



KUWAITI RETIREES BACK TO STATE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

Kuwait decree scraps Afia program

Law repeal aims at public fund efficiency

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Decree-Law No. 141/2025 was published in the official gazette “Kuwait Al-Youm” on Sunday, Oct 5 for repealing the Health Insurance Law for Retired Citizens (Afia), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The explanatory memorandum of the decree ex-

plained that Kuwait has always provided healthcare to its citizens, especially retirees, who are the most in need of health insurance.

The issuance of Law No. 114/2014 aimed to expand private sector participation in providing healthcare services to retired citizens. For the same reasons, additional insurance coverage categories were introduced by amending this law, pursuant to Law No. 71/2023.

The practical application of Law No. 114/2014 resulted in a limited number of qualified insurance companies competing to provide health insurance services to the targeted groups. This led to several negative outcomes, including the failure to deliver services as intended, and the dominance of the health insurance market by providers offering services that did not match the value of public funds spent.

As a result, Decree-Law No. 105/2024 was issued for sus-

pending Law No. 114/2014 for one year, starting from October 6, 2024, the date of its publication in the official gazette. The suspension was intended to allow time for studying alternative options to deliver healthcare in a way that ensures a balance between the public funds spent and the public interest on one hand, and the needs of the targeted groups within the health insurance system on the other.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Dear Your Highness the Prime Minister, most ministers close the car windows

HOLDING senior government administrative positions is not a privilege, but a continuous responsibility, especially when the work directly impacts people's lives. For this reason, the role of an official spokesperson is essential to provide clarity and counter misinformation and rumors, if any.

In advanced countries, every ministry has an official spokesperson because public institutions serve the people, who have the right to be informed.

These nations reject the “one-man show” approach, recognizing that responsibilities differ across institutions. Therefore, the media representative of any public body must be well-versed in the institution's operations and fully informed of its details. When necessary, they should hold daily press conferences to keep the media, and through them, the public, updated on all developments, rather than relying on occasional brief statements.

The Council of Ministers and ministers in Kuwait lack official spokespersons, despite the existence of public relations and media departments. However, their role appears to be limited to filling the free time of employees appointed under the Kuwaitization policy in the public sector.

On this basis, a closed-door policy has become entrenched, contrary to the political leadership's directives, which urge all officials to open their doors to the public. It seems that laziness has spread to the point where even media officials make no effort to refute rumors or uncover the facts, even when a rumor spreads widely and becomes a trend. It is as if those officials see themselves as above the people, simply because they are public sector employees.

This situation hinders the activities of ministries, especially when fake stories and rumors flood the online space accessible to everyone daily, sometimes even influencing the decisions of government agencies. The impact of the online space is so significant that it occasionally leads to the cancellation or postponement of some decisions “for further study.”

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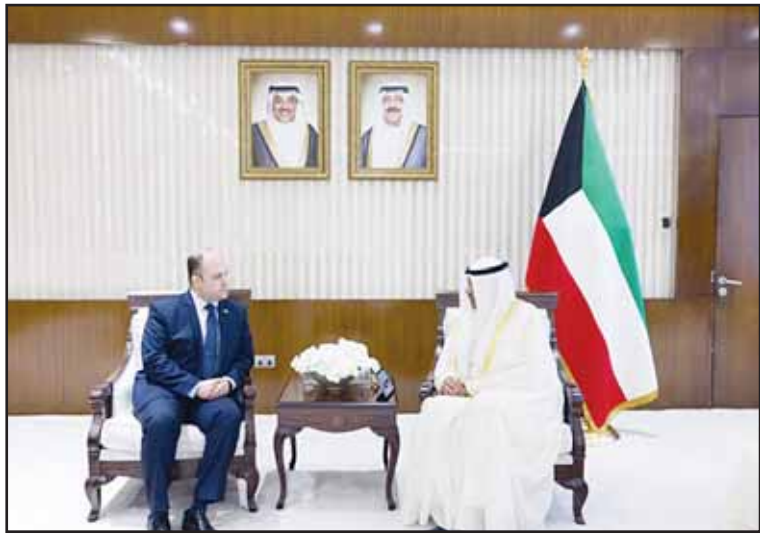
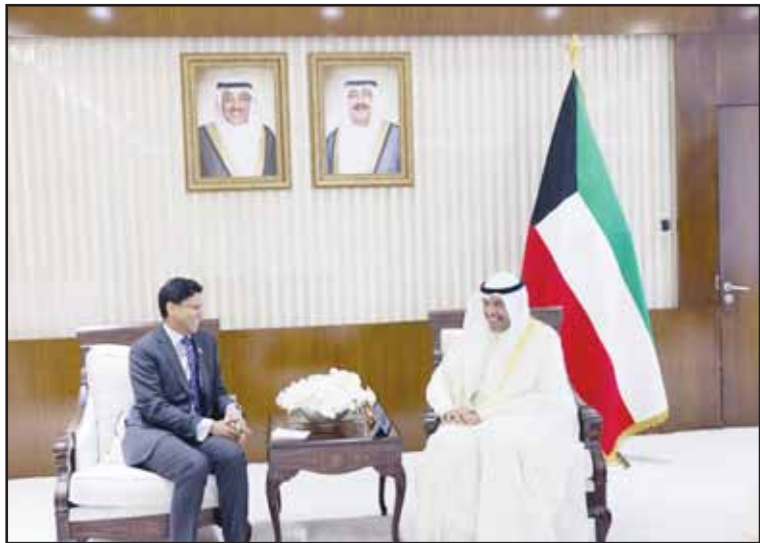
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs photos
Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya receives Qudsi Rasheed, UK's new Ambassador to Kuwait (top) and Maksym Subkh, Ukraine's new Ambassador to Kuwait (above).

CAPT expands tender ban list

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The number of companies banned from participating in tenders increased to 10 after the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) decided to remove one of them from the register and permanently ban it from participating, say reliable sources.

Sources said this decision is based on Paragraph C of Clause One of Article 85 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016. Sources confirmed that the decision is a continuation of the agency's approach to apply the principle of reward and punishment, and its commitment to strictly implement the regulations and laws governing the tendering process.

Article 85 of the law stipulates a number of penalties that the agency could impose on contractors, suppliers or service providers, including warnings, downgrading, deletion from the register, suspension from participation for a period not exceeding five years, and permanent deletion from the register.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: An annual science and technology forum in the Japanese city of Kyoto on Sunday honored Kuwaiti engineer Meshal Al-Otaibi for his promising leadership skills, amid a large-scale international gathering attended by Japanese Emperor Naruhito.

Expressing his pride over the achievement, the Kuwaiti engineer told KUNA during the Science and Technology in Society forum (STS) that he was honored to have represented his country at an event of such magnitude, citing the “perennial goal” of promoting a culture of technological innovation in line with Kuwait's “Vision 2035,” he said.

Presenting his research on improving energy efficiency and curbing reliance on fossil fuels through cutting carbon emissions, he underlined the significance of the forum given that it brings together youth leaders and prominent decision makers to mull over the future of the technology industry, he added. (KUNA)

AMMAN: Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa said on Sunday that Syrians are living a very important historical moment, and everyone must participate in rebuilding their country.

Syrian News Agency quoted President Al-Sharaa as saying, while reviewing the progress of the electoral process for the new People's Assembly, that “Syria has been able, in just a few months, to enter into an electoral process that is appropriate to the circumstances it is experiencing.” (KUNA)

Officials review GCC development strategies

Kuwait seeks unified Gulf economic vision

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait hosted the 13th meeting of the Senior Officials Committee of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority, chaired by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance Aseel Sulaiman Al-Munifi, on Sunday.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance, undersecretaries of the Ministries of Finance and Economy of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as well as the Director General of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority Khalid bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh participated in the meeting. The meeting is part of the preparations for the seventh meeting of the Permanent Preparatory Committee at the Ministerial Level of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority, scheduled for Thursday, October 9 in Kuwait.

Al-Munifi began the meeting by welcoming the Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Economy of the GCC countries, emphasizing the importance of the gathering in supporting the progress of joint Gulf economic action and strengthening mechanisms for economic integration among the GCC countries.

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KUNA photo
Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Finance and Economy of the GCC States and the Director General of the Office of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority in a group photo.

Kuwait celebrates volunteers' courage in Gaza flotilla

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: A number of international law experts, lawyers and activists expressed their pride over the participation of Kuwaiti youths in the ‘Resilience Flotilla’, stressing that this participation is a confirmation that Kuwait fully supports the Palestinian cause and the people of Gaza.



Al-Mutawa

In a special investigative report, these experts told the newspaper that the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in supporting

the detained Kuwaitis -- Abdullah Mubarak Al-Mutawa, Mohammad Jamal and Khaled Al-Abd Al-Jader -- deserve commendation.

They asserted “the Kuwaiti people are proud of their participation in the ‘Resilience Flotilla’.



Al-Rashidi

We implore Allah Almighty to release them and return them to Kuwait safely, especially since these young men went there to provide food and medicines to the people of Gaza,

Al-Mutawa disclosed that he was initially unaware of his son Abdullah's participation in the ‘Resilience Flotilla’. He affirmed that he is proud of the Kuwaiti youths' participation in the flotilla to provide aid to the people of Gaza.



Al-Harbi

Al-Mutawa stated that his son Abdullah went out with good and pure intentions to participate in the flotilla, especially since he was raised in a family with a long history of involvement in charitable and humanitarian works. He explained that international law protects those who provide hu-

manitarian aid in times of war, and that Abdullah and the rest of the flotilla participants will be released, because they did not commit a crime and did not travel with weapons, as they went there to provide humanitarian aid, expressing his gratitude for the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to secure the return of the detained Kuwaiti youths. He said the ministry affirms its commitment to guarantee the safety of the Kuwaiti people.

Continued on Page 5

PAM cancels key work guarantees

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has announced the cancellation of several financial guarantees as part of its efforts to facilitate procedures and improve services provided to employers, in line with Administrative Resolution No. 1377/2025.

In an official statement, PAM explained that the cancellations include financial guarantees for cleaning, security, and handling businesses, as well as guarantees related to work permits for absent workers and workers with final court rulings, and commercial licenses issued to citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

It affirmed that this move is part of its ongoing efforts to create a more flexible and supportive work environment in the private sector.



8 KFH concludes Sustainable Business Program for SMEs



9 NBK named Leading Corporate for Investor Relations in Kuwait



10 KIB concluded its participation in Auto World Show 2025 & revealed its installments-at-cash-price deal

10 Burgan Bank, as strategic sponsor, participates in CODED's 2025 Academy X graduation ceremony

Prayer Timings			
Fajr	04:24	Asr	14:59
Sunrise ..	05:43	Maghrib ..	17:30
Zohr	11:37	Isha	18:46

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

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

By Night: Rather hot to mild

Weather

and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	39	27

Kuwait Airport	40	27
Abdaly	41	21
Jahra	40	25
Salmiyah	38	28
Ahmadi	36	24
Nuwaisib	38	25



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister

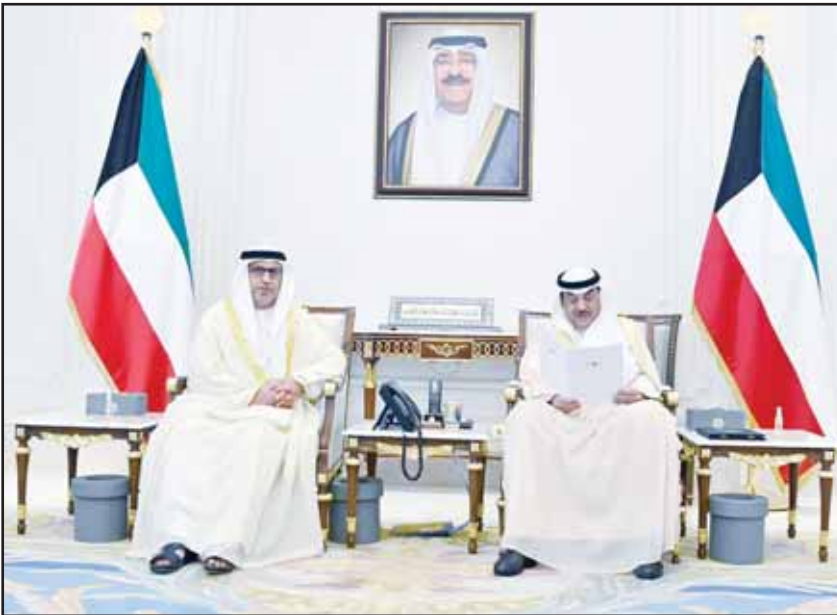
Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince receives invitation to World Government Summit 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Sunday an invitation from the UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum, to attend the World Government Summit 2026.

The invitation was handed to His Highness the Crown Prince by the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr. Mattar Hamed Al-Neyadi.

The meeting was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince's Office Head, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and other state officials.



Crown Prince Diwan photo
His Highness the Crown Prince receives an invitation to attend the World Government Summit 2026 in Dubai.

Other Voices

The four beautiful requests

By Ahmad alsarraf

EVERY now and then, some people, including myself, share old photographs from just over a century ago, showing the inhabitants of the Arabian Peninsula in worn-out clothes, with long hair, barefoot, and carrying rifles from the World War I era, along with swords and daggers.

Some of these photos also include individuals affiliated with regional governments who, following the discovery of oil, became millionaires. Unfortunately, these images are often accompanied by inappropriate comments, such as claims that they refused to deposit money in banks because the banks closed at certain hours or didn't open on weekends and holidays.

Whoever shares such images may not realize that all the peoples of the world, without exception, have passed through similar stages. Their ancestors wore rags and would have looked much like the inhabitants of the Arabian desert, had they lived in the same conditions. This is the story of all humankind, and there is nothing shameful about it.

The motive behind sharing or publishing these photos, which are amusing to some, offensive to others, is often to mock the people of the desert, usually out of envy for the dramatic transformation in their lives. But those who do so fail to understand that it is not about how people looked, but about the passage of time.

Someone who happens to drink cold water than others is not necessarily better, more honorable, more advanced, or more cultured than them. What truly matters is how the story ends.

More than 60 or 70 years ago, countries like Syria, Iraq, and Egypt were flourishing. They were paradises that were rich with shade, fruit trees, rivers, and vibrant social life. In contrast, the Arabian Peninsula at the time was marked by silence, drought, and some of the harshest living conditions on earth.

So what can be said about those who, by choice, lived not in the green lands but in the vast, unforgiving desert?

In Kuwait, we often turned our backs to the south, looking north, and saying, "How beautiful Basra is." Those who went there, escaping the harsh environ-

ment, felt as if they had found a slice of paradise.

Traveling to Baghdad, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian cities, Egypt, and Lebanon was a dream for many in the region. The hospitals, schools, and universities of Egypt, Lebanon, and Iraq were destinations for the wealthy. Then, after World War II, oil was discovered in the peninsula, just as it had been earlier in Iraq, and later in Libya and Egypt.

The people of the Gulf left their mud houses behind, began wearing luxurious clothing, living in spacious homes, and enjoying delicious food. Over time, their lifestyle grew closer to that of the people of Egypt, Iraq, and the Levant.

Over time, they reached a point of near parity with them. Then, the situation took a dramatic turn, as coups, corrupt and ignorant military regimes, along with the efforts and conspiracies of Israel, devastated their governments, leading to the deterioration of almost all aspects of their societies. Meanwhile, the Gulf states, once desert countries, with their just governments, have become destinations for tourism and entertainment, and favored places for family vacations.

They now offer Westerners, especially Europeans, what they seek, which are the four S's - Sea, Sun, Sand, and Security. This has become essential for everyone in the world of tourism.

The region has also become a hub for education and medical treatment. I know Arab friends, both Egyptians and Iraqis, who have chosen to send their children to Gulf universities because of the advantages they offer in terms of safety, geographical proximity, continually improving educational standards, academic recognition, and reasonable costs compared to other countries, even their own.

Their hospitals have also become increasingly attractive to those seeking specialized treatment, as top doctors have opened clinics there, and prestigious international hospitals and universities have established branches. Some of their airports have become extensions of the United States, with travelers' passports stamped with an "Entry to the US" stamp even while in Doha, for example.

In conclusion, what matters is not the conditions that people once lived under, but the outcome. What the governments of the region have provided for their people is the true measure, not the old black-and-white family photos in a vintage album.

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KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Cabinet Secretary-General Saleh Al-Mulla affirmed on Sunday that the ministerial committee tasked with following up on the implementation of joint Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decisions serves as a key executive tool to translate the leaders' strategic visions into concrete outcomes that directly impact citizens of GCC states.

Al-Mullah made the statement during the 26th meeting of the committee, in the presence of GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

He highlighted the series of important decisions adopted by GCC leaders in previous summits, adding that they include advancing economic and financial integration, supporting the customs union and common market, enhancing trade ties, protecting the environment, developing



KUNA photo
Participants in the 26th meeting of the Ministerial Committee tasked with following up on the implementation of decisions related to joint action in the Cooperation Council.

energy and transport infrastructure, and empowering Gulf youth through education and innovation.

He stressed the importance of accelerating ratification and implementation processes to achieve the leaders' ambitions and reinforce the GCC's role as a unified and influential regional bloc amid rapid global developments.

Al-Budaiwi praised the committee's pivotal role in driving deeper Gulf integration and following up on joint decisions, emphasizing the importance of unified positions to face regional and global challenges.

He expressed confidence that the meeting's outcomes would further strengthen GCC cooperation and integration efforts.

Kuwait, Saudi strengthen security cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Sector Maj. Gen. Hamad Al-Munifi met Sunday, with a delegation from Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry to discuss issues of common interest, the Interior Ministry said.

The talks reviewed cooperation and the exchange of expertise to develop the public security system in ways that serve mutual interests and bolster

security and stability in both countries.

The visit aims to learn from Kuwait's experience in securing facilities and tourist sites and comes within efforts to enhance security cooperation and coordination. Al-Munifi praised the deep fraternal ties between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and the continued development of security cooperation across various fields.



General Staff of the Army photo
Chief of General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shariaan, during his reception of the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Kuwait, Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi.

Kuwait Army Chief receives UAE invitation to Dubai Airshow 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Chief of Army Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Sharian on Sunday received an invitation from his UAE counterpart Lt. Gen. Issa Al-Mazrouei to attend the Dubai Airshow 2025, scheduled to take place at Al-Maktoum International Airport.

A press release by the Army Staff mentioned that Lt. Gen. Al-Sharian received the invitation to the event which will kick off from November 17 to 21 during a meeting with UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi, accompanied by UAE Military Attache colonel Mohammad Al-Muhairi.

Kuwait envoy presents credentials as non-resident ambassador to Finland

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Sweden Mohammad Hayati presented his credentials as non-resident ambassador to Finland to President Alexander Stubb



KUNA photo
The Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Sweden, Mohammad Hayati, presented his credentials as the country's non-resident ambassador to Finland to Finnish President Alexander Stubb.

during an official ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki.

In a statement, the Kuwaiti Embassy said Ambassador Hayati conveyed greetings of 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, along with their best wishes for continued progress and prosperity to Finland and its friendly people.

The statement added that both sides commended the strong ties between Kuwait and Finland and emphasized the importance of enhancing joint cooperation across various fields to serve the interests of the two friendly nations. It also took note that President Stubb extended his greetings to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, wishing the new ambassador success in his mission to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Kuwait's 16th relief plane to Gaza arrives at Al-Arish Airport in Egypt

CAIRO, Oct 5, (KUNA): The 16th humanitarian aid plane, part of the second Kuwaiti airbridge, landed on Sunday, at Al-Arish Airport in North Sinai, carrying 10 tons of food supplies to assist the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Talal Al-Hindi, representative of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS), told KUNA that the plane is part of the Gaza relief campaign supervised by the society in cooperation and coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Social Affairs.

Al-Hindi explained that the aid shipment transported by the Kuwaiti Air Force plane consists of 540 food baskets provided by the Kuwaiti charity association "Khairat" for Relief and Development. He added that this is the 16th flight

of the relief airbridge launched by Kuwait under high directives in favour of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

He affirmed that the continued arrival of Kuwaiti aid planes reflects the authentic position of Kuwait in providing support to those afflicted and embodies the values of solidarity and generosity that distinguish it in charitable work.

He expressed thanks to the Kuwaiti charitable associations participating in preparing the aid shipments for the people of Gaza, as well as to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Egypt and the Egyptian Red Crescent Society for receiving the Kuwaiti aid shipments at Al-Arish Airport to ensure their swift delivery to those affected in Gaza.



KUNA photo
Representatives of the official bodies participating in preparing the 16th relief flight of the second Kuwaiti airlift to Gaza.

Recall issued

PAFN bans sale of Uranus Star

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) announced that it immediately initiated urgent precautionary measures upon receiving a report, in coordination with the Permanent Supreme Committee for International Health Regulations (IHR), regarding contamination in Uranus Star bottled drinking water imported from Iran, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

PAFN explained in a statement on its X account that the measures included the immediate confiscation of any reported quantities and a temporary suspension of their circulation, along with the urgent withdrawal of samples for laboratory testing. It also banned the entry of any new shipments of this product into Kuwait until safety is verified.

diwaniya

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Save our children!: Drug crisis demands moral, border reform

“EVERY so often, we hear of new and dangerous drugs making their way into communities. Just yesterday, a British newspaper reported the tragic death of a young woman in the UK, who suffered bladder necrosis and chronic kidney damage after using ketamine, a substance originally intended as a sedative for horses. She died at just 28 years old,” columnist **Ahmed Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Here in Kuwait, the situation is equally alarming. A variety of harmful substances have infiltrated the local market. One recent incident involved a Bangladeshi expatriate who was seen convulsing in public on a street in Farwaniya as a result of taking a synthetic drug known as “Flakka”, and he later died. This substance causes users to lose control within seconds, leading to extreme aggression, hallucinations, and violent outbursts.

“Even more concerning, some drugs are reportedly being manufactured locally. There are also growing concerns that fentanyl, a highly dangerous synthetic drug, may already be entering the country, or is already present in the market.

“Fentanyl is considered to be 100 times more potent than morphine, according to a report published by the American magazine “Newsweek” on September 12, 2018.

“The report stated that U.S. authorities seized enough fentanyl in 2022 to kill the entire U.S. population. It also revealed that most of the fentanyl in the American market is manufactured in Mexico, using chemicals imported from China.

“If just two substances, Flakka and fentanyl, can cause such devastating and fatal effects, what damage could they inflict on our youth and their future? The Bangladeshi man was writhing on the ground in front of passersby. The day may come when we see our own youth suffering in the same way, their futures destroyed.

“Drugs have far-reaching consequences, as shown by recent examples. A young man killed his father after using drugs, a mother killed her son due to addiction, the sale of a drug-laced juice for KD 5, 13-year-old Kuwaiti girls being addicted to drugs, drugs found in children’s sweets, drugs infiltrating schools, Asian drug dealers operating as delivery services, and the shocking statistic that over 145,000 people in Kuwait were using drugs in November 2022, a sharp increase from 70,000 previously.

“In a recent meeting of experts and religious figures, a serious warning was issued - “Drugs in homes and schools are destroying our children. Over 8,000 prisoners are incarcerated, with 7,000 of them for drug offenses. Kuwait is becoming a target for drug traffickers, and we must protect our society.”

“Drugs have become a disaster, poisoning the core of society. They are spreading among young men and women, the very future leaders of our country. Medical professionals and educators suggest that the roots of the problem lie in excessive pampering, family breakdown, bad influences, and a lack of constructive recreational activities. These factors, they argue, lead young people down a dangerous path of drug use and violence.

“The solution, I believe, lies in strengthening the moral foundation of students. We must teach them to understand right from wrong. This can be achieved through reforming the education system. Stop forcing students to memorize lessons; instead, encourage them to understand and be influenced by what they read.

“In Singapore, students are taught fewer subjects but with a stronger emphasis on understanding. Similarly, we should focus on strengthening the religious and moral values of our students. Through clear explanation and understanding, they will learn the difference between right and wrong, develop strong character, and become responsi-

ble citizens who contribute positively to their country. This is how we build a nation of good citizens.

“In addition, the death penalty for drug traffickers, or life imprisonment for those involved in drug dealing, must remain in place. Border security, especially along the coastline, needs to be reinforced.

“There have been instances, such as when Iranian smugglers landed on Kuwait’s coast at night without being detected by security forces. It was the local residents who alerted the police.

“Drugs are often smuggled into Kuwait from various sources, including China, which is a major producer of drugs, and Afghanistan, which produces three-quarters of the world’s opium. These drugs are brought into Kuwait by sea, in boats operated by Iranian smugglers, or through land borders and airports, carried by travelers.”

