. The final day will showcase competitions for juniors and children, with awards presented for the best horse and best breeder.

Organized under the supervision



File photo of Sheikh Khalid bin Laden with the previous tournament winners.

of the European Organization for the Beauty of Arabian Horses (ECAHO), the championship will begin at 4:30 PM with the first group of mares born in 2024-2025 competing in the agility category.

Kuwait Club climbs to top of Championship

# Administrative error costs Al-Arabi victory

By Khaled Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Kuwait Volleyball Association's Competitions Committee has ruled Al-Arabi's first match against Yarmouk a 3-0 loss following Yarmouk's protest over the participation of Yousef Mandil, who was ineligible.

The protest cited a suspension carried over from Mandil's previous club, Burgan, during the season. He had been banned for two matches, but had only served one, leaving one match still pending. Mandil should not have played for Al-Arabi in the season opener, leading to the forfeiture of the three points the team initially earned from their 3-0 win.

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club climbed to the top of the Federation Championship standings after a straight-sets victory over Al-Shabab (25-21, 25-23, 25-15), giving them nine points, while Al-Shabab fell to fourth place with five points.

Other Round 6 results saw Yarmouk defeat Al-Nasr 3-1 (23-25, 25-17, 26-



A Kuwait Club player spikes the ball during the game.

24, 25-21). In Round 5 matches last Thursday, Kazma beat Qadisiya 3-0, and Al-Arabi narrowly overcame Burgan 3-2.

The updated standings for the Federation Championship are:

Kuwait Club: 9 points  
Kazma and Yarmouk: 6 points each  
Al-Shabab and Burgan: 5 points each  
Qadsia and Al-Arabi: 2 points each  
Sulaibikhat: 1 point  
Al-Nasr: 0 points

Sinner advances in Shanghai Masters

# Amanda crushes Gauff

BEIJING, Oct 4, (AP): Coco Gauff's title defense at the China Open ended with a 6-1, 6-2 semifinal loss to third-seeded Amanda Anisimova on Saturday.

Anisimova, runner-up at both the U.S. Open and Wimbledon this year, needed just 58 minutes to beat her American compatriot and advance to the final.

"I knew I was going to have to play really well against Coco if I wanted to get the win. I'm really excited to be in the final," she said.

Anisimova, who has risen to No. 4 in the world rankings, jumped out to 5-0 leads in both sets.

She'll face either fifth-seeded Jessica Pegula or Linda Noskova, who is seeded 26th.

The 20-year-old Noskova became the youngest Czech player to reach a WTA 1000 semifinal since the format was introduced in 2009.

Jannik Sinner made a solid start to his Shanghai Masters title defense, beating Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday to avenge a loss two years ago at the French Open.

The victory extended the second-ranked Sinner's winning streak to six matches following his China Open title in Beijing on Wednesday.

"I knew before the match it was going to be very difficult today," Sinner said. "I didn't have a lot of time to adapt here. But it makes it even more special."

# Springboks edge Argentina, retain Rugby Championship



South Africa's Siya Kolisi, center, raises the trophy as they pose for photographers after winning the Rugby Championship match against Argentina at Twickenham stadium, in London. (AP)

NZ continues dominance over Australia

LONDON, Oct 4, (AP): South Africa retained the Rugby Championship crown for the first time after beating Argentina 29-27 at Twickenham.

New Zealand beat Australia 28-14 in Perth hours earlier to put pressure on the Springboks to win, and they delivered in typically punchy style.

They won the title by a point from the All Blacks after one of the tightest championships in history.

South Africa didn't lead until the 44th minute, gradually overwhelming the Pumas with the power of their set-piece.

Taking advantage of the superior muscle up front, scrumhalf Cobus Reinach and hooker Malcolm scored two tries each.

The Pumas weren't as close to South Africa as the scoreline suggested. They scored two late converted tries.

It's now 11 wins in a row for the All Blacks over the Wallabies.

Center Quinn Tupaea scored first-half tries three minutes apart to give New Zealand a 17-9 halftime lead on the way to a 28-14 win over the Wallabies in a Bledisloe Cup/Rugby Championship match Saturday.

Australia hasn't beaten New Zealand since a match in Brisbane in 2020. It's the Wallabies' longest losing streak against their trans-Tasman Sea opponents, having previously lost 10 straight tests against the All Blacks from 2008-10.