□ □ □

“Every person has the absolute right to protect their secrets and privacy. This is a fundamental right that must be respected and never violated,” Kuwaiti writer Eng. **Talal Al-Obaid** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Privacy gives each individual the freedom to decide what to reveal, what to keep to themselves, and when and how to share their thoughts and information with others. However, with the rapid advancement of technology, this right is more threatened than ever.

“In the digital age, the concept of privacy has become increasingly fragile and compromised. Personal information is no longer solely in the hands of its owners, but has become a commodity collected and analyzed by technology companies, social media platforms, and sometimes even by governments.

“As technology has become an indispensable part of our daily lives, controlling the behavior of individuals and societies, and reshaping social, economic, and political relationships, has become an undeniable reality.

“Privacy violations are no longer limited to security or intelligence agencies. They have become a routine practice for large companies that collect user data for economic gain.

“With the help of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced algorithms, individuals’ behavior is analyzed, their purchasing decisions are influenced, and even their personal opinions are shaped often without their awareness. How does technology affect our privacy?

“Social media sites collect and analyze user data to identify interests and target personalized ads, making users vulnerable to digital manipulation. Many applications request unnecessary permissions, such as access to the camera, microphone, and location, posing a direct threat to privacy. Some governments use advanced technologies to monitor citizens, while companies exploit user data for marketing and commercial purposes.

“AI can analyze massive amounts of data, allowing it to infer detailed information about individuals without their explicit consent.

“Breaking privacy has serious repercussions that go beyond the mere exploitation of personal data for advertising. This information can be used in cybercrimes such as blackmail and identity theft. The unauthorized leaking of private information can also cause irreversible psychological and social harm, making individuals more vulnerable to unconscious external control and influence.

“In light of this reality, we must return to the teachings of our religion and the moral values upon which we were raised, which urge us to respect the privacy of others and refrain from spying or violating their privacy. God Almighty says, “And do not spy, nor backbite one another” (Surat Al-Hujurat: 12).

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

KIMS, KOC ink training pact

MoU expands residency training at Ahmadi Hospital

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Minister of Health and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS) Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the institute and Ahmadi Hospital, which is affiliated with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

The official signing ceremony was held Sunday in the presence of KIMS Secretary-General and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Assistant Secretary General for Specialized Colleges Affairs at KIMS Dr. Abdullah Rajab, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of KOC Ahmed Al-Eidan, Deputy CEO for Administrative and Financial Affairs at KOC Walid Al-Rubaian, Director of the Medical Group Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmi, Head of the Medical Authority Department Dr. Ibrahim Al-Kan-

dari, and Pediatric Intensive Care Consultant Dr. Abdullah Al-Furaij.

They stressed that the MoU signals a new beginning for institutional cooperation in the health sector, contributing to the development of the medical education system in Kuwait and enhancing the efficiency of national professionals to achieve the sustainable development goals and excellence in health service provision.

In his speech at the ceremony, Al-Awadhi affirmed that the signing of the MoU reflects the direction of KIMS Board of Trustees towards building effective national partnerships that contribute to developing medical competencies and enhancing the quality of training. He pointed out that the current phase requires the concerted efforts of health and educational institutions to keep pace with the expansion of governmental and private health services, and increase the number of resident physicians in Kuwaiti Board programs.

Al-Awadhi said the collaboration with Ahmadi Hospital indicates that the two institutions are fully aware of the importance of integrating

academic experience and clinical practice, explaining that this step is a qualitative leap in the preparation and qualification of Kuwaiti doctors as per the latest international standards and in line with the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035 to develop human capital and improve the quality of healthcare.

On the other hand, KIMS revealed in a press statement that the MoU aims to establish a joint framework for academic and training cooperation, and provide practical training opportunities for resident physicians at Ahmadi Hospital. It affirmed this will enable the application of best international medical practices and standards, and enhance integration between academic and clinical aspects in the field of specialized medical education.

It also revealed that the number of doctors currently enrolled in specialized training programs is around 2,000 who are distributed in 35 specialized board programs, 20 fellowship programs and four diploma programs. It emphasized that this partnership will contribute to expanding the base of practical training for doctors and improving the quality of specialized program outputs.

52 individuals implicated

Syrian siblings’ forgery scheme crumbles under DNA evidence

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Nationality Investigation Department has resolved one of the most complex forgery cases, after genetic testing confirmed the involvement of two brothers of Syrian origin in fraudulently obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship, each by falsely claiming to be related to a different Kuwaiti citizen. The two also have a Syrian sister residing in Kuwait, but each of the three is registered under a different name, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to informed sources, the case surfaced during an investigation into a Syrian man who had fled Kuwait after obtaining citizenship under Article 1 through forgery. DNA testing of his children matched the fingerprints of a Syrian woman who turned out to be his sister. This confirmed that she was the aunt of the children and the biological sister of their father, who had been falsely attributed to a Kuwaiti citizen.

So, how did this Syrian man obtain citizenship? According to the case details, the forger, born in 1957, was added to the inheritance registry of a deceased Kuwaiti citizen with no children in 1986. He supported his claim using witness statements and forged academic certificates in which he identified himself as the son of the deceased Kuwaiti.

The forger had claimed that his “supposed” father had a falling out with him and his mother, and consequently refused to add him to the citizenship registry. As a result, he

managed to fraudulently obtain Kuwaiti citizenship at the age of 29, using forged documents, including certificates that backed his false claim.

The sources confirmed that DNA testing conclusively disproved the forger’s story, establishing that the Syrian woman in question was indeed the aunt of the forger’s children, and was linked to the deceased Kuwaiti man. This revelation brought to light the extensive nature of the forgery, which had been concealed for decades.

It was also revealed that the case involved 52 individuals, including children and grandchildren, all of whom were linked to the fraudulent citizenship claims. Authorities are continuing to investigate the other brother’s involvement in the case, with further steps being taken to complete the ongoing probe.

Sources revealed that investigations conducted by the Nationality Investigation Department uncovered crucial evidence linking the Syrian man to a fraudulent marriage contract. Upon reviewing the file, it was discovered that the witnesses to the marriage contract were also involved in the forgery, with their nationalities previously revoked.

The sources described these findings as strong evidence that the entire group of forgers was interconnected, saying, “This indicates that the forgers’ group is all one piece of the puzzle.”

Nazaha refers officials for fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) referred a number of leaders and others to the Public Prosecution on suspicion of submitting inaccurate financial disclosure statements, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 2/2016, amended by Decree-Law No. 69/2025, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

It stated that the examination of the financial disclosure statements submitted by some leaders and others revealed inaccurate information.

After conducting the necessary inquiries with the relevant authorities, the matter required referral to the Public Prosecution for legal action.

Nazaha emphasized the importance for all those subject to financial disclosure provisions to accurately complete and submit their statements within the legally specified deadlines to protect public funds, promote transparency and integrity, and strengthen community trust in public institutions.



Mol photo

Major General Hamed Al-Dawas, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs at the Ministry of Interior, Brigadier Abdullah Al-Atiqi, Head of the Traffic and Operations Sector, and Brigadier Mohammed Qabazard, Director General of the General Department of Drug Control, lead the campaign.

1,844 citations issued

Mol’s multi-sector security blitz hits Sabah Al-Ahmad

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Ministry of Interior carried out an intensive security campaign in the Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine Area based on the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, and under the direct supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs Major General Hamed Al-Dawas, Head of the Traffic and Operations Sector Brigadier Abdullah Al-Ateeqi, Head of the Criminal Security Sector Brigadier Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib, and with the participation of several senior security officials, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Interior, multiple sectors took part in the campaign, including the Criminal Security Sector’s Drug Control General Department, Security Directorates Sector, Traffic and Operations Sector, and the Special Security Sector.

The campaign resulted to the issuance of 1,844 various traffic citations, the arrest of two individuals for possession of suspected narcotics and intoxicants, three individuals for violating residency and labor laws, three individuals without any identification documents, five individuals who were reported as absconding, five individuals wanted on arrest warrants, one individual in an abnormal condition, and another individual wanted for criminal cases. Also, five vehicles and motorcycles wanted by the judiciary were seized, along with six vehicles and motorcycles involved in traffic violations.

The ministry affirmed that it will continue its intensive security campaigns in various regions, and will enforce the law strictly to ensure the safety and security of society, citizens, and residents.

Court acquits two over invalid narcotics arrest

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Criminal Court acquitted two individuals of charges related to the possession of narcotics and intoxicants with intent to use, as well as charges of resisting security personnel.

Lawyer Abdullah Al-Alanda argued that the arrest, search, and seizure procedures were invalid due to the absence of flagrante delicto.

He stated that the defendants were not caught in the act and that the case documents were based solely on suspicion, and lacked any concrete evidence.

Lawyer Al-Alanda said the arrest and seizure were carried out without a warrant from the Public Prosecution, rendering all subsequent procedures legally void.

The court affirmed that personal freedom cannot be violated except in cases clearly defined by law. It emphasized that a police officer observing someone in an abnormal or unbalanced state does not justify arresting or searching that person.

Advancing sustainability through collaboration

Farwaniya Governor hosts UN-Habitat head



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, the Head of the UN-Habitat in Kuwait and the Gulf States.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah received the Head of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) in Kuwait and the Gulf States Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, at the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters on Sunday morning to discuss joint cooperation.

According to a press release issued by Farwaniya Governorate, they discussed the mission’s mandate and objectives, which center on supporting integrated and comprehensive urban development in line with global sustainable development goals.

The governor affirmed that such meetings strengthen partnership and cooperation in supporting environmental efforts and achieving sustainable development goals, in line with Kuwait’s national strategy, which strongly supports the mission’s work.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Amira Al-Hassan expressed her appreciation to the governor for the warm reception, his openness to environmental development and sustainable initiatives, and his keenness to cooperate to achieve common goals.

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Kuwait to host 1st edition Emirates Falcons Int’l Cup

Minister Al-Mutairi commends UAE’s efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi expressed Saturday pride and happiness that Kuwait will host the first edition of the Emirates Falcons International Cup next December.

In a press statement following his chairing of the first meeting of the tournament organizing committee, Minister Al-Mutairi said the launch of the inaugural edition of this major championship in Kuwait reflects the strong bonds of brotherhood between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in all fields under the patronage of the political leadership of the two sister countries.

“This hosting is a source of great pride and a sincere embodiment of the deep-rooted brotherly relations between Kuwait and the UAE,” he reiterated.

The minister praised the efforts of the sisterly United Arab Emirates in preserving the heritage of Falconry, commending in particular the role of the UAE Falcons Federation



Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi chairs the meeting.

and its President Sheikh Ahmad bin Mohamad bin Rashid Al Maktoum in to globalize Falconry as an Arab sport and cultural heritage.

The tournament, supported by the International Federation for Falconry Sports and Racing (IFFSR), will feature substantial prizes, with the total prize pool for the first edition in Kuwait estimated to be around AED 500,000 (approx. KD 40,000).

795 applicants approved for initial exams

Kuwaitization tests for co-op supervisors set for November

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs Dr. **Khaled Al-Ajmi** revealed that the tests for Kuwaitization of supervisory positions in cooperative societies will be conducted in the first week of November.

In a statement to reporters, Al-Ajmi disclosed that the number of citizens who applied for employment in cooperative societies as part of the Kuwaitization plan in cooperatives reached 1,200 and 795 applicants were approved.

He affirmed that the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) reviewed the list of applicants and submitted a letter detailing those who met the requirements to the Ministry of Social Affairs, which in turn contacted the private university responsible for conducting the tests and set the first week of November as the period for the tests.

He added the optional training courses will be organized before the test date for applicants, indicating those who pass the tests conducted by the university will be referred to the Ministry of Social Affairs, specifically the Kuwaitization Committee, whose members are from the ministry, Consumer Cooperative Societies Union and PAM, for personal interviews.

Al-Ajmi added the vacant positions in cooperatives will be announced at the end of December, disclosing that the concerned

university prepared the examination booklet after a tour of the cooperative societies and a thorough review of the nature of their work. He said the examination questions were approved according to the functions of each position.

He stated that the ministry previously made major amendments to the cooperative work regulations with the aim of establishing governance principles, implementing organized employment policies, and Kuwaitizing supervisory positions in cooperative societies through a unified central mechanism that ensures transparency and equal opportunities. He pointed out this step supports the State’s drive to increase the number of nationals working in such a leading this sector.

He explained that the ministry’s vision includes the development of the cooperative sector, and enhancing its operational and administrative efficiency to provide the best services to shareholders and consumers, while activating its developmental and economic roles in the country. He asserted these steps are part of an important stage in the State’s journey to promote Kuwaitization in various sectors.



Al-Ajmi



Part of the training program editing news on websites.

KUNA hosts web news editing course

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Center for the Development of Media began on Sunday a training course on website news editing.

The training course features the participation of the agency’s employees, members from the Qatar News Agency (QNA), Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), and the Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA).

The course, presented by senior KUNA editor Mohammad Abu Bakr, will last until October nine and focuses on the crucial elements and tools related to website news editing.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Center for the Development of Media was established in 1995 with the goal of developing news personnel’s journalistic skills.

Society revives Umrah trips

Farwaniya Cooperative sets new standards in social responsibility

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Chairman of the Board of Directors of Farwaniya Cooperative Society Fawaz Al-Marshad confirmed that the cooperative is implementing a comprehensive plan to advance its services and social and development activities, making it the first choice for shareholders and residents in terms of quality and its integrated community role.

In a press statement, Al-Marshad revealed the cooperative is preparing a group Umrah trip at the end of this month after a hiatus of more than eight years. He indicated that the expected turnout is high, as comprehensive packages are provided, including transportation, accommodation and services, to ensure the comfort of participants and achieve their spiritual and social goals. He stated that offers are currently being accepted from travel companies to complete the arrangements.

Al-Marshad added that the cooperative has completed the registration of more than 100 outstanding students who will be honored soon. He affirmed that honoring these students conveys a clear message that the cooperative is a partner in supporting education, in addition to its service and marketing role.

He disclosed “there are plans to organize seasonal festivals and social and entertainment events for families, as well as the launching of innovative marketing offers that meet the shareholders’ aspirations and provide them with added value, thus, consolidating the position of the cooperative as an integrated community center.”

He explained that the decision to terminate marginal labor services has had a positive impact on work efficiency and the quality of services. “The team has become more committed and disciplined, which impacted the speed of response to shareholders’ needs,” he stressed.

He said the cooperative supports schools by sponsoring activities and providing logistical and in-kind contributions. He asserted that education is a priority in the social responsibility of the cooperative, in addition to developing the surrounding area by improving public facilities and participating in various social initiatives.

He stated that the cooperative prioritized landscaping and green spaces within and around its premises with the aim of creating a healthy and attractive environment that reflects its commitment to achieve sustainability.

He added the financial position of the cooperative is stable, with a healthy financial surplus that enables it to continue providing the best offers and services, in addition to the returns that shareholders receive annually.

He pointed out that the cooperative is distinguished from supermarkets and shopping malls due to its proximity to residents and its commitment to provide fair prices and social and development services.

He said “our vision is for the cooperative to be the first choice for shareholders in terms of quality, services, and comprehensive community engagement.”



The Al-Jahra Nature Reserve

Jahra Nature Reserve open to visitors in Nov

The Environment Public Authority (EPA) has announced that Jahra Nature Reserve will open to visitors in November, reports Al-Rai daily.

Established in 1987, Jahra Nature Reserve is one of Kuwait’s earliest protected

natural areas. It has undergone years of environmental rehabilitation. It has freshwater ponds surrounded by diverse vegetation and rich biodiversity, and is home to a wide variety of bird and wildlife species.

Islamic Affairs issues Hajj housing guidelines

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Ministry of Islamic Affairs issued a circular regarding the housing of pilgrims for the Hajj season next year to all accredited Hajj caravans in the country, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The daily obtained a copy of the circular, which stipulates the following:

1. No classification of hotels or accommodations designated for pilgrims will be accepted unless a valid certificate approved by the Ministry of Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is issued.
2. Hajj companies should not advertise or promote any hotel classification without obtaining an official certificate approved by the Ministry of Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
3. In the absence of an approved classification, Hajj companies should

not include the accommodation classification in published advertisements. The classification will be specified by the Hajj and Umrah Affairs Department as ‘tourist hostel’ until the official certificate approved by the Ministry of Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is issued.

4. The deadline for contracting accommodation services through the ‘Nusuk’ electronic platform for next year is Feb 1, 2026. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not permit contracts after this date, regardless of the changes.

In a related development, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs clarified to the accredited Hajj caravans that the mechanism for selecting the administrative staff will be announced later, in accordance with the regulations prepared by the Hajj and Umrah Affairs Department.



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PADA, W3C push for inclusive digital future

Kuwait strengthens rights of persons with disabilities online

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C GCC Chapter) to enhance digital accessibility and enable people with disabilities to access online services more easily and conveniently.

The acting Director of PADA Dalal Al-Othman expressed her happiness at signing the memorandum, affirming that this cooperation is an important step toward building a more inclusive and equitable digital future in Kuwait.

She extended her sincere gratitude to the partners, especially Dr. Mohammed Ashkanani, CEO of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C GCC Chapter), for his significant efforts in enhancing digital accessibility in Kuwait for helping people with disabilities access digital services with ease.

Al-Othman said signing the memorandum reflects PADA's commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive digital environment for all.

She expressed hope that this cooperation will help achieve national goals of using information technology to serve Kuwaitis with disabilities, and enabling their integration and active participation in society.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ashkanani stated that efforts are underway to implement the National Framework for Content Accessibility in Kuwait with the aim of making digital content accessible to all people with disabilities.

He emphasized that this framework was developed through Kuwaiti initiatives that take into account the local culture and the unique characteristics of Kuwaiti society.

Dr. Ashkanani pointed out that the information technology sector in Kuwait still requires further development to better support people with disabilities in accessing digital services, adding that the goal of the national framework is to achieve full



Left: Acting Director of PADA Dalal Al-Othman shakes hands with Dr. Mohammed Ashkanani, CEO of the World Wide Web Consortium. Right: PADA and W3C GCC Chapter officials hold talks ahead of the MoU signing on accessibility cooperation.

digital inclusion and electronic access for everyone.

He revealed that one of the most prominent projects currently underway is making the Sahel app fully accessible to people with disabilities, allowing users to complete government transactions via smartphone without the need for assistance.

Dr. Ashkanani explained that the national framework will support training for government agencies as well as public and private sector entities on implementing digital accessibility standards. This will ensure that all government services and websites are accessible to everyone, contributing to the achievement of New Kuwait 2035 vision and making Kuwait as a digitally accessible country by 2026.

Furthermore, Digital Services Supervisor at the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Wafaa Al-Otaibi affirmed that the signed agreement marks an important step toward promoting digital inclusion and improving access to electronic services for all segments of society.

Al-Otaibi explained that



Dr. Mohammed Ashkanani, CEO of the World Wide Web Consortium



Amna Safar, Information Systems Supervisor at PADA

CAIT's role is to support and enhance these efforts, and lead the development of a nationwide digital transformation strategy that prioritizes improving the user experience. Improving the user experience includes making all electronic transactions accessible, so that people with disabilities can use government websites and applications easily and conveniently. Implementing this framework requires intensive training and awareness programs. For

that, CAIT is working in cooperation with PADA to organize periodic training courses for employees of government agencies. These courses are available through CAIT's official website.

She revealed that CAIT has taken a proactive step by including in the circulated budgets of public institutions for the fiscal years 2026-2027 a requirement to implement the national framework in all government applications and websites.

Al-Otaibi indicated that updating the framework will take approximately three months, with actual implementation expected to begin at the start of 2026.

She said periodic meetings are held with associations concerned with people with disabilities to hear their feedback and concerns, and to guide government agencies in improving their services to achieve comprehensive digital accessibility.

In addition, Information Systems

Supervisor at PADA Amna Safar explained that the e-accessibility initiative in Kuwait aims to ensure that websites and electronic applications are easy to use for all segments of society, including people with disabilities. This will be achieved through the implementation of a digital access code that establishes clear standards for the design of government websites and applications.

She went on to explain that the National Digital Access Code was launched in 2018 and is currently undergoing a comprehensive update to align with the latest international standards. The update is not limited to serving people with disabilities but also aims to support the elderly and individuals who experience temporary difficulties using smart devices. The updated standards cover all types of disabilities, including visual, hearing, motor, and other forms.

Safar added that raising awareness among government agencies and the wider society is a key factor in the success of the project, particularly as Kuwait moves toward full digital transformation under New Kuwait 2035 vision.

Continued from Page 1

Dear Your

In this ambiguous environment, some opportunists actively turn rumors into facts that become difficult to refute later. This worries citizens, who need clarification from the relevant authorities, not through brief statements, but through detailed explanations of the facts.

In countries around the world, when rumors spread, even about something as simple as the weather, the official spokesperson steps forward to reveal the truth, reassure the public, or warn of possible consequences.

Third world and developing countries often adopt a policy of silence, despite the Arab proverb that says, "Negligence is as painful as death." This has a negative impact, making officials appear weak as if they are unfit for their roles due to their complete disregard for responding to inquiries. Some senior officials even deliberately avoid answering phone calls, even when they know who is calling.

Therefore, it is clear that the government administration is either deficient or unwilling to explain its decisions to the public. The official spokesperson is the vital link between official bodies and public opinion. As such, they must possess various skills that enable them to effectively present the plans and decisions of the institution they represent, and most importantly, the ability to persuade and reveal the truth.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, I say this with all respect - most ministers close their car windows (and doors) to both the media and the people.

Kuwait decree

As the one-year suspension period nears its end, practical experience during this time has demonstrated the state's ability to fully provide and deliver the necessary healthcare services through its public health institutions to all citizens, including the groups targeted by Law No. 114/2014, in accordance with Articles 11 and 15 of the Kuwaiti Constitution.

The memorandum also highlighted several negative outcomes from the implementation of Law No. 114/2014, including limited competition among companies providing healthcare services to the targeted groups, high costs to the public treasury, and duplication of healthcare services, all of which placed an additional burden on the state's general budget.

CAPT expands

The same article affirms that these penalties do not prejudice the contractual rights of the relevant party under the terms of the contract. It also clarifies that the procedures include summoning the contractor or supplier through a registered letter, either by

a decision of the agency or upon the request of the contracting party. The penalty is imposed after summoning the concerned party, hearing their statements, and enabling them to defend themselves.

The article also authorizes the agency to issue the decision in absentia if the contractor fails to appear after being formally summoned.

The contractor or supplier against whom a penalty decision is issued has the right to appeal to the Grievance Committee within 30 days from the date of the decision, in accordance with the procedures specified in the executive regulations.

Kuwait seeks

She explained that the meeting is a continuation of efforts aimed at enhancing economic cooperation between the GCC countries, and serves as an important platform for converging viewpoints and unifying visions on the future of joint economic action. It contributes to achieving the strategic goals of the GCC countries and supporting the paths of economic integration and comprehensive development for establishing a more integrated Gulf economic model capable of keeping pace with regional and international changes.

During the meeting, they discussed several important topics, most notably ways to activate the role and functions of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority with the aim of reaching a common vision for the development mechanism.

They reviewed developments in the implementation of the plan and work mechanism for the Gulf economic model, along with the latest updates related to the roadmap for achieving economic unity by 2025.

The committee members also followed up on the implementation of decisions related to completing the requirements for the customs union and the GCC common market, as well as collaborative efforts to implement the national economic visions of the GCC countries.

They also reviewed the Gulf Economic Integration Index and the proposed vision for holding the first Gulf International Economic Conference.

The committee members examined the results of the brainstorming session of the Standing Preparatory Committee, the program for forecasting future prospects for economic integration and development, the detailed performance report of the GCC common market, and the most important economic indicators in the GCC countries.

At the end of the meeting, the committee agreed to submit the findings and recommendations to the Permanent Preparatory Committee at the ministerial level of the Economic and Development Affairs Authority for approval at its next meeting.

Kuwait celebrates

He added he is confident and certain that the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which stem from the directives and support of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as the support of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, will bear fruit.

He recalled his previous experience in the 'Freedom Flotilla' 15 years ago, when he was part of the international volunteer team on the Mavi Marmara ship that set sail from Turkey to the shores of Gaza, and how he survived. He pointed out that the Palestinian cause will not die and will remain until the liberation.

Professor of International Law at the College of Law in Kuwait University Prof. Madous Al-Rashidi stated that the Israeli authorities have no right to detain the ships of the 'Resilience Flotilla' or those on board, as this flotilla is protected by international humanitarian law and international maritime law. "Countries that signed the relevant agreements have no right to violate the laws, especially since the goal of the individuals who participated in the flotilla is to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza in light of the war of extermination that Israel has been waging against the people of Gaza for two years now. Furthermore, the ships of the flotilla were sailing on international waters. Even if they entered territorial waters and Gaza is an occupied territory, its territorial waters are not subject to the Israeli occupation authorities under any circumstances. The most that the occupying authorities can do to those they have detained is to obtain pledges from them or confiscate food and medicine supplies on the ships, considering international sympathy for the people of Gaza has begun to spread, as manifested in the vote of 142 countries at the United Nations (UN) in favor of recognizing the State of Palestine. This means that the majority of UN member states are against Israel for committing actions against the Palestinian people in general and the people of Gaza in particular. The continuation of Israel's war on the people of Gaza for 24 months now confirms the extent of its violation of all norms and the ethics of war, as it insists on the genocide of the people of Gaza."

Media expert and economic researcher Faisal Daham Al-Harbi emphasized that the noble goals of the flotilla are to break the siege on the people of Gaza and to bear witness to the injustice suffered by Arab and Muslim people. "For 24 months now, the Palestinian people have been subjected to desecration without any action from international organizations.

Some countries took action only after the devastation. The fact that young people of various nationalities joined the flotilla to provide medicines and food to the people of Gaza confirms what drove them to do so -- they were driven by conscience and religion," he stated.

He then stressed that the Kuwaiti people are proud of the participation of Kuwaiti youths in the flotilla and that they will be freed.

Addressing the young participants, he said "you have raised the heads of the Kuwaiti people. I hope those who gloat over their detention will emulate the heroic act of these Kuwaiti youths, along with other prominent figures and youths from around the world."

Dr. Manal Al-Kandari, former Secretary General of the Transparency Society, stated that the Palestinian cause was and will remain Kuwait's eternal issue. She pointed out that the Arabs' duties toward Palestine are not merely political or humanitarian, as they are duties imposed by religious, national, moral and historical beliefs, since they are related to a central issue that touches the identity of the entire nation.

"Through the pioneering newspaper, I express my pride and reverence for the honorable stances of the heroic Kuwaiti youths in the 'Resilience Flotilla', a fleet that embodies the meaning of national unity and public cohesion in defense of land and honor. The Kuwaiti youths who participated in the flotilla proved that the spirit of sacrifice and loyalty is deeply rooted in their souls and that of the entire Kuwaiti people. They are an extension of a generation that believes the homeland is entrusted to the people, protecting it is an honor, and loyalty to it is an unbreakable pledge. The heroic participation was not just a matter of national duty, as it rather conveyed a sincere message to the whole world that Kuwait, no matter how severe the trials it is facing, remains resilient, thanks to its loyal youths who are a symbol of determination, a symbol of dignity, and a banner of glory that flies high on the sky of history. To the youths of Kuwait in the flotilla, we are proud of you. We appreciate you. You have raised the nation's flag and set the most wonderful example of loyalty, courage and bravery, such that the Palestinian cause remains our first and last cause."

She added "Since the last quarter of 2023, the Israeli war on Gaza has led to the martyrdom of more than 66,184 individuals, in addition to thousands of missing persons. The number of ships participating in the flotilla exceeded 400, carrying aid from about 45 countries, including prominent political figures and activists in various fields. Women participate alongside men in the flotilla."

Local mead fishing revival strengthens food security

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: The fish market in Sharq witnessed a remarkable recovery on Saturday, following the resumption of 'mead' fishing at Kuwait Bay for the first time in more than 22 years, as large quantities of such fish were sold, considering the high demand from fishermen and consumers.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper, Director of the Commercial Control Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Ansari disclosed that during a field tour of the market, the auction witnessed the sale of about 250 baskets of mead, each weighing 20 kilograms, which contributed to reducing prices and making local fish available to everyone.

Al-Ansari revealed that fish basket prices ranged from KD51 to KD69, lower than the previous prices. He reiterated that the return of local fish is an important addition to enhancing marine food security and meeting the growing demand from consumers,

who expressed relief and joy at the return of this popular fish to their tables.

Abdullah Al-Sarheed, Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Union, described this return as a qualitative leap for fishermen after the long years of fishing ban. He affirmed the union is committed to providing the fleet with appropriate fishing equipment and training fishing crews on environmental regulations to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks.

He added that the high turnout at the auction reflects consumer confidence in local products, indicating that the union is coordinating with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the inspectors to monitor the work.

During a tour of the market, the staff of the newspaper observed a lively atmosphere among fishermen and consumers who were keen to monitor the auction and seize the opportunity to purchase fresh fish from the market. They stressed that the return of local fish stocks contributed to easing pressure on imported fish and stabilizing prices after a period of seasonal price hikes.



Photos by Mohammad Morsi
The return of 'mead' fishing sparks bustling scenes at Sharq Fish Market as auctions draw crowds and lower prices.



Law enforcement officers stand by tear gas outside a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility during a protest on Oct 4, in Portland, Ore. (AP)

US federal judge temporarily blocks deployment of Nat’l Guard in Portland

PORTLAND, Oregon, Oct 5, (AP): A federal judge in Oregon temporarily blocked President Donald Trump’s administration from deploying the National Guard in Portland, ruling Saturday in a lawsuit brought by the state and city.

US District Judge Karin Immergut issued the order pending further arguments in the suit. She said the relatively small protests the city has seen did not justify the use of federalized forces and allowing the deployment could harm Oregon’s state sovereignty.

“This country has a longstanding and foundational tradition of resistance to government overreach, especially in the form of military intrusion into civil affairs,” Immergut wrote. She later continued, “This historical tradition boils down to a simple proposition: this is a nation of Constitutional law, not martial law.”

The Trump administration late Saturday filed a notice of appeal to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

State and city officials sued to stop the deployment last week, one day after the Trump administration an-

nounced that 200 Oregon National Guard troops would be federalized to protect federal buildings. The president called the city “war-ravaged.”

Oregon officials said that characterization was ludicrous. The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in the city has been the site of nightly protests that typically drew a couple dozen people in recent weeks before the deployment was announced.

Generally speaking the president is allowed “a great level of deference” to federalize National Guard troops in situations where regular law enforcement forces are not able to execute the laws of the United States, the judge said, but that has not been the case in Portland.

Plaintiffs were able to show that the demonstrations at the immigration building were not significantly violent or disruptive ahead of the president’s order, the judge wrote, and “overall, the protests were small and uneventful.”

“The President’s determination was simply untethered to the facts,” Im-

mergut wrote.

Following the ruling, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said that “President Trump exercised his lawful authority to protect federal assets and personnel in Portland following violent riots and attacks on law enforcement - we expect to be vindicated by a higher court.”

Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield called the ruling “a healthy check on the president.”

“It reaffirms what we already knew: Portland is not the president’s war-torn fantasy. Our city is not ravaged, and there is no rebellion,” Rayfield said in a statement. He added: “Members of the Oregon National Guard are not a tool for him to use in his political theater.”

Trump has deployed or threatened to deploy troops in several US cities, particularly ones led by Democrats, including Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago and Memphis. Speaking Tuesday to US military leaders in Virginia, he proposed using cities as training grounds for the armed forces.

‘We are in for one of the most polarizing terms yet’

Supreme Court term confronts justices with Trump’s aggressive assertion of power

WASHINGTON, Oct 5, (AP): A monumental Supreme Court term begins Monday with major tests of presidential power on the agenda along with pivotal cases.

The court’s conservative majority has so far been receptive, at least in preliminary rulings, to many of President Donald Trump’s aggressive assertions of authority. Liberal Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson invoked the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip after one such decision allowing the cut of \$783 million in research funding.

“This is Calvinball jurisprudence with a twist,” Jackson wrote. “Calvinball has only one rule: There are no fixed rules. We seem to have two: that one, and this administration always wins.”

The conservative justices could be more skeptical when they conduct an in-depth examination of some Trump policies, including the president’s imposition of tariffs and his desired restrictions on birthright citizenship.

If the same conservative-liberal split that has marked so many of Trump’s emergency appeals endures, “we are in for one of the most polarizing terms

yet,” said Irv Gornstein, executive director of the Supreme Court Institute at Georgetown University’s law school.

The justices will pass judgment in the next 10 months on some of Trump’s most controversial efforts.

The justices are hearing a pivotal case for Trump’s economic agenda in early November as they consider the legality of many of his sweeping tariffs. Two lower courts have found the Republican president does not have the power to unilaterally impose wide-ranging tariffs under an emergency powers law.

States and small businesses argue Trump cannot usurp Congress’s taxation powers by declaring national emergencies and using tariffs to address them.

The administration, though, says the law does give the president the power to regulate importation, and that includes tariffs. Four dissenting judges on a federal appeals court in Washington bought that argument, mapping out a possible legal path at the high court.

In December, the justices will take up Trump’s power to fire independent agency members at will, a case that



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a new group portrait at the Supreme Court building in Washington on Oct 7, 2022. (AP)

probably will lead the court to overturn, or drastically narrow, a 90-year-old decision. It required a cause, like neglect of duty, before a president could remove the Senate-confirmed officials from their jobs.

ed each time.

Another case that has arrived at the court but has yet to be considered involves Trump’s executive order denying birthright citizenship to children born in the United States to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily.

The administration has appealed lower-court rulings blocking the order as unconstitutional, or likely so, flouting more than 125 years of general understanding and an 1898 Supreme Court ruling. The case could be argued in the late winter or early spring.

The future of electoral districts with majorities of Black, Hispanic or Native American voters hangs in the balance in a case about congressional redistricting in Louisiana that will be argued in mid-October.

The Republican-led state has abandoned its defense of a political map that elected two Black members of Congress. Instead, Louisiana wants the court to reject any consideration of race in redistricting in a case that could bring major changes to the Voting Rights Act.

Chief Justice John Roberts and the

other five conservative justices have been skeptical of the consideration of race in public life, including a decision in 2023 that ended affirmative action in college admissions.

Louisiana’s position would allow it and other Republican-controlled states in the South to draw new political maps that eliminate virtually all majority Black House districts, which have been Democratic strongholds, voting rights experts say.

The justices failed to decide the case in June after hearing arguments during its last term. The court does not need to go as far as Louisiana wants to reject the congressional map.

But a second round of arguments is a rare occurrence at the Supreme Court, and sometimes presages a major change by the justices. The Citizens United decision in 2010 that led to dramatic increases in independent spending in US elections came after it was argued a second time.

Republicans, including the Trump administration, also are behind a drive to wipe away limits on how much political parties can spend in coordination with candidates for Congress and president.

Pope Leo XIV lends star power to Swiss Guards swearing-in ceremony

ROME, Oct 5, (AP): Pope Leo XIV presided Saturday over the swearing-in ceremony of 27 new Swiss Guards, lending some surprise star power to the pomp-filled ceremony as the corps struggles to find enough young men to serve in the world’s oldest standing army.

Leo sat in a throne in a courtyard of the Apostolic Palace as the new guards in their distinctive yellow, blue and red “gala uniforms” held their right arm up in a three-fingered salute and pledged “with all my strength, sacrifice and if necessary my life” to defend him and serve him.

The Vatican didn’t say why Leo decided to preside over the ceremony, though he had attended it in years past as a cardinal. The corps’ commander, Col Christoph Graf, told the recruits, their family members and Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter that it was the first time a pope had presided since 1968.

The corps is on something of a publicity campaign, showing off new uniforms this week for formal occasions and planning a renewed fundraising push next year to renovate their cramped, outdated barracks.



Pope Leo XIV attends the swearing in ceremony of 27 Pontifical Swiss Guards cadets in the St. Damasus courtyard at the Vatican on Oct 4. (AP)

In an off-the-cuff greeting, Leo thanked the men for their dedication and said it was an important sign in today’s world, especially for young people.

“It makes us understand the importance of discipline, of sacrificing to live our faith in a way that truly speaks to everyone every day, of the value of giving our lives, of serving and thinking of others,” he said.

The corps was founded in 1506 by Pope Giulio II and is considered by historians to be the world’s oldest standing army. Tradition has it that he was so impressed by the bravery of Swiss mercenaries that he asked them to defend the Vatican. Ever since, for more than 500 years, Switzerland has been supplying soldiers to the Vatican to staff an army of around 135 men.

Babis wins Czech parliamentary election

PRAGUE, Oct 5, (Agencies): Populist Czech billionaire Andrej Babiš won a parliamentary election Saturday in a political comeback that put the country on a course away from supporting Ukraine and toward Hungary and Slovakia, which have taken a pro-Russian path.

With the votes from almost 98% of polling station counted by the Statistics Office, Babiš’s ANO (YES) movement captured 35% of the vote followed by the pro-Western coalition of Prime Minister Petr Fiala with 23.0%. The coalition defeated him in the 2021 election.

The two-day election filled 200 seats in the lower house of the Czech parliament. A group of mayors known as STAN, also a member of Fiala’s government, had 11.1% of the vote, with another ally of Fiala, the Pirates party, reaching 8.7%.

The major anti-migrant force, the Freedom and Direct Democracy party, got 7.9% while a right-wing group calling itself the Motorists received 6.8%. The two are potential partners for Babiš if he wants to have a majority government.

“We are extremely happy and thank everyone who came to the polls,” he said, claiming that ANO achieved a historic result. Babiš added that his party has a clear agenda to transform the country for the better.

“A government will be formed that will really work hard, that someone will manage and that will fulfill its pro-



Chairman of opposition ‘ANO’ (YES) movement Andrej Babis, (right), arrives at the presidential office, a day after he got majority of votes at the parliamentary elections, in Prague, Czech Republic on Oct 5. (AP)

gram from the first moment,” he said.

Fiala acknowledged ANO’s victory. “I congratulate the winner of the elections, Andrej Babiš.”

The Pirate party’s leader, Zdenek Hrib, declared that he would under no circumstances enter into a ruling coalition with ANO and certainly not with the SPD, indicated that his party could be a strong and vocal opposition.

The young Motorists for Themselves Party secured sixth place, positioning itself as a potential junior

partner in the upcoming government formation talks. The party’s chairman Petr Macinka declared, “We are the only truly right-wing party and we want to keep an eye on Babiš.”

Katerina Konecna, the Stacilo! Movement’s electoral leader, said that the left-wing party will not be represented in the new parliament.

She expressed her doubts over whether a right-wing government could solve the pressing issues facing Czech citizens.

Georgia’s ruling party claims landslide win in local vote boycotted by main opposition

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 5, (AP): Georgia’s ruling party claimed victory in every municipality across the South Caucasus country in a local election that was boycotted by the two main opposition blocs as a sham.

Tens of thousands poured into the capital, Tbilisi, hours earlier on Saturday to march against the government’s monthslong crackdown on dissent, and what they see as Georgia’s steady drift into Moscow’s orbit.

Riot police used water cannons and tear gas to drive protesters out of the presidential palace, after they smashed the gates and attempted to enter the building.

Five activists, including celebrated opera singer Paata Burchuladze, were detained following the rally. According to Georgia’s Interior Ministry, they were accused of calling for a violent overthrow of the government as well as “organizing, leading and participating in group violence.”

Protests and political unrest have rocked Georgia since Georgian Dream halted talks on joining the European Union last November, despite it being a cherished goal for many Georgians that has been enshrined in the country’s constitution. The move triggered waves of protests that have been met with mass arrests and police violence. It came af-



Paata Burchuladze, opera singer and one of the organizers of the rally, (center left), and former Chief Prosecutor of Georgia Murtaz Zodelavaoth, (center), march with other opposition supporters carrying Georgian national flags in the city center of Tbilisi, Georgia, on Oct 4, boycotting the municipal elections and calling for the release of political opponents. (AP)

ter the longtime ruling party declared victory in a parliamentary election the opposition said was rigged.

Georgians went to the polls on Saturday to elect mayors of four major cities, including Tbilisi, the heads of over 50 other municipalities and members of municipal councils. Georgian Dream and 17 other parties fielded

candidates, while eight parties, including the two main opposition blocs, boycotted the vote.

The rallies, big and small, have continued despite a multipronged crackdown by the government through laws that target demonstrators, rights groups, nongovernmental organizations and independent media.

Europe

5 dead in Russian strike on Ukraine: At least five civilians died after Russia launched drones, missiles and guided aerial bombs at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, in a major nighttime attack that officials there said targeted civilian infrastructure.

Moscow sent over 50 ballistic missiles and around 500 drones into nine regions across Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday morning.

Four people, including a 15-year-old, died in a combined drone and missile strike on Lviv, according to regional officials and Ukraine’s emergency service. The historic western city is often seen as a haven from the fighting and destruction further east. At least six more people sustained injuries, according to a statement by Ukraine’s police force.

The strike left two districts without power and public transport suspended for a few hours early Sunday, mayor Andriy Sadovyi reported. He added that a business complex on the outskirts of Lviv was on fire following the strike, describing it as a civilian facility not linked to Ukraine’s war effort. (AP)

Storm overturns boat in Poland: A strong storm hit the Baltic Sea in northern Poland on Saturday, overturning a boat during the 74th Blue Ribbon of the Gulf of Gdansk regatta, the Polish Press Agency reported.

According to the report, one yacht lost its mast and another capsized. No casualties have been reported.

Sebastian Kluska, director of Poland’s Maritime Search and Rescue Service, said four yachts were previously at risk, “but they are now safe.”

The regatta was suspended for safety reasons, and all participating vessels were directed back to port, according to the report.

Poland’s Institute of Meteorology and Water Management issued a storm warning earlier on Saturday, forecasting winds of up to force 9 on the Beaufort scale



Rescuers search for victims in the debris of a destroyed house following a Russian rocket strike on the outskirts of Lviv, Ukraine on Oct 5. (AP)

across the Baltic Sea.

First held in 1952, the Blue Ribbon of the Gulf of Gdansk is one of Poland’s oldest annual offshore sailing regattas. (Xinhua)

British police to get extra powers: British police forces are to be granted greater powers to restrict protests, the British government said on Sunday.

The new measures will allow senior officers to consider the “cumulative impact” of previous protests, and to instruct organizers to hold events elsewhere if a venue has been subject to repeated demonstrations, according to the country’s Home Office.

The new powers will be “brought forward as soon as possible,” and anyone who breaches the conditions will risk arrest and prosecution, the government said.

The move came amid the recent pro-Palestinian demonstrations following a deadly attack outside a synagogue in Manchester on Thursday. The incident saw three people killed, including the offender, and has been declared by the British police as a terrorist attack. (Xinhua)

Indonesia rescuers search for missing students after school collapse kills 37

SIDOARJO, Indonesia, Oct 5, (AP): Indonesian rescuers are searching on Sunday for missing students after a prayer hall at an Islamic boarding school collapsed almost a week ago. They have recovered 23 bodies over the weekend search, bringing the death toll to 37.

Using jackhammers, circular saws and sometimes their bare hands, rescue teams diligently removed rubble in an attempt to find the 26 missing students.

The structure fell on top of hundreds of students, mostly boys between the ages of 12 and 19, on Sept. 30 at the century-old Al Khoziny school in Sidoarjo on the eastern side of Indonesia's Java island. Only one student escaped unscathed, authorities said, while 95 were treated for various injuries and released. Eight others suffered serious wounds and remained hospitalized Sunday.

Police said two levels were added to the two-story building without a permit, leading to structural failure. This has triggered widespread anger over illegal construction in Indonesia.

"The construction couldn't support the load while the concrete was pouring (to build) the third floor because it didn't meet standards and the whole



Rescuers carry the body of a newly recovered victim of a building that collapsed at an Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia on Oct 5. (AP)

800 square meters (8,600 square feet) construction collapsed," said Mudji Irmawan, a construction expert from Tenth November Institute of Technology.

Irmawan also said students shouldn't have been allowed inside a building under construction.

Sidoarjo district chief, Subandi,

confirmed what the police had announced: The school's management had not applied for the required permit before starting construction.

"Many buildings, including traditional boarding school extensions, in non-urban areas were built without a permit," Subandi, who goes by a single name, told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Indonesia's 2002 Building Construction code states that permits have to be issued by the relevant authorities prior to any construction, or else face fines and imprisonment. If a violation causes death, this can lead to up to 15 years in prison and a fine of up to 8 billion rupiah (nearly \$500,000).

The school's caretaker is Abdus Salam Mujib, a respected Islamic cleric in East Java. He offered a public apology in a rare appearance a day after the incident.

"This is indeed God's will, so we must all be patient, and may God replace it with goodness, with something much better. We must be confident that God will reward those affected by this incident with great rewards," he said.

Criminal investigations involving Muslim clerics remain sensitive in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, strong waves are seen ahead of Typhoon Matmo near the coastal downtown area of Haikou, in southern China's Hainan Province on Oct 5. (Xinhua)

Matmo strengthens, prompting China to evacuate 347,000 people

Typhoon Matmo strengthened ahead of making landfall Sunday in China, prompting the government to evacuate some 347,000 people from the southern provinces of Guangdong and Hainan.

The typhoon had maximum sustained wind speeds of 151 kph (94 mph) on Sunday morning, according to China's National Meteorological Center. It hit Zhanjiang in Guangdong around mid-afternoon Sunday. The

weather authority issued a red-level typhoon warning, the highest in its system.

Hainan, which is also in the pathway of the storm, canceled flights and shut down public transport and businesses starting Saturday in preparation for the storm. The province also preemptively evacuated 197,856 people, according to state media, The Paper. (AP)

Asia

5 teenagers arrested in Australia: Five teenagers were arrested after a stolen vehicle collided with a police vehicle on Sunday at Nerang, a suburb in the City of Gold Coast in the Australian state of Queensland under its governor **Jeannette Young**.

The group includes three 14-year-old boys, a 13-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl.

Queensland Police said that officers were patrolling along Riverview Road at around 3:10 a.m. local time, when they sighted a stolen Hyundai and a BMW. A short time later, another police vehicle was patrolling further up the same road in the opposite direction and was spotted by the lead Hyundai, which braked heavily.

The BMW collided with the back of the Hyundai and was propelled forward, striking the oncoming police vehicle. The Hyundai was pushed forward and crashed into a nearby parked vehicle.

The occupants of both the BMW and the Hyundai fled the cars on foot but were taken into custody shortly afterwards. The sole occupant of the police vehicle, a male sergeant, was transported to the hospital for assessment.

Police said that the BMW was stolen earlier that evening, and the Hyundai was stolen on Oct 3. (Xinhua)



Young

Sydney helicopter crash kills 1: A man has died and a teenager has been hospitalized after a helicopter crashed in southwest Sydney on Friday afternoon.

A police statement said that emergency services were called to the crash in the suburb of Bankstown, 18 km southwest of central Sydney, at around 1:30 p.m. local time on Friday.

Ambulance paramedics arrived and treated a man, but he died at the scene.

A second male, aged 19, was treated for serious injuries before being taken to a nearby hospital in a critical condition.

Local media reported that both males were on board the helicopter at the time of the crash.

Police established a crime scene, and an investigation into the cause of the crash will be undertaken by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. (Xinhua)

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5 killed as minivehicle overturns in Japan: Five people died in central Japan on Friday when a minivehicle suspected of carrying too many passengers overturned on a national highway, local media reported.

Shortly after midnight Thursday, police received a report that a minivehicle carrying six people had rolled onto its side on Route 165 in Nabari City, Mie Prefecture, Kyodo News said.

Two men and three women, believed to be in their teens to 30s, were confirmed dead, while another man in the vehicle was seriously injured in the accident, the report said.

Police are working to identify the victims and investigate the cause of the accident. They suspect that the vehicle may have been overloaded. (Xinhua)

Myanmar's military recaptures key central town from ethnic rebels

BANGKOK, Oct 5, (AP): Myanmar's military has taken back control of a major district capital in Shan State more than a year after losing it to an armed ethnic minority rebel group, state media reported.

The recapture of Kyaukme, about 115 kilometers (70 miles) northeast of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, is the latest setback suffered by the ethnic militias fighting the army.

Its fall could not be independently confirmed because the military does not allow journalists free access to the area, but the claim has not been challenged.

The military has stepped up activity in recent months, on the ground and with airstrikes, to retake areas controlled by the resistance ahead of elections it has promised to hold beginning Dec. 28.



In this image released on Oct 1, 2025 by the Myanmar Military, soldiers pose for a photo in front of the captured police station in Kyaukme, a town that the resistance forces had controlled for more than a year, in the northern part of Shan state. (AP)

groups.

A report in the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper said Kyaukme was completely captured by the army on Wednesday afternoon after a three-week operation to retake it. The report,

which published photos of soldiers in key points of the town, said the military was working to restore the town's administrative functions and ensure the safe return of residents who had fled to avoid fighting.

Nepalese villages swept away by heavy rainfall and landslides, leaving 44 dead

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Oct 5, (AP): Landslides, a lighting strike and floodings triggered by severe rainfall killed at least 44 people in Nepal on Sunday, with five others reported missing, authorities said.