The 60,000 sold-out match in Perth, which was hit by steady rain for most of the second half, marked the 151st and final test for Wallabies prop James Slipper, who announced his retirement from test rugby earlier this week.

The Wallabies had three first-half penalty goals from flyhalf Tane Edmed, and Len Ikitau scored their only try in the 65th minute to pull the home side to within six points at 20-14. But a late All Blacks penalty goal and a last-minute try from prop George Bower pulled them clear.

New Zealand, which also had a first-half try from Leroy Carter, secured the Bledisloe Cup for the 23rd year with a 33-24 win over the Wallabies last week in Auckland.

South Africa was scheduled to play Argentina in the final match of the Rugby Championship later Saturday at Twickenham in London. With the bonus-point win, the All Blacks temporarily pulled into first place in the tournament.

Australia enforcer Will Skelton, who had flown in from France and his Top 14 club duties with La Rochelle to play for the Wallabies, lasted just 15 minutes. He won a breakdown penalty in the second minute, had it immediately reversed for shoving an opponent and then suffered a concussion.

Australia captain Harry Wilson bristled at a question over whether his side was at least competitive against the All Blacks on Saturday.

"We're not out to be competitive, mate, we're here to win," Wilson said. "Test footy, it's fine margins and obviously we missed out ... We've definitely progressed, but ultimately we didn't get the results in the last few games which we wanted, which is really disappointing."

His teammate Max Jorgensen was more blunt.

"A lot of silly errors that we need to get out of our game," Jorgensen said. "You can't be making those mistakes. If you want to be the best team in the world you've got to be at your best at every aspect of the game."

All Blacks coach Scott Robertson said it was a "gritty performance" that "got a bit dirty in the rain."

"It wasn't the most entertaining footy at times, but it was built on a lot of shoulders and care," he said. "We can enjoy and connect tonight, it's really a performance we're proud of because we've done it back-to-back."

"We felt we've played some really good footy in a lot of those games, but we put more together tonight."

New Zealand finished the Rugby Championship with four wins and two losses, while Australia was 2-4.

Sulaibikhat secured a 33-26 victory over Al-Salmiya.

Qadsia had won its previous three matches, beating Al-Salmiya 31-30, Al-Nasr 33-23, and Al-Arabi 29-25, but its momentum was halted by Sulaibikhat.

The Premier League standings prior to yesterday's matches were:

Kuwait Club: 12 points  
Burgan: 8 points  
Kazma: 7 points  
Qadsia, Al-Arabi, Al-Salmiya: 6 points each

# Qadsia winning run snapped by Sulaibikhat as Arabi wins

By Khaled Al-Enez  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Sulaibikhat ended Qadsia's winning run in the Handball Premier League with 33-28 victory in the seventh and final round of the first section at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex.

In another match, Al-Arabi secured a 33-26 victory over Al-Salmiya.

Qadsia had won its previous three matches, beating Al-Salmiya 31-30, Al-Nasr 33-23, and Al-Arabi 29-25, but its momentum was halted by Sulaibikhat.

The Premier League standings prior to yesterday's matches were:

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Sulaibikhat: 5 points  
Al-Nasr: 2 points

The first round of the second section is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday. The Premier League is divided into three sections, with the team accumulating the most points claiming the 58th championship title in league history.

In the fourth round of the First Division Handball League:

Yarmouk defeated Al-Sahel 35-30  
Al-Qurain overcame Al-Fahaheel 39-27  
Khaitan beat the Youth National Team 34-32

Khaitan continues to lead the First Division with 8 points, followed by Yarmouk with 6 points, Al-Qurain with 4 points, Youth National Team with 3 points, Al-Fahaheel with 1 point, and Al-Sahel with 0 points.



A Sulaibikhat player fires a shot at goal while an opponent tries to defend.

Three centurions in first innings

# India thumps West Indies in Test opener

AHMEDABAD, India, Oct 4, (AP): Ravindra Jadeja took 4-54 as India wrapped up the first test against West Indies by an innings and 140 runs on day three at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday.

Kuldeep Yadav also picked 2-23, while Mohammed Siraj took 3-31 in 11 overs, as West Indies was bowled out for 146 runs (45.1 overs) in the second innings.