Those killed included at least 37 people in the eastern mountain district of Illam, where whole villages were swept away by landslides, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said. Several other people are still missing.

Heavy rainfall was reported since Friday in the district, which borders India and is known for growing tea.

Six people in the same family were killed when a landslide crushed their home while they slept, Illam's assistant administrative officer Bholanath Guragai said.

Rainfall was hampering efforts to reach the villages and many roads were swept away or blocked by the landslides.

The government said helicopters were also evacuating people needing medical evacuations and ground troops were helping move people to safer areas.

One more person was killed in landslide in a neighboring district.

Three people in another district were killed as they were struck by lightning, while three more people died in flood-



The Triyuga River is seen swollen after heavy rainfall in Saptari district, Nepal, on Oct 5. (Xinhua)

ing in southern Nepal.

Nepal's government issued a severe rainfall warning in the eastern and central parts of the country from Saturday to Monday, while shutting down major highways. All domestic flights were grounded on Saturday by aviation authorities because of heavy rainfall and poor visibility but were reopened on Sunday.

The major highways connecting the capital, Kathmandu, with other areas were closed by the authorities as some parts were blocked by landslides and others were shut as a precautionary measure.

By Sunday evening, one route was partially opened for traffic.

The blockage of roads and transport came as hundreds of thousands of people were returning to Kathmandu after celebrating Dashain, the biggest festival in the Himalayan nation. Thursday was the main day of the two-week festival when people travel to their home villages to be with their families.

Highways were clogged with vehicles on Sunday, as the government assessed the situation.

In Kathmandu, some areas near the river were flooded but no major damage or casualties were reported.

Militants attack prison in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Somalia, Oct 5, (AP): Explosions and heavy gunfire erupted near Somalia's presidential palace on Saturday in an attack by a militant group targeting a major prison just hours after the federal government lifted roadblocks in place for years in the capital.

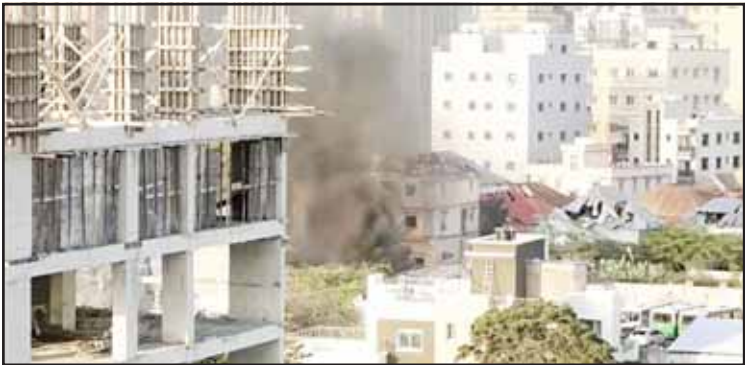
Residents in the central Mogadishu district of Bondhere reported hearing explosions and gunfire and seeing smoke billowing from the prison, which also serves as the headquarters for the regional intelligence unit.

A resident, Hibo Mohamed, told The Associated Press by phone, "We are truly scared. The city had been calm for months, but now everyone feels anxious once more."

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group, which is based in Somalia, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had released prisoners.

The government did not immediately comment on the attack, and phone calls and messages to officials went unanswered Saturday.

Somalia's state media reported that the militants used a vehicle disguised to resemble those of the intelligence unit's security forces, and that soldiers



Smoke fills the sky as explosions and heavy gunfire erupted near Somalia's presidential palace in an attack by a militant group in Mogadishu, Somalia on Oct 4. (AP)

repelled the attack and killed several militants.

The attack targeted the Godka Jilacow prison, which was previously attacked in 2014 when al-Shabab militants set off a suicide car bomb at the gate before storming the compound in an attempt to free detainees. Somali forces repelled the attackers in that assault, but at least a dozen people were killed.

Saturday's attack came just hours

after the federal government lifted several long-standing roadblocks in Mogadishu. The barriers had been in place for years to safeguard critical government sites, but many residents argued that they obstructed traffic and commerce.

Security forces promptly cordoned off the roads leading to the scene, while ambulances hurried to the area. The number of casualties was not immediately clear.



Members of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces and Bolivarian militias gather for communications military exercises in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025. (AP)

Mexico arrests alleged local leader of Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang

MEXICO CITY, Oct 5, (AP): Mexico's Security Ministry said Saturday that it arrested an alleged local leader of the Tren de Aragua gang in Mexico City.

Officials identified the suspect as Nelson Arturo "N," 29, described as the leader and main operator of the transnational criminal group in the country. Authorities said that he was wanted on multiple charges, but in keeping with Mexican law don't release suspects' last names.

Tren de Aragua originated in Venezuela more than a decade ago at an infamously lawless prison with hardened criminals in the central state of Aragua. The gang has expanded in recent years as more than 7.7 million Venezuelans fled economic turmoil and migrated to other Latin American countries or the U.S.

The Trump administration declared the group a terrorist organization. U.S. officials have consistently blamed the gang for being at the root of the violence and illicit drug dealing that plague some U.S. cities.

Trump has repeated his claim - contradicted by a declassified U.S. intelligence assessment - that Tren de Aragua is operating under Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's control.

The size of the gang is unclear. Countries with large populations of Venezuelan migrants, including Peru and Colombia, have accused the group of being behind violence in the region. On Friday, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said that he ordered another strike on a small boat that he accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela, expanding what the Trump administration has declared is an "armed

conflict" with cartels.

So far, at least three of the strikes have been carried out on vessels that U.S. officials said had originated from Venezuela. The strikes followed a buildup of U.S. maritime forces in the Caribbean unlike any seen in recent times.

Also:

MIAMI: Federal prosecutors are seeking to return to custody a former Green Beret accused of plotting to invade **Venezuela** in 2020, arguing he is at risk of fleeing the United States after allegedly threatening a filmmaker who posted a \$2 million bond for his release.

Over the objections of prosecutors, a judge in **Tampa** last year ordered **Jordan Goudreau's** release a few weeks after he was arrested on weapons smuggling charges tied to the failed coup attempt.

Filmmaker **Jen Gatten's** had pledged her \$2 million **Manhattan** apartment as collateral. In a court filing Friday, prosecutors said the court would have likely kept Goudreau jailed pending trial had it known about an "undisclosed side agreement" for the three-time Bronze Star recipient to surrender to his attorney "significant cryptocurrency holdings" and other assets to mitigate her financial risk.

Gatten is the co-director of "Men of War," based on Goudreau's account of the raid that ended with several combatants killed by security forces and two of his USSpecial Forces buddies locked away in a Venezuelan prison. The documentary debuted last month on Amazon Prime.

the explosion. (Xinhua)

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Tunisia sentences man to death: A court in Tunisia has sentenced a 51-year-old man to death over Facebook posts deemed offensive to President Kais Saied and a threat to state security, his lawyer said Friday.

Saber Chouchen was convicted on Wednesday of three charges: attempting to overthrow the state, insulting the president and spreading false information online. Judges said the posts incited violence and chaos and violated Tunisia's penal code as well as the controversial 2022 cyber-crime law, Decree 54. (AP)

Africa

3 Libyans killed in boat explosion: At least three Libyans were killed in a boat explosion on Sunday evening off the coast of Zawiya, about 60 km west of the Libyan capital Tripoli, Libyan newspaper Al-Marsad reported.

Apart from the three deceased Libyan youths, identified as Mohamed Ben Shtwan, Anwar Al-Majdoub, and Nasser Sultan, there are other casualties involved in the incident, whose identities have not been determined, Al-Marsad reported.

The report did not specify the exact time or the cause of

Dollar stabilizes at KD 0.304 dinars

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): The US dollar exchange rate held steady against the Kuwaiti dinar at KD 0.304 on Sunday, according to the Central Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) daily bulletin. The euro also remained unchanged at KD 0.357, compared

to Thursday's rates. The British pound maintained stability at KD 0.410, while the Swiss franc edged up by 0.16 percent to KD 0.383. Meanwhile, the Japanese yen stayed flat at KD 0.002, the CBK added.

Business



Part of the ceremony and certificates distribution.

Alarbeed: We have successfully empowered our clients to adopt sustainability standards and strategies

KFH concludes Sustainable Business Program for SMEs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has successfully concluded its first-of-its-kind Sustainable Business Program for SMEs. The program is designed exclusively for SME clients with the aim of strengthening collaboration and partnerships as well as providing them with a competitive edge to achieve their ambitions.

The program reaffirms KFH's vision to advance sustainable development, highlighting its leadership in nurturing a dynamic business environment while recognizing SMEs as true partners in success.

Executive Manager Governance and Sustainability at KFH, Mohammad Alarbeed, emphasized the significance of sustainability in businesses, highlighting its positive impact on their performance and capacity to grow, making these businesses major driver in achieving Kuwait Vision 2035.

He pointed out that KFH views SMEs as pillars of the national economy which must be supported in executing sustainability standards.

In his address at KFH Auto during the closing ceremony of the 3-weeks program, Alarbeed said: "This program is a strategic step that reflects our commitment to our customers and partners as well as the Kuwaiti economy. We focused on presenting the core themes and the practical practices related to sustainability applications."

He hoped that the program had achieved its objectives, benefiting participants by equipping them with information and training on sustainability concepts and ESG principles.

He mentioned that KFH focused on exchanging its sustainability expertise to the participating companies, noting that the program was fully designed in-house, underscoring KFH's excellence in integrating sustainability into ser-



Mohammad Alarbeed addressing the audience.

VICES, operations and business strategies.

Alarbeed affirmed that adopting sustainable practices enables companies to achieve growth, enhance capabilities, and face competition with higher levels of efficiency and quality, while also boosting readiness and securing positive assessments.

He explained that as the next program phase, KFH will continue to follow up with participating companies, assisting them in applying sustainability principles and shaping their strategies. "This will be done through regular meetings with KFH's sustainability consultants, helping clients and partners adopt practical, actionable sustainability practices that enhance capabilities and drive long-term growth," added Alarbeed.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, KFH distributed certificates to company representatives. Participants commended KFH's initiative in terms of organization, in addition to the pro-

gram's outstanding practical content. They also noted that the knowledge and applications they gained would allow them to successfully implement sustainability within their companies.

It is worth noting that the program delved into the concepts of sustainability, the pillars of ESG, and its main principles, essential practices, and practical applications. The program also included a dedicated session on sustainable procurement, which outlined the requirements for corporations to become accredited suppliers at KFH, opening new opportunities for collaboration and growth.

Additionally, the program's main advantages, included a thorough, hands-on guide to ESG practices and private consultations with a sustainability expert. Moreover, participants who successfully implement the guidelines are eligible for an external certification that confirms their dedication to sustainability.

CBK unveils 13th round of Kuwaiti Graduates Development Program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Under the Kafa'a initiative launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in cooperation with Kuwaiti banks and managed by the Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), and within CBK's strategic vision aiming at national capacity building to support the country's development, the KIBS will be receiving applications for the thirteenth round of the Kuwaiti Graduates Development Program (KGDP) for a career in the banking sector. Applications to the program will be accepted from October 05, 2025 until October 23, 2025. This program provides new graduates with the opportunity to train in the banking field, and aims to build their skills through theoretical and field training for about five months at Kuwaiti banks. The program also provides participants with the opportunity to gain practical and professional experience, to provide the banking sector with highly qualified young national talents.

In this regard, the CBK Governor and KIBS Board Chairman Basel Al-Haroon, stated that KGDP is among the best programs available to gradu-

ates wishing to enter the banking sector due to the diversity of its content and the hands-on training it provides. The KIBS cooperates with local banks to provide high-level field training experiences for the participants.

Al-Haroon pointed out that the program is one of Kafa'a Initiative's programs that are catered to Kuwaiti fresh graduates especially from finance and economics majors. The program covers a wide array of topics and the training is mindful of global best practices. The applicants are selected objectively, and based on the principle of equal opportunity and the specific needs of the banking and finance sector.

The Governor concluded by stressing that CBK will continue to provide exceptional training opportunities for Kuwaiti youth aiming to provide the banking sector with national competencies needed for growth of the national economy.

For more details regarding the terms of application, please visit the official Kafa'a website: kafaakw.org

Oil Min Al-Roumi joins meeting

OPEC+ countries agree to raise output by 137,000 bpd in Nov

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Oil Tareq Al-Roumi participated in the ministerial meeting of the eight countries involved in the voluntary oil production reduction agreement within the OPEC+ framework, which was held via video conference on Sunday. The Kuwaiti official delegation attending the meeting included the Governor of the State of Kuwait to OPEC Muhammad Al-Shatti, and the national representative of the State of Kuwait to OPEC Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

In a press statement issued by the Ministry of Oil, the Minister confirmed targeting enhancing the stability of oil market. He confirmed that based on market data regarding the positive

market fundamentals and the stability of global economic performance indicators, the eight countries participating in the implementation agreed to adjust production by increasing it by 137,000 barrels per day for November 2025, out of a total of 1.65 million barrels per day from previously announced additional voluntary adjustments in April 2023.

Kuwaiti oil production for November 2025 will be 2,569 million barrels per day.

The minister added that the State of Kuwait is committed to consensus decisions that support the stability and recovery of the global economy and market balance.

The next meeting of the eight countries will be held on November 2, 2025.

S&P GCC composite index gains 4.1% in September 2025

Kuwait equities rise amid positive economic outlook

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its Monthly Market Review report for September 2025. Kuwait equity market gained in September 2025, supported by positive economic outlook and decline in interest rates. Meanwhile, Oil prices declined for the month amid concerns over increase in pace of reversal of OPEC+ production cuts from November.

Kuwait equities continued to demonstrate strong performance among GCC markets on YTD basis (19.5%) as of September 2025. Kuwait's All Share Index gained 3.5% during the month, with both premier and main market indices registering gains. Sector-wise, Healthcare and Real Estate were the top gainers, rising 18.3% and 6.1% respectively. The banking sector index rose by 3.1% for the month. Among banking stocks, Commercial Bank of Kuwait and National Bank of Kuwait were top gainers, rising 6.0% and 3.9% respectively during the month. Commercial Bank of Kuwait disclosed execution of off-market trades on about 58.4 million shares, at price of KD 0.5 per share, in September 2025. Among Premier Market stocks, IFA Hotels and Resorts Company and GFH Financial Group were the top gainers, rising 28.8% and 20.3% respectively during the month. IFA Hotels and Resorts has reported by purchase of about 5.5 million of its shares by Kuwait Real Estate Company during the month, over multiple transactions.

Kuwait's real GDP growth estimate for 2025 has been revised up to 2.6% y/y by IMF, up from its earlier forecast of 1.9% y/y in April 2025. The agency has cited an increase in oil production amid unwinding production cuts and strong private domestic spending as factors contributing to improved outlook. Concurrently, Central Bank of Kuwait lowered its policy rate by 25 bps to 3.75% in September 2025, following rate cut of same magnitude by the U.S Fed. It is the central bank's first rate cut in the past year.

The S&P GCC Composite index gained 4.1% in September 2025, with most GCC markets closing the month in green. Saudi Arabia's equity index surged 7.5% during the month, amid reports that the Capital Markets Authority is considering allowing foreign investors to own majority stakes in listed companies. This is the index's largest monthly increase since January 2022, with a decline in interest rates and positive economic data lending additional support to the markets. Among Saudi blue chips, Saudi Arabian Mining Company increased by 24.4% during the month. Ma'aden plans to double gold production by 2030

to create an integrated supply chain for rare minerals. Abu Dhabi's equity index decreased by 0.8% in September 2025. First Abu Dhabi Bank (UAE) declined by 5.8% while Emirates Telecommunications Group Company (UAE) rose by 4.2% during the month. Dubai's equity index closed 3.7% lower for the month, weighed by performance of blue-chips. Emaar Properties (UAE) declined by 9.4% for the month, while Emirates NBD (UAE) declined by 3.8%. Dubai's ALEC Holdings, a diversified engineering and construction group, has initiated its IPO process during the month. The company had initially announced a price range of AED 1.35 and AED 1.40 per share, implying market capitalization between AED 6.75 billion (USD 1.84 billion) and AED 7 billion (USD 1.91 billion). The final offer price announced on 1st October 2025, was AED 1.40.

Saudi Arabia's real GDP grew by 3.9% y/y in Q2 2025, supported by 4.6% growth in non-oil sector and 3.8% increase in oil sector. The country's industrial production increased by 6.5% y/y in July, driven by solid gains in manufacturing and mining. The UAE's real GDP grew by 3.9% y/y in Q1 2025, with non-oil sector registering growth of 5.3% y/y. Central banks of GCC countries lowered interest rates by 25 bps, following the rate cut by the U.S Fed during the month.

Global markets were positive during September 2025, supported by the U.S Fed rate cuts. The MSCI World and S&P 500 indices rose by 3.1% and 3.5% respectively for the month. U.S Fed lowered interest rates by 25 bps during the month, citing emerging signs of weakness in labour markets. Nasdaq Composite index rose 5.6% during the month, supported by positive developments among tech companies. Nvidia announced the launch of a new AI chip with an investment of USD 100 million and a revenue potential of USD 5 billion. Tesla's CEO Elon Musk disclosed that he had bought USD 1 billion worth of the company's stock during the month. Also, Google and Apple benefited from the court ruling allowing continuation of the search deal between the companies. MSCI EM index gained 7.0% during the month, supported by 6.6% increase in Taiwan's TAIEX Index (MSCI EM Weightage: 19.05%) and 7.5% increase in South Korea's KOSPI index (MSCI EM Weightage: 10.64%). While Taiwan's markets were supported by sustained strong demand for AI chips, South Korean markets were supported by policy developments such as reversal of plans to raise taxes on stock investments

and measures to ease housing shortage. China and India also gained during the month, registering an increase of 0.7% and 0.6% respectively. Chinese markets were supported by domestic liquidity even as economic concerns persist.

U.S inflation was at 2.9% y/y in September 2025, up by 2 percentage points compared to July 2025, driven by a rise in prices of food, shelter and energy. The U.S labor market added 22,000 jobs in August, down from 79,000 job additions in July 2025. Its unemployment rate in August 2025 was at nearly a 4-year high of 4.3%. Revised employment data for June 2025 also indicated decline of 13,000 jobs, marking the first drop since December 2020. U.S' GDP growth in Q2 2025 was revised up to 3.8% y/y, up from 3.3% estimated in August 2025, based on falling imports and strong consumer spending.

The yield on the 10-year US treasury notes declined by 7 bps during the month to 4.16%. The yields had declined to 4.01% by 11th September 2025 as reports indicating weakness in labor market increased the expectation of rate cut by the U.S Fed during the month. However, yields climbed back later in the month, following better-than-expected economic data and hawkish commentary from the U.S Fed.

Oil (Brent) prices closed the month at USD67.0 per barrel, declining by 1.6% during the month. Ukraine's drone attacks on Russia's energy infrastructure and the heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East raised concerns over disruptions in oil supply, leading to increase in the commodity's prices earlier in the month. OPEC+ continued unwinding production cuts, albeit at a slower pace. OPEC+ plans to increase production by 137,000 bpd in October, down from the monthly increases of 555,000 bpd in both September and August, and 411,000 bpd in both July and June. However, reports of an accelerated reversal of production cuts by OPEC+ in November weighed oil prices towards the month's end.

While the U.S Fed's dot-plot, published in September 2025, indicated two additional rate cuts in 2025, hawkish comments from the central bank towards the end of September have dampened the outlook on further cuts. Amid ongoing tariff announcements, data on inflation and the labor markets and U.S Fed's policy meeting in October would continue to be key market movers. While ongoing reversal of production cuts and positive non-oil economic growth are favoring GCC markets, further decline in interest rates would lend additional support to the markets.

At the annual Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) Awards Ceremony, held in Oman

NBK named Leading Corporate for Investor Relations in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) was distinguished with two prestigious accolades from the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) during its annual awards ceremony in Oman. The event, sponsored by the Muscat Stock Exchange, brought together leaders of GCC stock exchanges, decision-makers from global investment funds, and a wide network of investor relations professionals and experts from around the world.

NBK received the award for Leading Corporate for Investor Relations in Kuwait, while Mr. Amir Hanna, Group Chief Communications Officer at NBK, was named Best Investor Relations Professional in Kuwait.

This recognition underscores NBK’s leadership in adopting world-class standards of transparency and professionalism in investor relations, reinforcing its position as a leading financial institution in the local and regional banking sector, while further strengthening the confidence of the investment community and stakeholders in the Bank as a trusted partner.

The awards recognize companies and individuals who excel in investor communication and uphold the highest standards of corporate governance. Winners are selected through a rigorous evaluation of their investor relations programs, and based on a comprehensive survey of analysts and professional money managers.

Transparency and disclosure are measured by the clarity and comprehensiveness of information shared with investors and the public, adherence to corporate governance best practices, and the quality of annual and quarterly reports and investor presentations. They also encompass the effectiveness of communication channels with investors, ranging from conferences with investors and analysts to the use of digital platforms.



Khaled Al-Balushi receiving the Leading Corporate for Investor Relations award.

The criteria also cover the responsiveness to investor inquiries, the ease of access to information and the investor relations team, the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into disclosure and strategy, as well as the adoption of innovative communication methods aimed

- Amir Hanna was named Best Investor Relations Professional in Kuwait
- This recognition underscores NBK’s leadership in advancing professional standards and best practices in the field of investor relations
- The award reaffirms the Bank’s commitment to delivering transparent, timely, and value-driven disclosures to all stakeholders

at enhancing the overall investor experience.

These awards reaffirm NBK’s unwavering commitment to adopting best practices in investor relations and stand as a testament to its leadership in delivering transparent, high-quality disclosures to all stakeholders. The recognition by the investment community highlights the Bank’s ongoing efforts to enhance communication with shareholders and analysts, while reinforcing market confidence and strengthening trust within the investor community.

NBK has consistently upheld the highest standards of governance and transparency, demonstrating clear excellence in investor relations through its ongoing efforts. The Bank maintains an open and continuous dialogue with investors, organizes regular presentations, and is committed to publishing comprehensive financial, annual, and sustainability reports that offer clear insights into its performance and strategic direction.

As a non-profit organization, MEIRA is dedicated to promoting best practices in investor relations while enhancing the reputation, efficiency, and appeal of capital markets across the Middle East.

The Conversation

US govt shutdown deepens strain on Federal workforce

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

By Gonzalo Maturana
Emory University

THE U.S. government shutdown couldn’t come at a worse time for federal workers.

With a government shutdown, hundreds of thousands of federal employees would be furloughed - sent home without pay until funding resumes. And ahead of the shutdown, President Donald Trump suggested that a prolonged lapse in funding could open the door to “irreversible” changes, such as reducing parts of the federal workforce.

The shutdown marks another difficult moment this year for a federal workforce that has so far shed more than 300,000 jobs. This is largely due to ongoing Trump administration efforts to downsized parts of the federal government and restructure or largely eliminate certain government agencies with the stated aim of increasing efficiency.

As a team of financial economists who study labor markets and public sector employment and have examined millions of federal personnel records spanning such government shutdowns in the past, we have found that the consequences reach far beyond the now-familiar images of closed national parks and stalled federal services. Indeed, based on our study of an October 2013 shutdown during which about 800,000 federal employees were furloughed for 16 days, shutdowns leave an enduring negative effect on the federal workforce, reshaping its composition and weakening its performance for years to come.

Millions of Americans interact with the federal government every day in ways both big and small. More than one-third of U.S. national spending is routed through government programs, including Medicare and Social Security. Federal workers manage national parks, draft environmental regulations and help keep air travel safe.

Whatever one’s political leanings, if the goal is a government that handles these responsibilities effectively, then attracting and retaining a talented workforce is essential.

Yet the ability of the federal government to do so may be increasingly difficult, in part because prolonged shutdowns can have hidden effects.

When Congress fails to pass appropriations, federal agencies must furlough employees whose jobs are not deemed “excepted” - sometimes commonly referred to as essential. Those excepted employees keep working, while others are barred from working or even volunteering until funding resumes. Furlough status reflects funding sources and mission categories, not an individual’s performance, so it confers no signal about an employee’s future prospects and primarily acts as a shock to morale.

Importantly, furloughs do not create long-term wealth losses; back pay has always been granted and, since 2019, is legally guaranteed. Employees therefore recover their pay even though they may face real financial strain in the short run.

A cynical observer might call furloughs a paid vacation, yet the data tells a different story.

Using extensive administra-

tive records on federal civilian workers from the October 2013 shutdown, we tracked how this shock to morale rippled through government operations. Employees exposed to furloughs were 31% more likely to leave their jobs within one year.

These departures were not quickly replaced, forcing agencies to rely on costly temporary workers and leading to measurable declines in core functions such as payment accuracy, legal enforcement and patenting activity.

Further, we found that this exodus builds over the first two years after the shutdown and then settles into a permanently lower headcount, implying a durable loss of human capital. The shock to morale is more pronounced among young, female and highly educated professionals with plenty of outside options. Indeed, our analysis of survey data from a later 2018-2019 shutdown confirms that morale, not income loss, drives the exits.

Employees who felt most affected reported a sharp drop in agency, control and recognition, and they were far more likely to plan a departure.

The effect of the motivation loss is striking. Using a simple economic model where workers can be expected to value both cash and purpose, we estimate that the drop in intrinsic motivation after a shutdown would require a roughly 10% wage raise to offset.

Some people have argued that this outflow of employees amounts to a necessary trimming, a way to shrink government by a so-called starving of the beast.

But the evidence paints a different picture. Agencies hit hardest by furloughs turned to temporary staffing firms to fill the gaps. Over the two years after the shutdown we analyzed, these agencies spent about US\$1 billion more on contractors than they saved in payroll.

The costs go beyond replacement spending, as government performance also suffers. Agencies that were more affected by the shutdown recorded higher rates of inaccurate federal payments for several years. Even after partial recovery, losses amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars that taxpayers never recouped.

Other skill-intensive functions declined as well. Legal enforcement fell in agencies that became short of experienced attorneys, and patenting activity dropped in science and engineering agencies after key inventors left.

Official estimates of shutdown costs typically focus on near-term GDP effects and back pay. But our findings show that an even bigger bill comes later in the form of higher employee turnover, higher labor costs to fill gaps, and measurable losses in productivity.

Shutdowns are blunt, recurring shocks that demoralize the public workforce and erode performance. These costs spill over to everyone who relies on government services. If the public wants efficient, accountable public institutions, then we should all care about avoiding shutdowns.

After an already turbulent year, it is unclear whether a shutdown would significantly add to the strain on federal employees or have a more limited effect, since many who were considering leaving have already left through buyouts or forced terminations this year. What is clear is that hundreds of thousands of federal employees will experience another period of uncertainty. (AP)

By National Bank of Kuwait

Global markets were rattled this week as political gridlock in Washington triggered a U.S. government shutdown, raising concerns about its impact on economic activity and data releases. The closure has already forced the Labor Department to delay the September nonfarm payrolls report. Equities were up, with U.S. indices inching higher on AI-driven momentum despite mounting political risks. Commodities came under renewed pressure, with WTI crude slipping toward \$60 per barrel, its lowest in four months, as oversupply worries intensified. At the same time, gold steadied near recent highs, supported by safe-haven demand amid heightened geopolitical risks and fiscal uncertainty in the U.S. In rates markets, Japan’s 10-year government bond yield surged to 1.66%, the highest since 2008, after BOJ Governor Ueda reaffirmed the potential for policy tightening should inflation remain aligned with forecasts. Meanwhile, Swiss inflation remained subdued at 0.2% in September, underscoring ongoing disinflationary pressures.

United States

US Government Shutdown Adds Political Risk

The U.S. dollar index traded lower throughout the week due to pressure by the government shut down that followed a failed short-term funding agreement between Democrats and Republicans. The shutdown has resulted in potential furloughs for hundreds of thousands of federal workers and the suspension of critical government services. Traders are uncertain about how long the disruption will last, with concerns it could delay the release of key economic data ahead of the Federal Reserve’s late-October policy meeting. This includes Friday’s nonfarm payrolls report, a major labor market indicator. As a result, more attention was turned to ADP’s private payrolls data released Wednesday.

U.S. Jobs Market Shows Strain
U.S. private businesses cut 32K jobs in September 2025, the steepest drop since March 2023 and the second straight monthly decline, defying expectations for a 52K gain. The weakness was partly linked to a benchmarking adjustment that lowered counts by 43K, but the broader trend showed slowing job creation across sectors. The service sector lost 28K jobs, led by sharp declines in leisure/hospitality (-19K), professional/business services (-13K), financial activities (-9K), and trade/transport/utilities (-7K), which outweighed gains in education/health (+33K). The goods sector shed 3K jobs, with losses in construction (-5K) and manufacturing (-2K). Wage growth held steady for job-stayers (4.5%), while job-changer pay slowed to 6.6% from 7.1%, signalling easing labor market momentum.

The US Dollar index closed the

Previous Week Levels					This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1697	1.1681	1.1778	1.1741	1.1700	1.1780	1.1802
GBP	1.3389	1.3387	1.3527	1.3478	1.3400	1.3530	1.3478
JPY	149.39	146.57	149.51	147.44	145.50	148.20	146.09
CHF	0.7968	0.7925	0.8000	0.7953	0.7830	0.8000	0.7869

week at 97.71.

Europe

Eurozone Inflation Ticks Up

Euro area inflation ticked up to 2.2% in September 2025 from 2.0% in the prior three months, slightly above the ECB’s 2% target midpoint. The rise was mainly due to a smaller drop in energy prices (-0.4% vs.- 2.0% in August). Services inflation inched higher (3.2% vs. 3.1%), while food, alcohol, and tobacco slowed (3.0% vs. 3.2%) on weaker unprocessed food prices. Non-energy industrial goods held steady at 0.8%. Core inflation stayed unchanged at 2.3%, its lowest since January 2022, highlighting lingering price pressures but relative stability in underlying trends.

Eurozone Service PMI Rises in September

The HCOB Eurozone Services PMI rose to 51.3 in September 2025 from 50.5 a month earlier, maintaining a fourth consecutive month of expansion. The reading, while revised slightly lower than the preliminary 51.4, remained above expectations of 50.5. New orders grew at a mild pace, supported by solid domestic demand, though weakness in foreign sales offset some of the gains amid ongoing trade disputes with the US. Output expanded as backlogs continued to shrink, while employment rose at its slowest pace in over four years. On the price side, both input costs and output charges increased, though at a softer rate. Looking ahead, service providers remained optimistic, with business confidence climbing to its highest level in 11 months.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1744

Swiss Inflation Slips Further, In Line with Expectations

Switzerland’s consumer prices rose by 0.2% year-on-year in September 2025, holding steady for the third straight month and coming in slightly below market expectations of 0.3%. The reading followed the Swiss National Bank’s pause after six consecutive rate cuts that brought the policy rate to zero. While the SNB signaled it is hesitant to return to negative rates, it left the door open to further cuts if deflation re-emerges. Price pressures were uneven, with housing and utilities costs edging higher (0.7% vs. 0.6% in August), while transport deflation moderated. However, food and beverage prices fell

more sharply at -0.8%. On a monthly basis, CPI slipped 0.2%, deepening August’s 0.1% decline. Core inflation stood at 0.7%, unchanged from the prior month, highlighting subdued underlying pressures.

The USD/CHF currency pair closed the week at 0.7953.

United Kingdom

UK Activity Stagnates

The S&P Global UK Composite PMI fell sharply to 50.1 in September 2025, down from 53.5 in August and barely above the growth threshold. The figure marked the weakest reading in five months, signalling stagnation in private sector activity. Services output managed only a marginal increase, while manufacturing production declined at the steepest rate in six months as order books slumped. New business contracted, reversing August’s modest growth, while employment declined further, with private sector payrolls shrinking for a twelfth straight month. Both services and manufacturing firms reported job losses, underlining subdued demand and persistent cost pressures. The data reinforced concerns that UK firms remain cautious on hiring amid fragile economic conditions.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3478

Asia-Pacific

Australia’s RBA Keeps Rates Unchanged, Signals Caution

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) left the cash rate unchanged at 3.6% after its September meeting, with the board unanimously agreeing it was prudent to remain cautious amid signs that inflation may be more persistent than expected. While inflation has eased significantly since its 2022 peak, recent data, described as “partial and volatile”, indicates September-quarter inflation could surprise to the upside. Successive reports from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed the consumer price index rising 2.8% year-on-year in July and 3% in August, the highest since July 2024, while the trimmed mean also remains above the RBA’s 2–3% target midpoint, ruling out near-term rate cuts. The board stressed it remains alert to heightened uncertainty, citing both domestic and global factors shaping the outlook for growth and inflation.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6601.

China Manufacturing Activity

Remains in Contraction

China’s official manufacturing activity contracted less than expected in September, with the Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) rising to 49.8 versus forecasts of 49.6, its strongest level since March. Although the PMI has remained below the 50-threshold separating growth from contraction since April, production climbed to a six-month high of 51.9, while new orders improved to 49.7 and inventories contracted more slowly at 48.5. Gains were led by equipment, high-tech, and consumer goods manufacturing, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. However, non-manufacturing activity weakened, with the services PMI slipping to 50.0, its lowest this year and close to contraction, as most sub-indexes declined except for export orders, which matched the year’s peak at 49.8. While Beijing’s push to curb over capacity and external demand have provided some support, recent data on third-quarter activity and inflation underscore the case for further policy easing ahead.

The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.1190.

Japan Yields Hit 16-yr High on Ueda Remarks

Japan’s 10-year government bond yield held above 1.66% on Friday, its highest since 2008, after BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda reiterated that rate hikes remain on the table if economic and price conditions align with forecasts. Ueda noted that US tariffs are hurting Japanese exporters, particularly in the auto sector, but the broader effects on investment, employment, and wages remain contained. Meanwhile, unemployment ticked up to 2.6% in August, the highest in over a year and above forecasts of 2.4%. Political uncertainty also weighed on sentiment, as markets awaited the ruling party’s leadership vote to determine the next prime minister. The Liberal Democratic Party is set to choose a successor to former PM Shigeru Ishiba, who resigned last month, with debates centering on fiscal restraint versus householding relief. The outcome is likely to shape both fiscal priorities and central bank guidance in the months ahead.

The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 147.44.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar
USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30485.

What you need to know about annuities

Retirement researchers are often enthusiastic about annuities, but many consumers are reasonably skeptical. Here to discuss basic information about annuities and their pros and cons is Christine Benz, Morningstar’s director of personal finance and retirement planning.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

A: An annuity is a contract with an insurance company. In the most basic annuity type, income annuities, you give the insurance company a pool of your money, and they send it back to you as a stream of income over your lifetime. Those types of products give you more income than you could earn by investing in a bond.

They do that because you benefit in the annuity by what’s called “longevity risk pooling,” which means that some people who are buying that same annuity will die sooner, which enlarges the payout for the whole group of you. If you’re the one who lives to be 99, you’re the winner in that situation. That’s one reason that payouts are higher than you’d see for traditional fixed-income instruments. The other big reason is that if you buy an annuity, your money is gone, effectively. You get cash flows, but

you can’t get your principal back. In contrast, when you buy a bond, you receive income, but you receive your principal back at the end.

A: These very basic income annuities can be helpful in terms of addressing a household’s basic living expenses. Say my household basic expenses-housing, taxes, healthcare-total \$40,000, and Social Security is going to give me another \$30,000 of that \$40,000. I could buy an annuity that will supply me with \$10,000 a year to help meet those basic cash flow needs. That’s an elegant use of an annuity, and it can help retirees figure out how much they would want to put into such a product, by examining how much they actually need from it.

A: The most familiar one is a variable annuity where you’re in control of the investment allocations. There are also increasingly popular “fixed index” annuities, where you get market exposure, but there are caps on your gains. There are also caps on your losses. Registered index-linked annuities fall between those two product types on the risk spectrum.

A: Typically, these products carry really long contracts with lots of fine print. That can be very difficult

for consumers to wade through. You can hire an objective third party to help you understand what you might be getting into.

A: At a minimum, write down all of your questions. There are no stupid questions in this context, because transparency isn’t there for consumers. Ask about costs, withdrawals, and what you’re getting with this product that you couldn’t get with a very vanilla investment portfolio that would also give you more liquidity and more access to your funds. Until you have exhausted all of those questions, don’t sign on the bottom line. You also want to ask about the financial strength of the insurance company backing the annuity, because this is a long-term relationship. You need to make sure that they’re able to make good on whatever promises they’re making.

A: It depends on the account that you use to fund the annuity, but generally, you will owe taxes. You get some tax deferral as long as the funds are in the annuity, and then you’ll owe taxes on any money that hasn’t been taxed yet. If you put pretax dollars into an annuity and it makes investment gains, all of your withdrawals will be taxable at your ordinary income tax rate. (AP)

In line with its efforts to showcase its advanced banking products and services

KIB concluded its participation in Auto World Show 2025 & revealed its installments-at-cash-price deal

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) concluded its participation in the Auto World 2025 exhibition, hosted at Kuwait International Fairground from September 22 to 27, garnering a remarkable turnout of car enthusiasts and industry professionals. Throughout the event, the KIB pavilion was met with public enthusiasm and engagement, whereby visitors exhibited notable interest in learning about KIB’s latest banking services and financing offers – especially the highlight exclusive installments-at-cash-price offer.

The exclusive offer allows customers to pay for any car in installments at cash price with profit-free financing on various models, presenting them with the opportunity to own the vehicle of their choice with ease, flexibility, and at no additional cost.

Commenting on the successful participation, **Abdulaziz Al-Shammari**, Assistant General Manager of Retail Banking at KIB, said: “We are delighted to have participated in Auto World Show 2025, which provided us with an exceptional platform to engage directly with our customers and introduce them to our innovative financing solutions. The high turnout at KIB’s pavilion confirms customers’ confidence in our



KIB's Abdulaziz Al-Shammari

banking offerings and their eagerness to benefit from them.”

He added: “Through our partnerships with leading car dealerships in Kuwait, our customers were able to view a wide range of the latest models from various global brands, such as Chevrolet, Honda, Cadillac, Haval, and Chery, including electric, hybrid, and luxury cars. We were also able to offer them a wide range of flexible financing options to suit their varied needs. This exhibition was an ideal opportunity to ground our presence in the local automotive sector and deliver real value to our customers.”

Throughout the event, KIB representatives were available at the



KIB at Auto World Show 2025

pavilion to share banking advice, answer visitors’ inquiries, and introduce them to the benefits that KIB offers through its banking services and various financing packages. The Bank’s team also informed visitors of the available promotional campaigns’ and special offers’ details, as well as highlighted the many advantages of KIB’s

yearlong digital solutions, tailored to suit customers’ varied needs.

It serves to note that KIB seeks to manifest its slogan, “Bank for Life”, through its ongoing participation in local and international events and exhibitions, which allow the Bank to directly communicate with customers, understand their needs, and intro-

duce its latest banking services. This approach reflects KIB’s commitment to transforming customer aspirations into tangible reality, reinforcing its position and active role in developing Kuwait’s banking sector.

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.

Reaffirming its commitment to empowering women in science and technology

Burgan Bank, as strategic sponsor, participates in CODED’s 2025 Academy X graduation ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Under the umbrella of its strategic partnership with CODED, the dedicated coding academy, Burgan Bank concluded its sponsorship of the second edition of Academy X, one of the largest women empowerment initiatives in Kuwait’s technology sector. The Bank’s participation in the closing ceremony, held at Kuwait University and attended by more than 500 graduates from the three cohorts of the 2025 edition, underscored its ongoing commitment to supporting initiatives that empower women and nurture national talent in the fields of entrepreneurship and technology. The event was attended by members from Burgan Bank management, representatives from CODED and the families of the graduates, celebrating the participants’ remarkable achievements and growth throughout the program.

Burgan Bank’s sponsorship of Academy X, now in its second year, reflects its ongoing commitment to investing in Kuwait’s national talent and supporting the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035. It also underscores the Bank’s proactive role as a driving force contributing to the digital transformation across the country’s key sectors.

“We are immensely proud of all Academy X participants and applaud their achievements and commitment to realizing their ambitions and aspirations,” said Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager – Human Resources and Development for the Group at Burgan Bank. “As part of our robust human capital development strategy, we continue to stand by all national talents – particularly young women – who believe in their ability to build a better future for themselves and their communities by learning and expanding their knowledge at every possible opportunity.”

He added: “In alignment with the goals of Kuwait Vision 2035, it is essential that public and the private sectors work together to equip youth with the skills and knowledge required for a modern, innovation-driven economy. And we at Burgan Bank are committed to preparing future leaders who can drive Kuwait’s progress in technology and innovation – both within the banking sector and beyond.”

On her part, Ms. Danah Faisal Al-Jasem, General Manager – Corporate Communications at Burgan Bank, said: “Our commitment to sustainability and strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles lies at the heart of our long-term vision for growth and impact. Through initiatives like Academy X, we reaffirm our dedication to empowering women and investing in the next generation of Kuwaiti talent who will lead the transformation toward a more innovative and inclusive economy.” Adding: “Today, we celebrate more than 500 young women who believed in themselves, embraced the challenge to expand their knowledge and skills, and showed the dedication and drive that define future leaders. We are confident that their spirit of curiosity and problem-solving will continue to guide them toward even greater achievements in their personal and professional lives.”



Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager – Human Resources and Development for the Group at Burgan Bank



Ms. Danah Faisal AlJasem, General Manager – Corporate Communications at Burgan Bank



Ms. Fatma Ahmad, Senior Manager – Learning and Development at Burgan Bank delivering her speech.



Burgan Bank being honored as a strategic sponsor.

Following the sponsors’ speeches and a showcase of the program’s best 100 projects, Burgan Bank presented the “Best Sustainable Project” award to the team whose capstone project demonstrated the most innovative use of technology in creating positive impact for both the community and environment.

Designed for participants ages 14-18, Academy X presented to more than 500 young women with the opportunity to build and enhance their digital and soft skills, includ-

ing the latest artificial intelligence (AI) tools, app and web development, successful user interface and user experience design (UI/UX), the foundations of entrepreneurship, as well as leadership and soft skills. Each round of the intensive program spanned six days and culminated in a capstone project that tested students’ knowledge and abilities to utilize technology in creative problem solving.

Following the outstanding success of the first two editions of Academy

X, Burgan Bank continues to highlight the importance of empowering youth and fostering innovation in the fields of entrepreneurship and technology. This initiative reflects the Banks ongoing support for national talent development programs and its dedication to advancing digital transformation which is a key driver of Kuwait’s progress and sustainable growth.

About Burgan Bank

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the “Burgan Bank Group”, in the MENAT region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria – AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank – TIB (Tunisia), Burgan Bank Turkey (Turkey) and United Gulf Bank (Bahrain). Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank’s brand has been built on a foundation of real values – trust, commitment, excellence, and progression – which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank’s core philosophy of “Driven by You” is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

Burgan Bank has achieved the LEED v4.1 O+M: EB Gold Certification for its Head Office in Kuwait City. The Bank has also obtained the ISO/IEC 27001: 2022 Information Security Management Systems certificate (ISMS), ISO /IEC 27701:2019 Privacy Information Management Systems (PIMS), ISO/IEC 20000-1: 2018 Information Technology Service Management System (ITSMS) and was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS), making it one of the few banks in the GCC and Kuwait to receive such certification for five consecutive times. At the same time, the Bank has the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twenty consecutive years. Moreover, in a testament to its dedication to the development of its human capital, Burgan Bank is the first bank in Kuwait to be certified as a Great Place to Work®, earning the distinct honor in 2023.

Burgan Bank is a majority-owned subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), one of the largest holding companies in the MENA region.

China’s National Day, mid-autumn holidays enhance economic vitality

BEIJING, Oct 5, (Xinhua): As China’s National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holidays converge, the nation’s cultural activities, bustling transport networks and innovative consumption scenes are painting a vivid picture of economic resilience and growth potential.

The eight-day holiday, which began on Oct. 1, has seen unprecedented people flows and consumption nationwide. From flag-raising ceremonies in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square to drone-assisted displays atop Mount Emei, patriotic fervor has blended seamlessly with economic activity.

At 4 a.m. on Oct. 1, while the sky was still dark, Tiananmen Square was already crowded with people. This National Day, 121,000 people gazed up at the flagpole, eagerly awaiting the moment China’s national flag would rise alongside the sun.

“I’ve always looked forward to this moment, when I could make a heartfelt confession to my beloved country,” said Tao Bufan, 27.

Cultural events have become a driving force for regional tourism. In Tangshan, north China’s Hebei Province, a National Day concert series has attracted large crowds, with performances free to the public.

Wen Chao, president of a local cultural performance company, noted that the event aims to “deliver high-quality cultural feasts for residents and tourists during the holiday.” Estimates show that more than 12,000 cultural events will be held across the country during the holiday.

Transportation systems have played a critical role in facilitating mobility. In the first half of the holiday, cross-regional passenger trips reached a record high of approximately 1.25 billion. Highways, railways, waterways and aviation all saw year-on-year growth, reflecting the vitality of a hyper-connected China.

Scenic areas in smaller cities have also gained popularity, with data from online travel agency Qunar.com showing that destinations like Jiuzhaigou and Pingtan have become autumn tourism hotspots. A tourist from east China’s Nanjing city, surnamed Zhan, who drove to neighboring Zhejiang Province for a basketball game, told Xinhua, “Gathering with relatives and friends here to watch games and enjoy snacks adds a unique holiday atmosphere.”

New consumption forms have energized the market. On Oct. 1, the “low-altitude bus” base at Qingshan Lake in Hangzhou City officially commenced operations. The base launched two core services -- “aerial sightseeing” and “intercity shuttles,” allowing visitors to board helicopters and ascend to an altitude of 500 meters for breathtaking aerial views of the autumn landscape.

A visitor from south China’s Guangdong Province said, “It’s so special to be able to take a helicopter and enjoy an aerial view of the scenery.”

Policy measures have also stimulated spending. Prior to the holiday, the central government allocated 69 billion yuan (about 9.7 billion U.S. dollars) in special bonds to support consumer goods trade-ins, bringing the annual total to 300 billion yuan. From January to August, subsidy programs for trade-ins drew 330 million applications, driving sales of over 2 trillion yuan.

Local governments have also introduced innovative initiatives. The eastern province of Anhui has launched a credit-based travel program allowing visitors to book tickets and hotels without making an upfront payment, while the northern municipality of Tianjin has promoted financial consumption activities to boost holiday spending.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce emphasized that efforts to enhance supply, innovate consumption forms and strengthen cross-sector integration will unleash diverse consumption potential further.

Concerns raised over free speech

Indonesia removes suspension on TikTok’s operating license

JAKARTA, Oct 5, (AP): Indonesia revoked a suspension on TikTok’s local operating license after the Chinese-owned social media platform shared data requested by the government on its live streaming activity during recent deadly protests.

On Friday Indonesia’s Communication and Digital Affairs temporarily suspended TikTok’s license, citing a violation of obligations as a private electronic system operator. TikTok had refused to provide complete data on user activity, particularly during protests between Aug. 25-30.

In a letter on Sept. 23, TikTok told the ministry its internal policies prevented it from fully complying with the data request, according to a statement released by the ministry’s website on Friday.

Deadly protests erupted across the world’s third-largest democracy in late August to protest lawmakers’ privileges and police brutality. Ten people were killed. Escalating violence in Indonesia prompted TikTok to voluntarily suspend its live streaming capacity on Aug. 30 before resuming it several days later when tensions waned, citing measures to keep the platform a safe and civil space.

The suspension of TikTok’s license raised concerns on social media about protections for free speech under President Prabowo Subianto’s administration because of the former general’s checkered past during the dark days of Indonesia’s dictatorship era.

But the ministry’s Director General of Digital Space Supervision, Alexander Sabar, said the government need the data to trace accounts tied to online gambling that monetized TikTok’s live stream feature during the protests. He also said the suspension was an effort to enforce the law and build a trusted digital ecosystem.

Despite the license suspension, TikTok was still accessible in Indonesia on Friday.

TikTok previously said it would respect the laws and regulations in the countries where it operates, including Indonesia, and was working with the ministry “to resolve this issue constructively.”

“TikTok has submitted data related to traffic escalation and monetization activity of its Live during the requested period,” Sabar said in a statement on Saturday. “Based on the fulfillment of its obligations, the government ended the temporary suspension and reactivated TikTok’s license as a registered electronic system provider.”



The winning team selected by Burgan Bank.

Doja Cat makes musical guest debut

Bad Bunny opens ‘SNL 51’ with new cast, Super Bowl jabs

NEW YORK, Oct 5, (AP): Bad Bunny kicked off the 51st season of “Saturday Night Live” with a few timely jokes about his next high-profile gig: the Super Bowl.

“I think everybody is happy about it - even Fox News,” the music superstar quipped in his monologue, referring to opposition in some quarters to his being named headliner of the Super Bowl halftime show.

He segued into a few sentences in Spanish, expressing Latino pride and joy over the achievement, after which he noted: “If you didn’t understand what I just said, you have four months to learn!” Bad Bunny will be making history by performing entirely in Spanish, a landmark moment for Latino culture.