The visitors had scored 162 runs in the first innings. In reply, India had declared its first innings at 448-5 with a lead of 286 runs.

India had three centurions in its first innings - Lokesh Rahul (100), Dhruv Jurel (125) and Jadeja (104 not out).

The second match in the two-test series begins Oct. 10 in New Delhi.

Post lunch on day three, West Indies had one good partnership to start the second session. Justin Greaves and Alick Athanaze put on 46 off 87 balls for the sixth wicket.

Athanaze top-scored with 38 off 74 balls with three fours. He was the first to go post lunch - a fine return catch by Washington Sundar (1-18).

West Indies slipped to 98-8 as Siraj trapped Greaves lbw for 25 and



India's Mohammed Siraj, center, celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of West Indies' Justin Greaves on the third day of the first Test cricket match between India and West Indies at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India, Saturday. (AP)

then had Jomel Warrican was out caught for a duck.

Jayden Seales delayed the inevitable with 22 off 12 balls, with two sixes, pushing the score past 100.

Jadeja and Yadav then wrapped up proceedings before the tea break.

Earlier, West Indies was down to 66-5 at lunch after India declared its first innings overnight.

Jadeja picked up 3-30 in the morning session to leave West Indies reeling in 27 overs by lunch.

West Indies' opening stand lasted only 7.2 overs before Siraj struck to dismiss Tagenarine Chanderpaul for

8. Nitish Reddy took a stunning catch at square leg to dismiss the opener.

Jadeja was brought into the attack early, and he dismissed John Campbell for 14 and West Indies was down to 24-2 in 10.1 overs. It shortly became 34-3 and 35-4 - Jadeja had Brandon King caught at slip for 5. Then, Yadav bowled skipper Roston Chase for 1.

Vice-captain Jadeja was named player of the match.

"I have worked hard on my batting. I had been batting lower at eight or nine, but now I bat at number six. So there is no need to rush and I take my time," he said.

West Indies has not beaten India in 26 tests - home or away - dating to 2002. It has lost four of the last five tests in India by an innings' margin and lost the fifth by 10 wickets (2018).

It is the first time in 15 years that India has played a home test without Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin. The trio retired over the past season - their previous appearance on home soil against New Zealand last October was a stunning 3-0 loss for India.

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NEWS





Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain in action during the qualifying for the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore. (AP)

# Sports



Kuwait squash delegation.

## Kuwait confident ahead of Arab Squash Championship

BEIRUT, Oct 4: Kuwait is participating in the 30th Arab Squash Championship (individual and team events), taking place in Lebanon from October 7 to 13. The delegation traveled to Beirut last Thursday to hold a preparatory training camp ahead of the tournament.

The Kuwaiti delegation is led by Federation President Waleed Al-Sumaie, and includes Treasurer Mishaal Al-Sharqawi as team manager, coaches Ahmed Al-Sayed and Falah Faye, along with six players: Ammar Al-Tamimi, Ali Al-Ramzi, Badr Al-Maghribi, Jassim Al-Gharib, Abdulrahman Al-Maghribi, and Abdullah Hani.

The championship features six participating nations alongside Kuwait – Bahrain, Qatar, Palestine, Iraq, and host nation Lebanon.

Head of the delegation Al-Sumaie expressed confidence in the team’s ability to deliver a strong performance and compete for top honors, despite the presence of highly competitive teams such as Qatar and Iraq. He emphasized that the Kuwaiti squad combines experienced players, including Ammar Al-Tamimi and Ali Al-Ramzi, with a group of promising talents such as Badr Al-Maghribi, Jassim Al-Gharib, Abdulrahman Al-Maghribi, and 17-year-old junior player Abdullah Hani.

Al-Sumaie added that this talented lineup represents the future of Kuwaiti squash, noting that the team’s technical director, Coach Sherine Adel, has implemented a strategic long-term development plan focused on nurturing young players through international participation and exposure to world-class competitors to strengthen their experience and skills.

## Kuwait to host 2026 Level 4 Ice Hockey World Cup in April

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Kuwait Winter Games Club announced that the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) has awarded Kuwait the honor of hosting the 2026 Level 4 Ice Hockey World Cup, set to begin on April 12. This marks the second time in Kuwait’s ice hockey history that the country will host the prestigious tournament.