Launching a season that introduces some new faces in the cast, the show’s cold open featured a sketch mocking Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth’s presentation to generals earlier this week.

“Weekend Update” host Colin Jost played Hegseth, highlighting the de-

fense secretary’s remarks in which he said it’s “tiring to look out at combat formations or really any formation and see fat troops” and said it was unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals at the Pentagon.

“No fatties, no facial hair, no body hair,” Jost’s Hegseth said. “Just hot, shredded hairless men who are definitely not gay. ... “Because this is serious, we are facing the greatest threat to freedom and democracy the world has ever known. And we all know what that threat is.”

“Late night TV!” replied James Austin Johnson as President Donald Trump, bursting in.

“‘SNL’ 51 off to a rough start,” Johnson’s Trump added. “Seventeen new cast members and they got the ‘Update’ guy doing the open.”

After a fanfare-filled 50th season celebrating the past, “Saturday Night Live” is looking to the future with a cast that includes five new featured players. Several cast members have departed the show.

Bad Bunny is having what can only



This image released by NBC shows host Bad Bunny, center, with musical guest Doja Cat, (left), and cast member Chloe Fineman during the taping of promotional spots for the upcoming ‘Saturday Night Live’ on Thursday, Oct. 2. (AP)

be described as an enormous week: in addition to hosting “SNL,” he’s coming off a historic residency in Puerto Rico, and on Sunday came the Super Bowl news.

His moment in the spotlight hasn’t

come without some political discourse. The Puerto Rican artist has said one of the reasons his residency bypassed the continental US was a concern that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials could target immigrants for deportation outside his shows.

Asked Friday by a podcaster whether ICE officials would be conducting enforcement at the Super Bowl, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said they would, because DHS “is responsible for keeping it safe.” She didn’t specify whether the officials would be conducting immigration enforcement or other law enforcement duties that are typical at the event.

The issue made for a key joke in the “Weekend Update” segment. “A Trump adviser said ICE agents will attend the Super Bowl after Bad Bunny was announced as the halftime performer,” noted co-host Michael Che, then quipping: “You know, to catch all those farmworkers who can afford Super Bowl tickets.”

In his second “SNL” hosting gig, Bad Bunny was joined by musical

guest Doja Cat, making her debut in that role.

He was featured in many of the show’s comedy segments, including a spinoff of the popular sketches in which George Washington attempts to educate soldiers about his new country’s language and customs. Here, Bad Bunny played a Spanish ruler in 900 A.D. explaining how the language would have both masculine and feminine nouns - with Benicio Del Toro making a surprise appearance.

Bad Bunny will be followed as hosts 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 last season.

SNL alumna Poehler, in her second solo hosting gig, will front the Oct. 11 episode alongside first-time musical guest Role Model. Her episode will air 50 years to the day of the very first episode of “Saturday Night Live,” on Oct. 11, 1975.

Music

Lyrics & clues

Inside Swift’s ‘Showgirl’ era

NEW YORK, Oct 5, (AP): The curtain has been drawn. The stage lights are on. It’s time for “The Life of a Showgirl.”

For Taylor Swift’s most dedicated audience, a new album means new opportunities to decode Easter eggs in her lyrics and music videos. The pop superstar’s 12th studio album has no shortage of clever clues and references to her public life and discography. Many are opaque, revealing just enough to inspire a myriad of fan theories. Others are concrete - explicit names and places worth exploring. Below, you will find a guide to those instances, and how they relate to Swift.

Read on, and happy digging!

Lyric: “That view of Portofino was on my mind / When you called me at the Plaza Athénée”

Meaning: When Swift announced her new album, she did so with the introduction of a shade she’s calling Portofino Orange Glitter after donning the color onstage during the latter part of her “Eras Tour.” “I’ve just always liked it,” she said of the hue during her first appearance on “New Heights,” the popular, typically football-focused podcast hosted by her fiancé Travis Kelce and his brother, Jason Kelce. “It feels like energetically how my life has felt. And this album is about what was going on behind the scenes in my inner life during this tour.” She and beau Kelce were spotted last year in Lake Como, Italy, but it is unclear if they spent time in nearby Portofino. Additionally, the standard version of her album is available in “sweat and vanilla perfume Portofino orange vinyl.” As for the Plaza Athénée? That’s a luxury hotel in Paris.

Lyric: “Be my NY when Hollywood hates me”

Meaning: Both locations make appearances in Swift’s songwriting. Among them: “Welcome to New York” from 2014’s “1989” and “White Horse” from 2008’s “Fearless.” She also owns property in both locations.

Lyric: “Babe, I would trade the Cartier for someone to trust ... just kidding”

Meaning: In August of this year, Swift announced her engagement to Kelce by posting a carousel of images on Instagram. Eagle-eyed fans noticed that the ring wasn’t the only jewelry she was showing off. She was also wearing a Cartier watch.

Lyric: “We hit the best booth at Musso & Frank’s”

Meaning: Since opening in 1919, Musso & Frank Grill has been a hot spot for celebrities in Los Angeles - embodying the kind of old school Hollywood glamor that inspired “The Life of a Showgirl” artwork.

Lyric: “All my white diamonds and lovers are forever”

Meaning: The song is titled “Elizabeth Taylor” after the classic Hollywood starlet who, in 1991, created her own perfume called “White Diamonds.”

Lyric: “You drive, 85 / Gallatin Road and the lakeside beach”

Meaning: There are several Gallatin Roads in the United States, but given the other lyrics in the song, this one likely refers to a street in Hendersonville, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville, where Swift spent her adolescence.

Fashion

Dying sunflowers, punk couture define spring show

Westwood brings beauty from chaos in Paris

PARIS, Oct 5, (AP): Light streamed through the stained glass of the Institut de France onto a surreal stage: a lone cellist playing a melancholy air, next to an upside-down umbrella and a rotating tableau of dying sunflowers. It was a theatrical overture for Saturday’s Paris Fashion Week. This was spring - Vivienne Westwood style.

Andreas Kronthaler, who has helmed the house since Westwood’s death in 2022 and whose name joined the label in 2016, leaned hard into the madhat energy that made the brand a legend. Leopard-print men’s underwear sat alongside sheer, ribbed tunics with a medieval air. Punk flashed in a jeweled veil and glittered lapels. Models strode in floppy, swashbuckling ’70s boots that turned the grand academic setting into a carnival.

The lineup spoke fluent Westwood: draped and deconstructed silhouettes, gathered dresses with double skirts, tailoring cut just off balance. Colors clashed on purpose, with sour greens near reds - until the eye adjusted and chaos clicked into order. One jeweled necklace made it literal: “CHAOS.”

Westwood made her name on King’s Road in the 1970s, wiring tartan, corsetry and ripped tees into the grammar of punk. That outsider spirit still drives the house, even as its reach has gone mainstream. Since Sarah Jessica Parker’s iconic Westwood bridal gown in “Sex and the City,” the label’s wedding business has boomed - a point underscored by the hundreds of noisy fans thronging the Institut de France on Saturday, jostling for a glimpse.

Kronthaler has long thrived on turning bourgeois classics inside out - warping jackets, loading corsetry into knits, twisting tartan into punk romance. That maximalist urge can tip into excess, yet it is also the house’s lifeblood, keeping Westwood’s language loud and elastic rather than embalmed.

Much of Westwood’s power has historically come from mining and mutating the archive - the ’80s corset legacy, Napoleonic swagger, Shakespearean drama. Since Westwood’s



Models present creations as part of the Vivienne Westwood Spring/Summer 2026 collection presented in Paris, Saturday, Oct. 4. (AP)

passing, Kronthaler has shifted from careful custodian to provocateur, forging new hybrids instead of simply quoting the past. Saturday’s show advanced that shift: historic tunics, technical fabrics and second-

skin underwear collided by design, not accident.

The finale gave the collection a human punch. Heidi Klum closed the runway to loud cheers. Kronthaler stepped out with a bouquet of sun-



flowers so heavy he had to rest it on the floor before handing it over - a wry echo of the revolving sunflower still life and a tender nod to the house’s stubborn romanticism.

If the collection lacked order, it didn’t lack conviction. Few labels turn visual discord into persuasive beauty. Westwood still can - under stained glass and that glinting necklace, it did.

A haunting tale of brothers lost in the woods

Bleak drama ‘Anemone’ brings back Day-Lewis

LOS ANGELES, Oct 5, (AP): It is often said of our greatest actors that they could compellingly recite the phone book.

There’s no doubt, just to continue that thought for a moment, that Daniel Day-Lewis is one of our greatest living actors - perhaps truly the best of them all. And so the first and most important thing to say about “Anemone,” a bleak, somber, absorbing but also sometimes frustratingly opaque collaboration with his director son Ronan, is that it’s brought Day-Lewis back. He told us eight years ago that he was done with acting, and we hoped he was exaggerating. At least for now, it seems he was.

As for the phone book: Well, there’s a moment here where you might wish that was indeed the content you were hearing. In one of two remarkable monologues that punctuate a movie otherwise spare with words, Day-Lewis, playing a bitter and lonely recluse, lets loose an anecdote so shockingly scatological and epically disgusting - the script is co-written by father and son, by the way - that it’s hard to erase from one’s mind (still trying, here). Somehow, he makes it more fascinating than revolting - but it’s a Herculean task, something Day-Lewis the actor is obviously no stranger to.

The film’s title refers to a flower that we briefly see growing in the lush woodlands where we find Day-Lewis’ character, Ray, eking out the



This image released by Focus Features shows Daniel Day-Lewis, (left), and Sean Bean in a scene from ‘Anemone.’ (AP)

sparest of existences. The father-son writers take their time explaining why exactly Ray has consigned himself to this solitary life, but we get a key hint in the first frames of the film - violent kids’ drawings, with stick figures carrying long guns, and severed limbs.

We soon learn that both Ray and brother Jem (Sean Bean) were British soldiers, veterans of the early days of the Northern Ireland troubles. They’re also victims of a violent childhood in care homes.

But they haven’t seen each other in two decades, their bond torn asunder by some unrevealed trauma that led them to each seek comfort - or absolution - in different places. Jem has

found it in strict religious practice, and home life with Nessa, Ray’s former partner, and Brian, their son.

It is teenager Brian’s deepening troubles that have spurred Jem to seek out his brother in the lush but forbidding woods, where Ray leads an ascetic life devoted to the most basic human survival. Ronan Day-Lewis, a painter making his feature directorial debut, is at his best in creating, along with cinematographer Ben Foddesman, a sense of the unpredictability of nature, culminating in a dramatic hailstorm.

But what unnatural trauma has led the brothers to their separation? It takes most of the film to find out. We know that Jem has brought with him

a letter from Nessa (Samantha Morton), that Ray at first does not read. But the brothers connect, slowly, in mundane activities like brushing their teeth, swimming in the ocean, or dancing wildly together.

The words do come tumbling when Ray relates his tale of how he wrought revenge upon a priest who repeatedly molested him as a child. This bracing monologue - in which he describes defecating on the man in sickening detail - is only a precursor to an extraordinary speech later in the film that is vintage Day-Lewis, a searing account of the life-altering moment he killed a young boy. “I don’t need your absolution,” he snarls to his brother, when the latter tries to veer him away from the guilt and shame that have crippled him for 20 years.

But clearly Ray does need some sort of absolution, and his confession to his brother is that first step.

Will Ray find a way to come in from the cold and reconnect with his son? The artistic parallels are a little too neat to ignore - a son bringing Day-Lewis the actor back into view, for the benefit of us all.

Will he stay? Let’s hope that even if Day-Lewis assures us anew that he’s finished, he’ll once again be exaggerating.

“Anemone,” a Focus Films release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association “for language throughout.” Running time: 121 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Attorneys for Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs are planning to appeal after the Grammy-winning artist and music executive was sentenced Friday to more than four years in prison for transporting people across state lines for sexual encounters. The case shattered his carefully cultivated reputation as an affable celebrity entrepreneur, A-list party host and reality TV star.

It culminated a public reckoning for the 55-year-old hip-hop star, who made a plea for leniency and wept as his lawyers played a video portraying his family life, career and philanthropy.

US District Judge Arun Subramanian also fined Combs \$500,000, the maximum allowed.

Combs was convicted in July for transporting his girlfriends and male companions across the country to participate in drug-related encounters over several years and in various locations.

The nearly two-month trial in a federal court in Manhattan included distressing testimony from women who described instances of abuse, threats, and coercion by Combs.

He was acquitted of charges related to trafficking and racketeering that carried the possibility of a life sentence. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS: Former NFL quarterback and current Fox Sports analyst Mark Sanchez was arrested Saturday after he was apparently stabbed in an overnight altercation in downtown Indianapolis.

Sanchez, who was in Indianapolis to call Sunday’s Raiders-Colts game, was charged with battery with injury, unlawful entry of a motor vehicle and public intoxication - all misdemeanors.

Indianapolis police said Sanchez was in a hospital and had not been booked into a detention center. He was in stable condition, according to Fox Sports.

Police said the Marion County prosecutor’s office would make the final charging decision. That office didn’t immediately respond to an inquiry from The Associated Press. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Kim Kardashian and her mother, Kris Jenner, are suing her ex-boyfriend Ray J for saying they are under federal investigation and on the verge of being indicted.

The defamation lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court last week by the reality TV stars and businesspeople is a fast and aggressive pushback against allegations they say are entirely baseless.

They say Ray J, whose legal name is Ray Norwood Jr., falsely claimed that he was working with federal investigators on a racketeering case against them that will soon lead to their indictment.

The lawsuit says Ray J’s comments are part of a “sustained campaign of harassment and defamation” that has gone on for years. (AP)

NEW YORK: The trade group for US book publishers is honoring a dissident Russian house for its battle against censorship and oppression.

The Association of American Publishers announced last Friday that it was presenting its annual International Freedom to Publish Award to Freedom Letters and its founder, Georgy Urushadze, a onetime literary prize official in Moscow who fled in 2022 after opposing the Russian invasion of Ukraine and being designated a “foreign agent” by the Russian government.

“Georgy Urushadze has made extraordinary sacrifices in the name of free expression, demonstrated remarkable tenacity in building a thriving publishing house while in exile, and inspired people around the world with his fierce dedication to publishing authors that others have tried to silence,” Maria A. Pallante, the AAP’s president and CEO, said in a statement. (AP)

Lebanese army takes custody of Fadel Shaker

Lebanese pop star turned militant surrenders after 12 yrs

BEIRUT, Oct 5, (AP): A Lebanese pop star turned wanted Islamic militant handed himself over to the country's military intelligence service Saturday 12 years after going on the run, judicial and security officials said.

Fadel Shaker, had been on the run since the bloody street clashes between Sunni Muslim militants and the Lebanese army in June 2013 in the coastal city of Sidon. He was tried in absentia and sentenced to 22 years in prison in 2020 for providing support to a "terrorist group."

On Saturday night, a Lebanese military intelligence force reached one of the entrances of the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh near Sidon and took Shaker, who had been hiding inside the camp for more than 12 years, into custody, two security and two judicial officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said the handover came after coordination between mediators and officials at

the Lebanese Defense Ministry.

The officials said that now that Shaker is being held by Lebanese authorities, the sentences that he received while on the run will be dropped and he will be questioned in preparation to stand trial on new charges of committing crimes against the military.

Shaker had denied in the past playing any role in the clashes in Sidon and said he never advocated bloodshed.

The 2013 shootout, which pitted followers of hard-line Sunni cleric Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir against the Lebanese army, killed at least 18 soldiers and deepened sectarian tensions in Lebanon between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.



Shaker

In a video uploaded to YouTube on the second day of the street fighting in Sidon, a bearded Shaker called his enemies dogs, and taunted the military, saying "we have two rotting corpses that we snatched from you yesterday" - apparently referring to two slain soldiers.

Shaker became a pop star throughout the Arab world in 2002 with a smash hit. Almost 10 years later, he fell under the influence of al-Assir and shocked fans by turning up next to the hard-line cleric at rallies and later saying that he was giving up singing to become closer to God.

In July, Shaker, along with his son Mohammed, released a new song that went viral throughout the Arab world and got over 113 million views of YouTube.

Shaker's handover comes as the Lebanese army began the process to collect weapons from Lebanon's 12 Palestinian refugee camps that have been off-limits to Lebanese authorities.

Heritage

Guards of the tomb of Amenhotep III. (AP)

Visitors view the tomb of Amenhotep III. (AP)

A tourist takes photos while visiting the tomb of Amenhotep III. (Xinhua)

Photographers film in the tomb of Amenhotep III. (AP)

Egypt reopens Amenhotep III's tomb after over 20 years of renovation

Egypt on Saturday opened a tomb of a pharaoh for visitors after more than two decades of renovation in the southern city of Luxor, as it prepares for the official opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

The huge tomb of Amenhotep III, who ruled ancient Egypt between 1390 B.C. and 1350 B.C., is located on the western side of the famed Valley of the Kings. It was found in 1799 by two people and its contents were looted, including the sarcophagus, Egyptian antiquities authorities said.

It has been under a Japanese-led, three-phased restoration project for the past two decades, including renovating paintings of the pharaoh and his wife on the tomb walls, said Mohamed Ismail, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

"It's a very fascinating tomb," he told The Associated Press at the scene, adding that it includes a frame of the stolen sarcophagus box, with the lid in place where it would have been.

The tomb starts with a 36-meter (118-foot)-long, 14-meter (45-foot)-deep, downward-sloping passageway beneath the Valley of the Kings. It includes a main burial chamber for the king, and two other chambers for his wives, Queens Tiye and Sitamun.

Unlike other ancient tombs in the valley, the tomb is not fully decorated, Ismail said. Its paintings show Amenhotep III with a group of

ancient Egyptian gods, and the burial chamber contains inscriptions of scenes from the Book of Dead, which is a collection of spells aimed at directing the dead through the underworld in ancient Egypt.

The mummy of Amenhotep III was moved by ancient priests to the tomb of his grandfather, Amenhotep II, also in the Valley of the Kings, according to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization. The severely damaged mummy is showcased at the museum along with 16 other mummies of 17 kings and queens of ancient Egypt.

Amenhotep III was one of the most prominent pharaohs of the 18th Dynasty of ancient Egypt, which ruled between 1550 B.C. and 1292 B.C. Known as Amenhotep the Great, he ascended the throne as a teenager and ruled for up to 38 years, according to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization.

The tomb's reopening came less than a month before the official inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum near the Giza Pyramids. The museum is scheduled to open Nov. 1.

The reopenings are part of Egypt's efforts to attract more foreign visitors to revive the tourism sector, a major source of foreign currency. Tourism, which depends heavily on Egypt's rich pharaonic artifacts, suffered a long downturn after the political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprising. (AP)

'We live side by side with death'

Journalists risk all to tell Gaza's story

BEIRUT, Oct 5, (AP): Minutes after journalists gathered outside a Gaza hospital to survey the damage of an Israeli strike, Ibrahim Qannan pointed his camera up at the battered building as the others climbed its external stairs. Then Qannan watched in horror - while broadcasting live - as a second strike killed the friends and colleagues he knew so well.

"We live side by side with death," Qannan, a correspondent for the Cairo-based Al-Ghad TV said in an interview.

"I still cannot believe that five of our colleagues were struck in front of me on camera and I try to hold up and look strong to carry the message. May no one feel such feelings. They are painful feelings."

The deaths of the five journalists in the Aug. 25 strikes on Nasser Hospital add to a toll of nearly 200 news workers killed by Israeli forces while working to bring Gaza's story to the world. Those killed in the attack, which left a total of 22 people dead, included Mariam Dagga, 33, a visual journalist who freelanced for The Associated Press and other outlets.

Like the vast majority of Gaza's population, most of its journalists have seen their homes destroyed or damaged during the war and have been repeatedly displaced after evacuation orders by Israel's military. Many have mourned the deaths of family members.

But journalists and advocates say the trials go well beyond. Every workday, they say, is shadowed by an awareness that covering the news in Gaza makes them singularly visible in the conflict, putting them at extraordinary risk.

For journalists in Gaza, "it's about dying or living, escaping violence or not. It's something we cannot compare



Freelance journalist Mariam Dagga, 33, who had been working with The Associated Press and other outlets during the Gaza war, poses for a portrait in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on June 14, 2024. (AP)

(to other wartime journalism) at any level," said Mohamed Salama, a former reporter in Egypt who is now an academic, researching the life of news workers in the Strip.

After the August strikes, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted that the military was not deliberately targeting journalists and called the killings a "tragic mishap." After a preliminary review, the military said the attack had targeted what it believed to be a Hamas surveillance camera and that six of the people killed were militants, but offered no evidence.

Late last month, the AP and Reuters - which lost a cameraman and a freelancer in the attack on the hospital - demanded that Israel provide a full account of what happened and "take every step to protect those who continue to cover this conflict." The news organizations issued their statement on the one-month anniversary of

the strikes.

Israeli officials have previously accused some journalists in Gaza of being current or former militants. They include Anas al-Sharif, a well-known correspondent for Al Jazeera who was killed in an early August strike on a media tent outside another Gaza hospital. Four other journalists were also killed in the attack.

The Israeli military, citing documents it purportedly found in Gaza, as well as other intelligence, had long claimed that al-Sharif was a member of Hamas. He was killed after what press advocates said was an Israeli "smear campaign" stepped up when al-Sharif cried on air over starvation in the territory.

There is a long, sometimes tragic history of journalists risking personal safety to cover conflicts. But the risks, trials and toll of doing so have never been higher than they are in Gaza right now, experts say.

Since the war was ignited by the Hamas attack on Israel nearly two years ago, 195 Palestinian media workers have been killed by Israeli forces in Gaza, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The toll recently prompted Brown University's Costs of War project to label Gaza a "news graveyard." Journalist deaths in Gaza have now surpassed the combined number killed during the US Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Vietnam and Korean wars, the war in Yugoslavia that ended in 2001 and the Afghanistan War, the project said in a report issued earlier this year.

In a separate survey of Gaza news workers last year by Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, nine in 10 said their homes had been destroyed in the war. About one in five said they had been injured and about the same number had lost family members. That was before Israel resumed fighting in March after a brief ceasefire.

One Gaza journalist, Nour Swirki, told the AP in an interview that since her home was destroyed early in the war she has been displaced seven times. Swirki and her husband, who is also a journalist, arranged for their son and daughter to exit Gaza in 2024 and stay with family in Egypt while the couple continued to work.

"I preferred their safety to my motherhood," said Swirki, who works for the Saudi-based Asharq News and was a friend of Dagga's.

"Death is there (in Gaza) every moment, every second and everywhere," Swirki said. She is reminded of that reality whenever she skims through photos and videos stored on her phone and is met by the faces and voices of the many colleagues and friends who have been killed in the war.

Nobel

US President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before he departs on Air Force One at Morristown Airport, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, in Morristown, N.J. (AP)

Experts cite red flag

Trump's peace prize dream still a long shot

STAVANGER, Norway, Oct 5, (AP): US President Donald Trump's bid to win the Nobel Peace Prize has drawn added attention to the annual guessing game over who its next laureate will be.

Longtime Nobel watchers say Trump's prospects remain remote despite a flurry of high-profile nominations and some notable foreign policy interventions for which he has taken personal credit.

Experts say the Norwegian Nobel Committee typically focuses on the durability of peace, the promotion of international fraternity and the quiet work of institutions that strengthen those goals. Trump's own record might even work against him, they said, citing his apparent disdain for multilateral institutions and his disregard for global climate change concerns.

Still, the US leader has repeatedly sought the Nobel spotlight since his first term, most recently telling United Nations delegates late last month "everyone says that I should get the Nobel Peace Prize."

A person cannot nominate themselves.

Trump's boasts and previous high-profile nominations make him the blockbuster name on the list of bookmakers' favorites. But it's unclear whether his name comes up in conversation when the five-member Nobel committee, appointed by Norway's parliament, meets behind closed doors.

Nominated

Trump has been nominated several times by people within the US as well as politicians abroad since 2018. His name also was put forth in December by US Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY), her office said in a statement, for his brokering of the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and several Arab states in 2020.

Nominations made this year from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Pakistan's government occurred after the Feb. 1 deadline for the 2025 award.

Trump has said repeatedly that he "deserves" the prize and claims to have "ended seven wars." On Tuesday, he teased the possibility of ending an eighth war if Israel and Hamas agree to his peace plan aimed at concluding the nearly two-year war in Gaza.

"Nobody's ever done that," he told a gathering of military leaders at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia. "Will you get the Nobel Prize? Absolutely not. They'll give it to some guy that didn't do a damn thing."

Nobel veterans say the commit-

tee prioritizes sustained, multilateral efforts over quick diplomatic wins. Theo Zenou, a historian and research fellow at the Henry Jackson Society, said Trump's efforts have not yet been proven to be long-lasting.

"There's a huge difference between getting fighting to stop in the short-term and resolving the root causes of the conflict," Zenou said.

Zenou also highlighted Trump's dismissive stance on climate change as out-of-step with what many, including the Nobel committee, see as the planet's greatest long-term peace challenge.

"I don't think they would award the most prestigious prize in the world to someone who does not believe in climate change," Zenou said. "When you look at previous winners who have been bridge-builders, embodied international cooperation and reconciliation: These are not words we associate with Donald Trump."

Criticism

The Nobel committee was met with fierce criticism in 2009 for giving then-U.S. President Barack Obama the prize barely nine months into his first term. Many argued Obama had not been in office long enough to have an impact worthy of the Nobel.

And Trump's own outspokenness about possibly winning the award might work against him: The committee won't want to be seen as caving in to political pressure, said Nina Græger, director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

Trump's prospects for the prize this year are "a long shot," she said. "His rhetoric does not point in a peaceful perspective."

The Nobel announcements begin Monday with the medicine prize. They continue with the physics prize on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday and literature on Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences on Oct. 13.

The awards are considered among the world's most prestigious honors for achievements in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature, economics and peace.

The winners will join the pantheon of Nobel laureates, from Albert Einstein to Mother Teresa.

For the peace prize, Trump has been nominated several times by people within the US as well as politicians abroad since 2018. His name also was put forth in December by a Republican congresswoman for his brokering of the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and some Arab states.

Julia Roberts arrives at the premiere of 'After the Hunt' on Saturday, Oct. 4, at David Geffen Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)

MoH hosts training course on hematology oncology

Latest immunotherapies bring hope to blood disease, cancer patients in Kuwait

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Dr. Ahmed Al-Abdulkarim, a specialist in reproductive hematology and oncology at Jaber Hospital, confirmed that Kuwait is witnessing a qualitative shift in providing the latest treatments for blood diseases and tumors, particularly immunotherapies targeting genetic mutations, which contribute to disease control and improving the quality of life of patients.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening of a training course on proliferative hematology oncology in masteral programs (MPN/MDS) in co-operation with Kuwait Society of Hematology on Saturday, Al-Abdulkarim explained that anemia and lymphomas are among the most common blood diseases in the country.

He underscored the importance of enhancing the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of myeloproliferative neoplasms and myelodysplastic syndromes, as they are among

the most sophisticated and globally advanced hematology cases in recent years.

A group of international and local experts participated in the course, including specialists from the University College London Hospitals Foundation, affiliated with the British National Health Service, along with physicians from the United States and Kuwait. This reflects international cooperation in improving patient care.

Al-Abdulkarim indicated that the course reviews the latest developments and emerging treatments through approaches that include molecular genetics, diagnostic innovations and new treatments, in addition to discussing real-life cases and recent clinical trials. He affirmed that the training course is a platform for dialogue and exchange of expertise, not just a scientific meeting.

Meanwhile, President of Kuwait Society of Hematology Dr. Ahmed Al-Hariji pointed out that progress in the field of hematology is achieved through collaborative work locally,

regionally and globally. He confirmed that knowledge exchange between international experts and regional physicians greatly contributes to improving patient care.

Al-Hariji disclosed that the Society organizes various scientific programs that support continuing education, including scientific clubs on myeloid and acute leukemia, myelofibrosis and rare blood disorders, in addition to specialized workshops on anticoagulation and critical evaluation of research.

He said the upcoming scientific activities include a symposium on myeloma and the Third Kuwait Hematology Conference, which will bring together a group of local and international experts in the field.

He added these efforts are part of the Society's commitment to achieve scientific excellence and patient-centered healthcare, emphasizing that shared learning and scientific partnerships are the foundations for accelerating progress in diagnosis and treatment, as well as improving the condition of patients.



A photo from the event.



The full moon rises over a sign in the outfield at Kauffman Stadium during a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and the Detroit Tigers, Sept. 17, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

First supermoon of the year is approaching

The moon will appear slightly larger and brighter Monday night during what's known as a supermoon.

October's supermoon is the first of three this year. It happens when a full moon is closer to Earth in its orbit. That makes the moon look up to 14% bigger and 30% brighter than the faintest moon of the year, according to NASA. The subtle difference happens a few times a year, sometimes coinciding with other astronomical events such as lunar eclipses.

"It's not really very unusual," said Derrick Pitts, chief astronomer with the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

Everyone in the world can see a supermoon without special equipment if clear skies permit. But the dif-

ference can be tough to discern, especially if people haven't observed the regular moon on the nights leading up. "If you go out and just look at the moon when it's very high in the sky, there is nothing relative to it to give you an idea of how big it looks," Pitts said.

In the latest viewing, the moon will pass within about 224,600 miles (361,459 kilometers) of Earth. The closest supermoon of the year is slated for November, followed by another in December.

The spectacles continue in 2026 with two lunar eclipses: a total eclipse across much of North America, Asia and Australia in March, and a partial one in August across the Americas, Africa and Europe. (AP)

Over 64% of British adults are overweight or obese

Delay, dispute, rollout as Britain enforces junk food multi-buy ban

LONDON, Oct. 5, (Xinhua): After years of postponement, Britain's long-debated restrictions on super-market "buy one, get one free" (BOGOF) deals for foods high in fat, salt or sugar have finally come into force this month, marking a new step in the country's obesity strategy.

Under the Food Promotion and Placement (England) Regulations 2021, supermarkets, large retailers and online platforms across England are now prohibited from offering multi-buy discounts on HFSS (high fat, salt and sugar) products, including chocolate, crisps, biscuits, ice cream, soft drinks and other calorie-dense snacks. Restaurants are also banned from offering free refills of sugary drinks.

Originally scheduled to begin in 2022, the measure was postponed twice due to inflationary pressures and business concerns. It follows the earlier display restrictions introduced in October 2022, which barred HFSS products from being placed at check-outs or end-of-aisle displays.

The Department of Health and Social Care said the aim is to "create a healthier food environment," while allowing companies time to adapt. Yet

for many public-health experts, the long delay underscored the political and commercial hurdles in Britain's battle against obesity.

According to the government's Obesity Profile updated in May 2025, around 64.5 percent of adults in England are overweight or obese, with 26.5 percent classified as obese.

The gap between income groups remains striking: in the most deprived areas, 71.5 percent of adults are overweight or obese, compared with 59.6 percent in the wealthiest neighbourhoods.

Public Health England and NHS Digital data also reveal worrying trends among young people. In the 2022-2023 school year, 21.3 percent of children aged 4-5 and 36.6 percent aged 10-11 were overweight or obese.

Analysts point to economic inequality and food environment as key drivers. Low-income families often face greater exposure to cheap, calorie-dense products, limited access to fresh produce, and a higher density of fast-food outlets.

"Obesity in the UK is not simply a question of personal choice; it reflects systemic inequalities in access to affordable, healthy diets," the Health

Foundation noted in a commentary, adding that obesity rates in deprived communities are "more than double" those in affluent areas.

Earlier research by the University of Leeds found that neighbourhoods with a higher density of fast-food outlets recorded significantly higher childhood-obesity rates, particularly in more deprived parts of the city, underlining how geography and deprivation reinforce unhealthy eating patterns.

Why the policy was delayed

The long road from legislation to implementation reveals how public health priorities often collide with political and economic realities. Although the HFSS promotion rules were written into law in late 2021, the government twice postponed their enforcement -- first from October 2022 to 2023, and again to October 2025 -- reflecting a mix of inflation concerns, regulatory complexity, and industry pressure.

Government officials argued that immediate enforcement could exacerbate food-price inflation during the cost-of-living crisis and that companies needed more time to reformulate products and redesign store layouts to comply with the new standards.

Bluetongue virus detected in Romania

India confirms harmful chemical in cough syrup amid child deaths probe

NEW DELHI, Oct. 5, (Xinhua): India's federal health ministry has confirmed that samples of Coldrif cough syrup in the southern state of Tamil Nadu contained diethylene glycol (DEG) beyond permissible limits, multiple local media reports said Saturday.

The statement comes amid investigations into the deaths of 12 children allegedly linked to the consumption of cough syrups in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The ministry, however, said samples taken from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have not shown the presence of DEG or ethylene glycol (EG).

A health ministry statement quoted in the media said that samples of Coldrif cough syrup were taken at the request of the Madhya Pradesh government from the manufacturing premises of MS Sresan Pharma in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. "The samples are found to contain DEG beyond the permissible limit," the statement said.

The ministry added that risk-based inspections have been initiated at the manufacturing premises of all 19 drugs sampled, spread across six states.

In 2023, the World Health Organiza-

tion issued alerts for a made-in-India cough syrup found in the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Iraq, highlighting that they contain "unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol."

Meanwhile, Swedish health authorities have launched an extensive contact-tracing effort after a listeria outbreak linked to a restaurant in central Stockholm sickened around 20 people, with several developing sepsis, public broadcaster SVT reported Thursday.

Four patients developed sepsis, but none required intensive care, according to the Stockholm regional health authority. Reported symptoms include high fever, diarrhea and vomiting.

Officials said about 400 guests who dined at the restaurant between Sept. 23 and 27 had been contacted for monitoring, while at least 80 suspected food poisoning complaints have been filed.

Infectious disease specialist Viktor Dahl said the number of cases is "unusually high," and the incubation period shorter than normal.

Minister for Social Affairs and Pub-

lic Health Jakob Forssmed said the government had been briefed and that "extensive work is being carried out across the country to track and assist patients."

The restaurant, now temporarily closed, plans to reopen on Oct. 7.

In other developments, Romanian authorities have confirmed an outbreak of bluetongue disease in Calnic commune, Gorj County, southwestern Romania.

Ten cattle tested positive across four farms in three villages, officials from the county's Sanitary-Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate said.

The cases, the first since 2014, were identified through active surveillance and confirmed by the animal health institute in Bucharest. Bluetongue, a viral disease spread mainly by biting midges, affects cattle, sheep, and goats.

Around 1,400 ruminants in the commune are considered at risk. Authorities have imposed a 30-day ban on animal movements from the affected farms and urged insect control. Infected animals show no clinical signs, and treatment is symptomatic.

Therapy dogs help ease pain, depression

‘Support dogs’ help soldiers heal from physical, emotional wounds

BOGOTA, Colombia, Oct 5, (AP): At the Central Military Hospital in Bogota, an unusual unit patrols the hallways with a mission unlike any other battalion: lifting the spirits of soldiers wounded in combat.

Kratos, Rafa and Lupa make up the so-called "furry force," a group of emotional support dogs that visit service members recovering after being injured in clashes with Colombia's illegal armed groups.

One by one, the three dogs enter the room of 2nd Sgt. Jeisson Sánchez Duque, who was shot during fighting in the northwest province of Antioquia. Kratos, the most senior of the dogs, greeted him with a paw after receiving treats. Then, Lupa settled on the floor and Sánchez brushed her as he remained seated due to his back injury.

"It's something different ... you forget the pain and focus on the dogs," Sánchez told The Associated Press.

Soldiers are still battling the scars from a decades-long conflict in Colombia that led to 450,000 people killed and forced 7 million to flee their homes. Despite a 2016 peace agreement between the government and the country's largest guerrilla group the FARC, various armed groups still operate in Colombia. These groups, including some who broke from the FARC, dispute territories vacated by the FARC and the valuable illicit economies that run through them, including drug trafficking.

Launched in April 2024 after a visit



Emotional support dog Kratos salutes wounded Sgt. Jeisson Sanchez at the military hospital in Bogota, Colombia, Thursday, Oct. 2. (AP)

from an animal care organization, the program aims to provide psychological support and ease recovery for soldiers facing both physical and emotional scars, including amputations from landmines and injuries from drones dropping explosives.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), incidents involving explosive devices in Colombia rose 94% between January and July compared to the same period in 2024. The hospital has also noted an increase in patients

who have been injured by explosives launched by drones.

Kratos was donated by the Air Force, then Rafa by the Army and then two more dogs were donated by the hospital's doctors.

The program has since expanded to let patients bring their own dogs and provide wellness breaks for staff.

For soldier Luis Miguel López, who lost part of his leg to a mine in Puerto Valdivia in Antioquia province, the dogs' visits helped break through the depression he felt while in the hospital.

Breathe, focus, repeat: Meditate at your desk

Mini-meditations are a way to foster peace of mind at work

NEW YORK, Oct 5, (AP): The idea of meditating can be intimidating. Beginners may imagine sitting uncomfortably in silence while breathing deeply and scrubbing all thoughts from their minds. The prospect of trying those techniques at work may feel embarrassing.

But there are ways to bring short, inconspicuous sessions into the workday if you want to see if meditation can help you deal with challenging customers or reduce anxiety while preparing for a presentation. And experienced practitioners say there's no right or wrong way to do it.

"Meditation is quite easy, as a matter of fact. I think there's a stigma around it, that you have to be in complete silence, and you have to have some room setup, or do some chanting, or some serious breathing," said Michelle Beyer, a wellness coach who owns the Brooklyn women's gym Alana Life & Fitness. "There's one-minute meditations you can do to make yourself feel great. Nobody will even know you're doing them."

While there are different meditation techniques, many traditions encourage focusing on breathing to help calm the

mind. When thoughts pop up, imagine letting them go. Practitioners say meditating before or at work helps them maintain focus, sit still and reduce stress.

"There is a calm that I am definitely missing when I have forgotten to do it for a few days," said Brianna Healy, who meditates for 10 minutes daily before starting her job as assistant director of strategic initiatives and data solutions at Naropa University, a college in Boulder, Colorado, that is inspired by Buddhist principles. "I can always tell the difference in my demeanor."

If you feel pressed for time, try fitting meditation sessions into breaks. You can set a timer and focus on breathing while sitting at a desk, in a restroom, inside a vehicle or outside, Beyer said.

Here are some easy mini-meditations to try out on the job.

Commuters can consider getting to work a little early and taking a pause in their cars or a quiet location to decompress from getting out the door and to your destination, said Kathryn Remati, a meditation teacher and author of "Befriend

Yourself." If you only have a minute or two, that's still enough time to try Remati's instructions for a quick reset.

Close your eyes and take a long, slow, deep breath to fill your tummy and lungs with air, she said. Hold the breath for a second, and then slowly breathe out like you're blowing out a candle. "You'll immediately feel a shift and you'll feel like a human again," Remati said.

While repeating that process, consider setting a positive intention, or goal, for the day. Instead of focusing on a to-do list, think about how you want behave towards others, she said. Some intention examples are, "Today I'm going to be productive, but I'm also going to a good listener" or "I want to have a positive attitude," she said.

Visualization is another technique that experienced meditators use. Picture yourself succeeding at the challenges you'll encounter that day. If there's an upcoming deadline, envision yourself finishing the task 10 minutes early. Jumping for joy. Get specific like a movie director and imagine the colors in the room or the feeling of wind on your face,

Remati said. Throughout the day, "you can bring up that image anytime you need it to refocus," she said.

You can also use visualization to reframe your perspective on colleagues or clients. A technique Remati recommends putting into practice before meetings may seem quirky: Envision a white light over the meeting room's doorway that showers the people entering with brightness. Remati says it may help you imagine them in a better light. "You can even put some sort of pink bubble around people," she added.

Another short meditation that can be done almost anywhere involves breathing deeply and mentally scanning your body for sensations, a technique popularized in the U.S. by mindfulness practitioner Jon Kabat-Zinn. Depending on your location and comfort level, you can keep your eyes open or closed.

Inhale through the nose and out through the mouth. Start with your feet and work your way up, noticing any areas with pain, tightness, tingling, warmth or other sensations. Think about relaxing the muscles of any spots where there's tension.

Union wins Supporters’ Shield and Eastern Conference

Messi helps Miami beat Revolution

CHESTER, Pa., Oct 5, (AP): Mikael Uhre scored in the first half and Andre Blake made it stand up as the Philadelphia Union beat New York City FC 1-0 on Saturday night to win the Eastern Conference and the Supporters’ Shield for the league’s best record.

Uhre scored for the sixth time this season when he used an assist from Jovan Lukic in the 40th minute to find the net. It was the fourth assist for Lukic in his first season in the league.

Blake finished with two saves for his ninth clean sheet of the season and the 89th of his career in 265 starts - all with Philadelphia (20-7-6). He also led the Union to the best record in 2020.

Matt Freese finished with four saves for NYCFC (17-11-5), which beat the Union 1-0 at home on April 12. The two clubs split two matches last season with both winning on the road.

First-year coach Bradley Carnell has the Union back in the playoffs as the league’s top seed after they missed the postseason last year for the first time since 2017.

Philadelphia has allowed a league-low 33 goals this season.

NYCFC began the day with 56 points, tied with Charlotte and Inter Miami in the battle for third and fourth place in the East and home-field advantage in the best-of-three first round.

Tadeo Allende and Jordi Alba each scored two goals, Lionel Messi had three assists and Inter Miami beat the New England Revolution 4-1.

Messi has 24 goals and 17 assist and his 41 goal contributions this season are the second most in MLS history. Carlos Vela had 49 (34 goals, 15 assists) for Los Angeles FC in 2019.

Miami (17-7-8) is third in the Eastern Conference with 59 points, three behind second-place Cincinnati and three ahead of Charlotte and New York City. Philadelphia, the points leader in all of MLS, has 66 points.

Allende ran onto a no-look pass played ahead by Messi and scored from the right corner of the 6-yard box with a low shot that slipped inside the back post to open the scoring in the 32nd minute.

Petar Musa scored his 18th goal of the season in the 35th minute and Patrickson Delgado scored just before halftime as FC Dallas beat the LA Galaxy 2-1.

Dallas (10-11-11) is unbeaten in eight straight overall since Aug. 9 and has gone five straight at home without a loss. Dallas has scored in 11 consecutive matches dating to July 16, including 10 straight at Toyota Stadium since June 25.

Wilfried Zaha scored in the 33rd minute, Kristijan Kahlina recorded his 11th clean sheet of the season, and Charlotte beat nine-man D.C. United 1-0 to secure a home playoff match.

Charlotte (18-13-2) is unbeaten in its last five meetings with D.C. United (5-18-10), outscoring them 7-1 during the stretch.

Zaha, who snapped a five-match goalless streak last Saturday, played it to Nikola Petkovic from the corner of the 18-yard box and got it back for a bending finish inside the far post.

Defender Anthony Markanich scored a goal in each half, Joaquín Pereyra had a goal and an assist and



New England Revolution defender Mamadou Fofana (2) controls the ball under pressure from Inter Miami forward Luis Suarez (9) during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

fore halftime as FC Dallas beat the LA Galaxy 2-1.

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Minnesota United cruised to a 3-0 victory over Sporting Kansas City .

Dayne St. Clair totaled three saves to earn his 10th clean sheet of the season for Minnesota United (16-7-10).

Markanich used Pereyra’s 11th assist for a 1-0 lead in the 25th minute.

Pereyra scored unassisted in the 59th minute for a two-goal advantage. It was his fifth goal in his first full season in the league.

Marcel Hartel had two goals, Simon Becher also scored a goal, and St. Louis City beat Austin FC 3-1.

Austin (12-12-8) has 44 points and is tied with Portland - which plays fifth-place Seattle (46 points) later Saturday - for sixth in the Western Conference.

Hartel blasted a shot from well outside the area that slipped under the crossbar and inside the right post to give St. Louis a 1-0 lead in the 28th minute.

Oleksandr Svatok scored his first career goal in MLS to make it 1-1 in

the 36th. The 31-year-old defender headed home a corner kick played to the back post by Owen Wolff.

Anders Dreyer scored two goals, Amahl Pellegrino added a goal and an assist, and San Diego FC beat the Houston Dynamo 4-1 to finish the best regular season by an expansion team in MLS history.

Los Angeles FC set the previous mark for an expansion club with 57 points in 2018.

Houston (9-15-9) was eliminated from playoff contention.

Pedro de la Vega scored early in the first half and Stefan Frei made it stand up as the Seattle Sounders edged the Portland Timbers 1-0.

The Sounders (13-9-10) had gone 0-2-2 since beating Inter Miami 3-0 on Aug. 31 to win the Leagues Cup for the first time in club history. They beat the Timbers (11-11-11) at home for the first time since 2017.

The Sounders grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 16th minute when de la Vega used assists from Álex Roldán and

Jesús Ferreira to score his fourth goal in 24 appearances after scoring once as a rookie last season in 16 appearances. Roldán’s assist was his fifth of the campaign and Ferreira notched his seventh.

Frei finished with four saves and notched his seventh shutout of the season for the Sounders. It was the 113th clean sheet in 377 career starts for Frei. His first six came in 27 starts for Toronto in 2011. Frei has 10 more shutouts outside of league play for Seattle.

Sam Surridge scored on a header in the 81st minute for his 23rd goal this season as Nashville played Montreal to a 1-1 draw.

Nashville (16-11-6) is pushing for a top four finish in the Eastern Conference standings for a guaranteed homefield advantage during the first round best-of-three playoff series.

Montreal (6-17-10) dropped to 1-6-4 in 11 meetings with Nashville.

Dante Sealy, who has scored seven goals in his last nine MLS games,

opened the scoring in the ninth minute. Olger Escobar drew a free kick and Sealy sent a strike into the top right corner - similar to his free kick goal against Charlotte last week.

Montreal thought it had doubled the lead midway through the first half, but the VAR deemed the Prince Owusu goal offside.

Marco Pasalic scored in the 34th minute and Pedro Gallese had six saves for Orlando City in a 1-1 tie with the Columbus Crew.

Orlando (14-7-11), which is unbeaten in four straight, has 53 points - one behind sixth-place Nashville and two ahead of the ninth-place Crew.

Columbus (13-8-12) is winless in four straight and has one victory in its last nine games.

Andrés Herrera, on the counter-attack, put away a one-touch finish off a low cross played by Lassi Lapalainien to open the scoring in the 32nd minute.

Pasalic put away the rebound of a shot from outside the area by Luis Muriel that was parried by goalkeeper Patrick Schulte. Pasalic’s first-touch finish from point-blank range made it 1-1 in the 34th.

Orlando City’s Joran Gerbet went down with an apparent knee injury and was replaced by Kyle Smith in the fifth minute.

Orlando beat the Crew 3-1 on July 25.

Diogo Goncalves scored a goal, Rafael Cabral had three saves, and Real Salt Lake beat the Colorado Rapids 1-0 on Saturday night.

Real Salt Lake (12-16-4) has 40 points and moved into a tie with Colorado (11-15-7) for the ninth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. San Jose, which has 38 points, plays Vancouver on Sunday.

Salt Lake has won back-to-back games following consecutive 4-1 losses, both to Los Angeles FC.

Djordje Mihailovic scored in the 10th minute of second-half stoppage time to rally Toronto FC to a 2-2 draw with the Chicago Fire .

Mihailovic found the net unassisted. It was his 10th goal and his first in his eighth appearance with Toronto (5-13-14). His first nine goals came in 24 appearances with the Colorado Rapids to begin the season.

The Fire (15-11-7), who clinched their first postseason appearance since 2017 with a 5-3 road win over Inter Miami on Tuesday, fell behind 1-0 in the 28th minute on an own goal by defender Jack Elliott.

Elliott atoned with goals in the 71st and 89th minutes - both on assists from Philip Zinckernagel - to give Chicago a 2-1 lead. Elliott has three goals on the season, while

Dvalishvili defends bantamweight title

Pereira dethrones Ankalaev with 1st-round stoppage

LAS VEGAS, Oct 5, (AP): Fan favorite Alex Pereira dethroned Magomed Ankalaev at UFC 320, taking the light heavyweight championship with a first-round stoppage.

Pereira (13-3-0) floored Ankalaev (21-2-1) after hurting him with a huge right hand and quickly went to work using thunderous elbows during a ground-and-pound before referee Herb Dean stepped in to stop the bout at the 1:20 mark.

Pereira brought an end to Ankalaev’s 14-match unbeaten streak, while exacting revenge for a loss in the fighters’ first meeting in March.

“I wasn’t well that night, but tonight I was very well,” Pereira said through his translator.

Pereira lost to Ankalaev by unanimous decision on March 8, when the judges graded the fight on aggressiveness. This time, Pereira wasted no time in attacking Ankalaev with relentless pressure.

The 38-year-old Brazilian landed 28 of the 45 significant strike attempts, while Ankalaev, 33, was only able to land four of his nine attempts.

Pereira closed +200 at BetMGM Sportsbook, which means a \$100 wager would have won \$200. A Pereira by KO or TKO in under 2.5 rounds was +475.

While Pereira entered the arena with the sold-out crowd standing and roaring in approval, Ankalaev was greeted by a chorus of boos.