Club President Fahad Al-Ajmi said the decision was made during the IIHF General Assembly



Fahad Al-Ajmi (Congress) currently underway in Nice, France, chaired by IIHF

President Luc Tardif. The meeting was attended by numerous federation members, including Kuwait’s representative, Club Development Committee Director Mishaal Al-Ajmi, and committee member Rashid Al-Felkawei.

Al-Ajmi explained that Kuwait’s successful bid was based on a strong technical, organizational, and administrative proposal, as well as the success of the previous 2024 edition, which was also held at the club’s ice rink and where the Kuwaiti team de-

livered impressive performances. He expressed his sincere thanks to IIHF members for approving Kuwait’s hosting rights.

He added that organizing this major international sporting event underscores Kuwait’s growing prominence in winter sports, reflecting the tournament’s significance and the high level of participating teams, and praised the efforts of the Kuwaiti delegation at the IIHF Congress, which were instrumental in securing the hosting rights.

# Man United edges Sunderland to relieve pressure on Amorim

Arsenal stays on track

LONDON, Oct 4, (AP): Ruben Amorim rang the changes and got the result he desperately needed.

A 2-0 win for Manchester United against Sunderland in the Premier League on Saturday eased the pressure on Amorim ahead of the international break. It may also quieten the mounting speculation over his position, even if only temporarily.

Amorim has still to lead United to back-to-back victories in the league after almost a year in charge but this was a step in the right direction.

He showed his ruthless side by dropping \$84 million summer signing Matheus Cunha and handed a first start to new goalkeeper Senne Lammens in a game that was seen as another potential stumbling block after United lost three of its opening six league matches.

They paid off with first half goals from Mason Mount and Benjamin Sesko at Old Trafford and a first clean sheet of the season.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has also faced questions as he aims to finally deliver the title at the fourth time of asking. His team beat West Ham 2-0.

But victory came at a cost after another injury to captain Martin Odegaard.

ArseMohammed Kudus scored his first Tottenham goal to keep Thomas Frank’s team riding high.

Kudus’ second-half strike from the edge of the box secured a 2-1 win at Leeds to move Spurs up to third.

Spurs were unbeaten in their last seven games in all competitions and have lost just once in the league un-



Arsenal’s Jurrien Timber shoots the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and West Ham United at the Emirates stadium in London. (AP)

der Frank, who took charge in the summer.

Kudus was one of Frank’s big signings in the offseason - joining from West Ham - and the forward produced the decisive moment at Elland Road where he cut in from the right and fired low past Karl Darlow in the 57th minute.

Spurs led through Mathys Tel, whose deflected shot rocketed into the top corner.

Leeds, which was unbeaten at home since February, equalized through Noah Okafor from close range in the 34th.

Bournemouth came from 1-0 down and scored three late goals to defeat Fulham 3-1 in a pulsating and

blustery.

Antoine Semenyo scored twice and was outstanding for the home side which moved into second place in the table and extended its unbeaten run to six games since losing against champion Liverpool on the opening weekend.

There was little goalmouth action in the first half as both sides struggled to impose themselves in the wet and windy conditions that assailed England’s south coast.

But the game sparked into life in the last quarter, with Ryan Sessegnon giving Fulham the lead after 70 minutes when he ran into the box to poke home a neat pass from Samuel Chukwueze.

However, the home side got back into the game eight minutes later when a spritely Semenyo scored from the tightest of angles, knocking the ball through goalkeeper Bernd Leno’s legs.

Then substitute Justin Kluivert gave Bournemouth the lead when he smashed home a long-range strike with six minutes left on the clock.

Semenyo added a third in the sixth minute of stoppage time when he finished off a counterattack by coolly burying a pass from Ben Gannon-Doak. The goals took Semenyo’s league tally to six in seven games.

“What an evening,” a delighted Semenyo said. “I can’t even explain what’s going on, this feeling. Going second, going into the international break. It’s an achievement for us, we’ve just got to keep going.”

“They went in front, it was a bit frustrating. But we had our moments, our spells, we just needed to finish our chances, and we did that in the end.”

It was an infuriating case of déjà vu for Fulham, which has lost five of the last eight games in which it scored first.

The Cottagers have dropped more points from winning positions than any other club except Brentford since the start of last season. Its sits in 11th place.

“It is really disappointing,” Fulham defender Joachim Anderson said. “We held them for the big chances and were solid. Then we got the goal and it was about sticking together and fighting - we did that but those two goals from nowhere changed the game.”

“It is a punch in the face but we need to keep our head high and move on.”

## Kuwait wraps up local training, heads to Uzbekistan for friendly



Players hold their final local training session.

By Khaled Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Kuwait national team concluded its final local training session today before heading to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for a friendly match against the Uzbekistan on Thursday, during the international break.

Kuwait Football Association board member Ayman Al-Husseini met with the players prior to the session, urging them to give their maximum effort and perform at their best to make the most of the training camp.

Following the Uzbekistan match, the team will travel to Dubai for a short training camp, which will include a second friendly against the Morocco local team on October 14.

This final preparation phase comes ahead of Kuwait’s official match against Mauritania on November 14, part of the Arab Cup qualifiers, which will kick off in Doha, Qatar, in early December.

The sessions, led by Portuguese coach Helio Sousa, saw the return of Al-Qadisia players, who had completed their commitments in the Gulf Club Champions League against Zakho SC (Iraq) on September 30.

Kazma player Jarah Al-Huleili also joined the squad, replacing Salmiya’s Mehdi Dashedi, who was sidelined due to an injury sustained during training.

Coach Sousa is focused on maximizing the benefits of the camp; ensuring players fully grasp and implement his tactical instructions ahead of his first official match with Kuwait against Mauritania.

## Dortmund, Leipzig share spoils; Hjulmand extends unbeaten run

DORTMUND, Germany, Oct 4, (AP): Bayern Munich stood to benefit as its two closest Bundesliga challengers Borussia Dortmund and Leipzig played out a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

Dortmund’s Yan Couto leveled the score to cancel out Christoph Baumgartner’s opener for Leipzig.

Kasper Hjulmand extended his unbeaten start as Bayer Leverkusen coach to a sixth game as Ernest Poku and Christian Kofane scored in a 2-0 win over Union Berlin, though left back Alejandro Grimaldo went off injured.

Hjulmand’s team got through a game without conceding for the first time since the Danish coach replaced Erik ten Hag last month

after just two league games of the new season.

Eighteen-year-old American defender Noah Banks opened the scoring with his first Bundesliga goal as Augsburg beat Wolfsburg 3-1. Starting a league game for the first time since February, Banks scored in just the third minute.

Another early goal decided Werder Bremen’s 1-0 win over St. Pauli as Samuel Mbangula scored in the second minute.

A super solo goal from Said El Mala gave Cologne a 1-0 win at Hoffenheim and lifted it into fourth place.

Lukas Kwasniok’s side started the season with two wins but hadn’t won in three until

El Mala up front and Marvin Schwäbe in goal helped it to all three points at PreZero Arena.

With 16 minutes gone, El Mala picked up the ball just inside the Hoffenheim half and drove forward, beating three defenders before firing home a brilliant solo effort.

Kwasniok recalled the 19-year-old winger after he missed last week’s defeat at home to Stuttgart.

Schwäbe was in fine form at the other end as Cologne moved on to 10 points from six games.

For Hoffenheim, it was a fifth league defeat in a row at home. It has seven points from six games.

## Russell on pole for Singapore GP

SINGAPORE, Oct 4, (AP): George Russell took pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix as Max Verstappen got the better of his Formula 1 title rivals Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris.

Russell had crashed in Friday practice but turned it around in style as he was 0.182 of a second faster than Verstappen in Saturday’s qualifying session despite clipping the wall. Verstappen has the momentum in the F1 title fight after winning the last two races, while McLaren again seems off the pace.

Standings leader Piastri qualified third, .366 off Russell’s pace, with his McLaren teammate Norris fifth. It’s the second pole position of the year for Russell and the first for him and the Mercedes team since the Canadian Grand Prix in June, which he went on to win.

“We certainly didn’t anticipate to be fighting for a pole position here,” Russell said, adding that he was surprised McLaren was slower than expected.

Pole position is a big advantage in Singapore, where overtaking is difficult. However, Russell has previously struggled in Singapore, where he has a best finish of fourth. He crashed on the last lap while fighting for the podium places at the 2023 edition.