The 19,081 in attendance, which included Golden State Warriors stars Draymond Green and Jimmy Butler and Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua, went into a frenzy the moment Dean stepped in to stop the fight.

Earlier in the night, in what some



Alex Pereira, of Brazil, celebrates after defeating UFC light heavyweight champion Magomed Ankalaev, of Russia during the UFC 320 mixed martial arts bout in Las Vegas. (AP)



might have considered a title eliminator bout in the light heavyweight division for the right to face Pereira, second-ranked contender Jiri Prochazka (32-5-1) delivered a brutal left hand at the 3:04 mark of the

third round to knock out No. 4 Khalil Rountree Jr. (15-7-0) in what earned the fight of the night.

Pereira had beaten Prochazka twice already, second-round knockouts at UFC 295 and 303.

After his victory, Pereira used his spotlight during the post-fight interview with Joe Rogan to call for a moment of silence in honor of Jon Jones’ older brother, Arthur, who died unexpectedly earlier this week.

“He was such a great guy,” UFC president Dana White said. “When somebody passes away so young in their sleep, it’s brutal. The conversations I’ve had with Jon, he’s handling it well.”

In the co-main event, champion Merab Dvalishvili (21-4-0) successfully defended his bantamweight title with a unanimous decision (49-45, 49-45, 49-46) over Cory Sandhagen (18-6-0). Dvalishvili, who strengthened his argument a Fighter of the Year contender, registered a UFC record for takedowns landed (20) with 37 attempts. His victory extended the division’s longest-ever win streak at 14 fights.

In their scheduled three-round featherweight bout, the stunned crowd watched No. 9 contender Youssef Zalal (18-5-1) top No. 8 Josh Emmett (19-6-0) by way of verbal submission at 1:38 of the first round with a wicked arm bar.

In the scheduled three-round middleweight bout, Joe Pyfer (15-3) came out aggressive in the second round with two quick punches to drop Abus Magomedov (28-7-1), and then dominated on the ground until winning by submission via rear naked choke at the 1:44 mark.

Two records fall at IWF World Weightlifting Championships

FORDE, Norway, Oct 5, (Xinhua): With all six successful lifts, Turkish veteran Muhammed Furkan Ozbek set a world record in the men’s 65kg category with a total lift of 324 kilograms at the IWF World Weightlifting Championships .

Ozbek, who placed fourth in the men’s 73kg category at the 2024 Paris Olympics, adopted a stable strategy by increasing his weights by no more than 3kg per attempt. He secured the win with a snatch of 145kg and a clean and jerk of 179kg.

Pak Myong Jin of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) took second place with 135kg in snatch, 180kg in clean and jerk, and 315kg overall. Hampton Morris of the United States took the bronze with 311kg (133-178) after failing on two attempts to break the world record.

In the snatch segment, Bulgaria’s Ivan Petkov Dimov and 36-year-old Eko Yuli Irawan of Indonesia both lifted 137kg to share the silver medals.

DPRK’s Kim Il Gyong dominated the women’s 58kg category, sweeping three gold medals with 104kg in snatch, 132kg in clean and jerk, and a world record total of 236kg.

Rafiatu Lawal of Nigeria became Africa’s first medal winner at these championships by finishing second with 229kg (101-128). Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Kuo Hsing-chun of Chinese Taipei took third place with a total of 224kg. China’s Long Tanzhen ranked fourth with 220kg (96-124).

Best of the Rest

Marcich, Bou fire Lanus past San Lorenzo: Goals from Sasha Marcich and Walter Bou gave Lanus a 2-1 home win over San Lorenzo in Argentina’s Primera Division.

Marcich gave his side the lead just before the half hour with a first-time finish from eight yards after Bou’s cross from the right flank.

The latter doubled the advantage in the 53rd minute with an acrobatic overhead kick after Jose Canale’s headed pass.

Diego Herazo pulled a goal back by thumping an eight-yard volley into the far corner, but the hosts held on to secure their sixth win of the campaign. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Internacional beats Botafogo: Alan Patrick and Vitinho scored either side of halftime as Internacional eased to a 2-0 home win over reigning champions Botafogo in Brazil’s Serie A .

Patrick opened the scoring in the ninth minute after goalkeeper Leo Linck parried Vitinho’s cross into his path, allowing the midfielder to sweep in from close range.

Vitinho doubled the lead just after halftime with a clinical finish after Johan Carbonero’s through ball.

The result at Beira-Rio stadium leaves Internacional 12th in the standings with 32 points, seven clear of the relegation zone and 11 behind fourth-placed Botafogo. (Xinhua)

Change Name and address

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Permanent Address: Near M.B. School, Paan Wadi, Shastri Colony, Ward No. 21, Dungarpur, Rajasthan - 314001

Collier cancels meeting with WNBA Commissioner amid tensions

LAS VEGAS, Oct 5, (AP): Minnesota forward Napheesa Collier canceled a meeting with WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert expected to take place next week, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak publicly about it.

Engelbert said Friday night that she had talked to Collier earlier this week after the Lynx player said the league has

“the worst leadership in the world” and a commissioner who lacks accountability in a blistering assessment. The two had planned to meet next week, either in person or virtually.

ESPN first reported the meeting was canceled.

The commissioner said before Game 1 of the WNBA Finals that comments made by Collier about a private conversation between them were filled with “inaccuracies,” including one about

Caitlin Clark needing the WNBA to succeed financially. The commissioner denied saying that.

“Caitlin has been a transformational player in this league. She’s been a great representative of the game,” Engelbert said. “She’s brought in tens of millions of new fans to the game.”

Engelbert said Friday there’s work to be done to repair relationships with players in the league.

“I was disheartened to hear that some

players feel the league and that I personally do not care about them or listen to them,” Engelbert said ahead of the WNBA Finals. “If the players in the W don’t feel appreciated and valued by the league, then we have to do better and I have to do better.”

The league and the players’ union are in the middle of a collective bargaining agreement negotiation as the current deal expires at the end of the month.

Sporty suffers fourth consecutive defeat

Al-Sulaibikhat maintains perfect record



Players in action during a league clash.

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Al-Sulaibikhat claimed sole possession of the top spot in the First Division after a 2-0 victory over Sporty at Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium, in the fourth round of the competition.

The win takes Al-Sulaibikhat's points total to 12, maintaining a perfect record, while newly promoted Sporty suffered their fourth consecutive defeat.

Al-Sulaibikhat also benefited from former co-leaders Al-Yarmouk dropping points, as they were defeated 1-2 by Burgan, leaving Al-Yarmouk with 9 points and Burgan climbing to 5 points.

In another match, Al-Sahel moved up to third place after a 3-1 win over Al-Shamiya, bringing their total to 8 points, while Al-Shamiya recorded their fourth straight loss.

Additionally, the fourth-round match between Khaitan (1 point) and Al-Jazira (7 points) has been postponed by one day due to lighting issues at Nasser Al-Othaimi Stadium.

Bahrain finalizes preparations to host 2025 Asian Youth Games

MANAMA, Oct 5: The Kingdom of Bahrain is in the final stages of preparations to host the Asian Youth Games, set to welcome the continent's top young athletes for the first time.

The Games, held under the high royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, will take place from October 22 to 31, 2025, featuring 4,250 athletes representing all 45 Asian National Olympic Committees, supported by 900 officials and 700 coaches. This marks the first time Bahrain hosts the Asian Youth Games, a historic milestone in the development of sports in the Kingdom.

Competitors will take part in 249 events across 26 Olympic and traditional Asian sports, held at 23 venues, supported by over 30 training facilities and three main zones, ensuring optimal conditions for high-level competition.

Thousands of spectators are expected to attend, with the official mascot "Shihab", an Arabian oryx symbolizing vitality, strength, agility, and ambition, leading the celebrations. Two additional mascots, "Najm" and "Dana", will welcome Asian delegations, representing Bahraini hospitality, hope, and optimism.

Hussein Al-Musallam, Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia, said: "Excitement is building across Asia as the 2025 Asian Youth Games approach. Bahrain is fully prepared to host a spectacular event that showcases the future stars of Asian sports. These young athletes repre-



Mascot of the Bahrain Asian Youth Games

sent the next generation, and we look forward to seeing them compete on the international stage."

He added that the Games offer more than just competition, providing young athletes with the chance to explore different Asian cultures, gain valuable experience, and build lasting friendships. Bahrain's first time hosting the Games is expected to leave a lasting and inspiring legacy, encouraging youth in the Kingdom and across Asia to embrace sports and pursue their dreams.

A dedicated workforce of 1,200 staff members and 3,000 volunteers will ensure the smooth organization of all competitions and activities across the country.

Madrid cruises past Villarreal

Struggling Girona picks up much-needed win

MADRID, Oct 5, (AP): Vinicius Júnior struck twice and Kylian Mbappé scored before going off injured as Real Madrid beat third-placed Villarreal 3-1 to move on top of La Liga.

Moments after scoring in the 81st minute, Mbappé sat down and clutched his right ankle. The France star then made a gesture with his hands to signal he could not continue. Following brief treatment he walked off unassisted and went straight down the tunnel.

The win moved Madrid two points above defending champion Barcelona, which can reclaim the lead with a win at Sevilla on Sunday but is missing star winger Lamine Yamal after a public injury.

Vinicius netted in the 47th when he cut in from the left and his low strike clipped the heel of Santi Comesaña before wrong-footing goalkeeper Arnau Tenas.

Vinicius netted from the penalty spot in the 69th after being barged over. Mbappé is Madrid's usual penalty taker but let him have it, and Vinicius squeezed a tame shot under the body of Tenas as he guessed correctly.

Villarreal winger Georges Mikautadze pulled a goal back with a fine shot past Courtois from 20 meters.

But the hard work was undone when defender Santiago Mouriño was sent off four minutes later for a second yellow card following a foul on Vinicius.

Villarreal then lost the ball care-



Real Madrid's Dean Huijsen, right, and Villarreal's Tani Oluwaseyi challenge for the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Villarreal at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Saturday. (AP)

lessly and Mbappé swapped passes with Brahim Díaz before guiding in his 14th goal in 10 games.

Struggling Girona picked up a much-needed win after holding on to beat Valencia 2-1 to move off the bottom.

Girona midfielder Iván Martín was sent off in the 80th for a second yellow card and his teammates kept out Valencia in 10 minutes of stoppage time.

Ukrainian striker Vladyslav Vanat put Girona ahead from outside the penalty area. Diego López equalized in the second half but Girona regained the lead shortly after through Arnau Martínez following a set-piece.

Elsewhere, Athletic Bilbao moved up to fifth place with a scrappy 2-1 win against Mallorca, which dropped to last.

Striker Iñaki Williams drew the foul and converted a penalty for Bilbao early.

After Samú Costa equalized in the second half, midfielder Alejandro Rego's goal restored the lead five minutes later. Mallorca's Antonio Sánchez was sent off in the last minute.

Levante scored in each half in a 2-0 win at Oviedo.

Right winger Carlos Álvarez pounced in the 30th with a shot into the top left corner from Manu Sánchez's cross.

Oviedo brought on 40-year-old midfielder Santi Cazorla, the former Spain international, early in the second half. But Cameroonian striker Karl Etta Eyong doubled the lead from close range following a corner.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kazma handball team has moved up to second place in the Premier League after a 32-27 victory over Al-Nasr in the final matches of the first phase, held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex Hall. In the same round, Kuwait defeated Burgan 34-28.

The standings at the end of the first phase of the Premier Handball League are:

Kuwait Club– 14 points (perfect record)
Kazma – 9 points
Burgan – 8 points
Qadsia, Al-Arabi, Salmiya – 6 points each
Al-Sulaibikhat – 5 points
Al-Nasr – 2 points

The second phase of the Premier League kicks off tomorrow, Tuesday, with two matches: Al-Nasr vs. Kuwait and Qadsia vs. Burgan. The league consists of three phases, and the team with the highest points at the end will claim the 58th title in the history of the competition.

Meanwhile, in the First Division handball league, the fifth-round matches are scheduled for today:

Al-Fahaheel vs. Al-Sahel at 4:30 PM
Khaitan vs. Al-Qurain at 6:00 PM
Youth National Team vs. Al-Yarmouk at 7:30 PM



Kazma handball player maneuvering the ball in a match.

The current First Division standings are:

Khaitan – 8 points
Al-Yarmouk – 6 points
Al-Qurain – 4 points
Youth National Team – 3 points
Al-Fahaheel – 1 point
Al-Sahel – 0 points

Kuwait Club routs Kazma to reach championship final

DUBAI, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait Club advanced to the final of the 37th Arab Basketball Championship after a commanding 81-65 victory over fellow Kuwaiti side Kazma in the semifinals held Sunday in Dubai.

The clash between the two Kuwaiti teams was competitive from the opening tip, with both sides trading baskets in the early stages. However, Kuwait Club asserted its dominance in the decisive quarters through disciplined defense and efficient scoring, ultimately sealing a well-earned 16-point win.

With this triumph, Kuwait Club moves on to the championship final, aiming to add another regional title to its record of achievements. Meanwhile, Kazma wrapped up its campaign with honorable performances that reflected the team's steady progress and strong showing throughout the tournament.

The tournament continues on Monday, when Qatar's Al-Arabi faces Lebanon's Al-Hikma to determine who will join Kuwait Club in the final showdown.

Mpetshi upsets Fritz, Djokovic struggles

Anisimova clinches China Open after 3-set battle with Noskova

BEIJING, Oct 5, (AP): Third-seeded Amanda Anisimova claimed the China Open with a 6-0, 2-6, 6-2 win over Linda Noskova in the final of the hard-court indoor tournament on Sunday.

Anisimova, who ended fellow American Coco Gauff's title defense in the semifinal, sealed the match with a backhand winner down the line and fell on her back as she won the trophy for the first time.

Her rival gave her a tough challenge but ran out of steam in the closing stages of their encounter, which lasted one hour and 46 minutes.

Anisimova, the runner-up at both the U.S. Open and Wimbledon this year who has risen to No. 4 in the world rankings, claimed her second WTA 1000 title of the season.

The 20-year-old Noskova had saved three match points in the semifinals to become the youngest Czech player to advance this far at a WTA 1000 event since the format was introduced in 2009.



Amanda Anisimova of the United States poses with the trophy after defeating Linda Noskova of the Czech Republic in the women's singles final match of the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing, China. (AP)

Djokovic struggled to cope with Hanfmann's big serve and excellent play at the net. He needed two hours and 45 minutes to progress. He'll be up against Jaume Munar in the next round. Djokovic was sick during the second set and threw up during a changeover.

Djokovic is bidding for a record-extending fifth title at the Shanghai Masters.

Rune beat 21st-seeded Ugo Humbert 6-4, 6-4, Zizou Bergs upset 19th-seeded Francisco Cerundolo 7-6 (1), 6-3 and the 31st-seeded Gabriel Diallo advanced by walkover after David Goffin retired early in the first set.

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who won the Japan Open last week, is not in Shanghai due to minor ailments.

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NEWS

Big-serving Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard upset fourth-ranked Taylor Fritz 6-4, 7-5 and advanced to the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters.

Mpetshi Perricard sent down 12 aces, to Fritz's nine, and took a break in each set as he clinched his first tour victory against the American in one hour and 25 minutes to set up a last-16 meeting with 10th-seeded Holger Rune.

Also Sunday, Novak Djokovic was made to work hard before he rallied past German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.



Newcastle United's Sandro Tonali and Nottingham Forest's Morgan Gibbs-White, right, in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Newcastle United and Nottingham Forest at St James' Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. (AP)

Sports

Kuwait sparkles at West Asian Youth Athletics Champ'ship



4x100m relay champions Sayyed Fakher, Meshari Al-Mutairi, Jassem Al-Qinaee, and Abdullah Al-Azmi

Relay kings lead medal rush

BEIRUT, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's track and field team clinched gold and a silver medal at the West Asian Youth Athletics Championship held in Lebanon.

Kuwait's track and field team continued its impressive run at the West Asian Youth Athletics Championship in Lebanon, winning multiple medals including gold, silver, and bronze across various events.

The Kuwaiti athletes captured the gold medal in the 4x100m relay with a time of 70.4 seconds, led by Sayyed Fakher, Meshari Al-Mutairi, Jassem Al-Qinaee, and Abdullah Al-Azmi.

Suleiman Al-Shamroukh secured the silver medal in the hammer throw, achieving a distance of 51.55 meters.

Speaking to KUNA, Falah Al-Ajmi, Chairman of the Board and Head of National Teams at the Kuwaiti Athletics Federation, praised the athletes' performance, highlighting additional achievements — including gold and silver medals in the long jump by



Hammer throw silver medalist Suleiman Al-Shamroukh

Abdullah Al-Azmi and Saleh Al-Khabbaz, and another silver by Mohammad Al-Duaij.

In the 110m hurdles, Meshari Al-Mutairi claimed the gold medal, while Jassem Al-Qinaee took silver.

The team also earned a bronze medal in the 800m through Saad Al-Rashidi and Abdulatif Al-Failakawi, and another bronze in the shot put by Abdulrahman Al-Qahtani.

Blues depart for Tashkent

Kuwait ready for friendlies ahead of playoff

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 5: Kuwait departed today for the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, to face Uzbekistan in a friendly match on Thursday as part of its preparations during the international break. The game serves as a warm-up ahead of Kuwait's crucial Arab Cup playoff against Mauritania on November 25 in Doha, with the tournament set to kick off in early

December.

Following the Uzbekistan encounter, Al-Azraq will travel to the United Arab Emirates on Friday to play another friendly against Morocco's local (domestic-based) national team in Dubai on October 14. The squad will return to Kuwait the following day, October 15.

The delegation is headed by Ayman Al-Husseini, a member of the Kuwait Football Association's Board of Directors, and includes

the technical, administrative, and medical staff, along with 26 players selected by Portuguese coach Helio Sousa.

The squad features: Saud Al-Janaib, Khaled Al-Rasheedi, Saud Al-Hoshan, Abdulrahman Ajaj, Fahad Al-Hajri, Meshari Ghanam, Khaled Sabah, Mohammed Khaled, Rashid Al-Dosari, Khaled Ibrahim, Abdulwahab Al-Awadhi, Nasser Al-Enezi, Hassan Hamdan, Khaled Al-Murshid, Jarrah Al-Helaili, Reda Hani, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Athbi Shehab, Sultan Al-Enezi, Fawaz Ayedh, Bader Tariq, Talal Al-Qaisi, Youssef Nasser, Muath Al-Usaym, Salman Al-Awadhi, and Ahmed Al-Zanki.

Kuwait began training last Monday at Al-Sadaqa wal-Salam Stadium, before moving sessions to Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, and later settling at Thamer Stadium for the final phase of preparations.

Meanwhile, Morocco's local national team is expected to arrive in the UAE on Friday. Before facing Kuwait, the Moroccans will play a friendly against Egypt in Rabat on Thursday as part of their buildup for the upcoming Arab Cup.

The Moroccan local team recently captured its third African Nations Championship (CHAN) title last August after defeating Madagascar 3-2 in the final.

Al-Tadamon wins six bronze medals at Albania Taekwondo Championship



KUNA photo

Al-Tadamon Sports Club bronze medalists.

TIRANA, Oct 5, (KUNA): Kuwait's Al-Tadamon Sports Club captured six bronze medals at the 2025 Albania Open Taekwondo Championship, which concluded Sunday in the Albanian capital, Tirana, with broad international participation.

Head of the Kuwaiti delegation and Al-Tadamon board member, Mishari Al-Hamad, said all the medals came in the youth category, praising the athletes for their strong performances against tough competition.

He added that the medals were won by Mohammad Al-Mutairi (under 45kg), Mohammed Al-Kaami (under 48kg), Waleed Al-Mutairi (under 51kg), Philopateer Edward (under 65kg), Mohammad Al-Hamour (under 78kg), and Faisal Al-Mekaimi (over 78kg).

Al-Hamad also commended the technical staff for their efforts in preparing the players and extended his appreciation to the Public Authority for Sport for its continuous support of Kuwaiti athletes.



Kuwaiti players intensify training for the friendlies.

Palace's long unbeaten run ends, Postecoglou's Forest loses again

LONDON, Oct 5, (AP): Crystal Palace saw its 19-match unbeaten run in all competitions come to an end by conceding late in a 2-1 defeat at Everton in the Premier League on Sunday, while Ange Postecoglou remained without a win in charge of Nottingham Forest after its 2-0 loss at Newcastle.

Palace last tasted defeat on April 16 - a stretch lasting nearly six months and including winning the FA Cup for a first ever trophy - but was sunk by a goal in the third minute of stoppage time by Jack Grealish, who got in the way of a clearance by Daniel Munoz and saw the ball rebound straight into the net.

It completed a comeback by Everton, which equalized through Iliman Ndiaye's 76th-minute penalty after Munoz put the visitors in front in the 37th.

Bruno Guimaraes and Nick Woltemade scored second-half goals for Newcastle against Forest, which has been under Postecoglou for seven games in all competitions - losing five and drawing two.

Aston Villa beat Burnley 2-1 thanks to two goals by Donyell Malen and Wolverhampton had manager Vitor Pereira sent off early in the 1-1 draw with Brighton for what the Premier League described as "irresponsible" behavior in the technical area.

Estevao struck in added time to inflict a third straight defeat on Premier League champion Liverpool.

The Brazilian teenager slid in at the far post to seal a 2-1 win for Chelsea in a breathless finish at Stamford Bridge.

Estevao's goal sparked wild celebrations that earned Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca a red card and ensured Liverpool goes into the international break knocked off the top of the standings.

"It is extra special to win like that because you win energy, trust and confidence in the process," Chelsea assistant Willy Caballero said. "It is also something unforgettable for Estevao."

Arsenal was in first place, a point ahead of Liverpool, after beating West Ham 2-0, while Manchester United picked up a crucial win against Sunderland to ease pressure on coach Ruben Amorim.

The tide has turned on Liverpool.

After scoring late goals in six of its first seven games, its 100% start to the season was ended by Crystal Palace last week when Eddie Nketiah struck in the seventh minute of stoppage time. Estevao's goal came in the fifth minute of stoppage time for Chelsea. In between, Liverpool lost to Galatasaray 1-0 in the Champions League.

Norris cuts into Piastri's standings lead for third race in a row

Russell wins Singapore GP as McLaren secures constructors' title

SINGAPORE, Oct 5, (AP): McLaren was crowned Formula 1's top team at the Singapore Grand Prix on a tricky day for all three of the main contenders for the drivers' title.

George Russell won the race in dominant style Sunday as McLaren secured the Formula 1 constructors' championship with six races to go.

Russell stayed in control from pole position to take his and Mercedes' second win of the year ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who held off Lando Norris for second place despite struggling with car problems.

Verstappen may have got the better of the two McLaren drivers, but it was little help to his title defense, since he didn't make significant inroads into their large points advantage.

Norris said it was "a shame" to spend much of the race staring at the back of Verstappen's car, while standings leader Oscar Piastri was aggrieved over Norris colliding with him as he overtook at the start.

"We don't really know where this performance came from," admitted Russell, who said he'd expected Mercedes to struggle on Singapore's tight, twisty street circuit.

It was a personal milestone for Russell, who crashed on the last lap while fighting for the podium



Mercedes driver George Russell of Britain celebrates after winning the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore. (AP)

places in Singapore in 2023.

"It feels amazing, especially after what happened a couple of years ago. It was a bit of a missed opportunity, but we more than made up for it today," he said.

Norris banged wheels with his McLaren teammate Piastri, who finished fourth, as he overtook at the start. Piastri complained to the

team over the radio about Norris' driving.

"Are we cool with Lando just barging me out of the way?" the Australian asked.

"I had a small correction but nothing more than that. It was good racing," Norris said after the race.

Norris cut into Piastri's standings lead for the third race in a row. The

Australian now leads Norris by 22 points, with Verstappen 41 further back.

Piastri finished outside the top three in back-to-back races for the first time since the Australian Grand Prix in March.

Russell's teammate Kimi Antonelli recovered to finish fifth after a poor start. Lewis Hamilton was closing on the Italian near the end when the brakes on the seven-time champion's Ferrari failed.

Leclerc in the other Ferrari then passed Hamilton for sixth and the British driver only just held onto seventh in his ailing car ahead of Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso.

Hamilton was being investigated after the race for driving off-track while he struggled with the car during those final laps.

Oliver Bearman was ninth for Haas and Carlos Sainz, Jr. took a point in 10th despite having to start near the back of the grid for a technical infringement.

It was the first F1 race to be officially declared a "heat hazard" by the governing body, the FIA, under new rules that came in this season.

The heat and humidity in Singapore have long been a challenge for drivers, who were required to have cooling equipment fitted in their cars. So, like Verstappen, chose not to wear the associated cooling vest.