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# KUWAIT WARNS EXPATRIATES ON OUTDATED LEASE RECORDS

# PACI rolls out lease rules

New detailed guidelines make updates easier

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9:** The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has released detailed guidelines specifying the procedures and required documents for expatriates to update their residential lease information. The initiative is part of PACI's broader efforts to improve the accuracy of national records and ensure compliance with housing and civil regu-

lations. The new framework covers three main scenarios: change in property ownership, change in residential address, and properties under mortgage.

This move is in line with the Kuwaiti government's ongoing plan to regulate the real estate sector and simplify administrative processes for both citizens and residents.

1. Change of tenant's address (New residence)  
This case applies when a tenant relocates to a new resi-

dence and needs to update their address in PACI records.

Required documents:

New Lease Contract: A valid residential lease agreement in the tenant's name. If the lease is under the spouse's name, this is acceptable when dependent children are included in the residence file.

Property Ownership Deed or Electricity Bill: A copy of the property ownership certificate or a recent electricity bill issued in the name of the tenant or their legal representative.

Declaration of Accuracy: A signed statement confirming that all provided information is correct and authentic.

Proof of Identity: A copy of the tenant's valid passport

for verification.

2. When both the lease and electricity meter are under the same name

This applies when the lease contract and the electricity meter are both registered under the same individual, and an address update is required.

Required documents:

Registered Lease Contract: A lease agreement in the tenant's (or spouse's) name, including the complete property automated number.

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## Hot weekend ahead with chance of dust

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA):** The Meteorological Department says the country will experience hot weather during the day and mild to warm temperatures at night during the weekend, with chances of dust.

Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali explained to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the country is currently affected by a weak extension of the Indian seasonal low, accompanied by a hot and relatively humid air mass. This influence will gradually recede by Friday morning, allowing a high-pressure system from the northwest to advance, bringing a relatively hot and dry air mass. Light to moderate northwesterly winds will occur, occasionally becoming active, especially over open areas, which may cause dust and raise sea waves at times.

On Friday morning, the weather will be hot with light to moderate northwesterly winds, occasionally active, with speeds ranging from 12 to 50 km/h, and a chance of dust. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 35°C and 37°C. The sea will be light to moderate, occasionally reaching to two to six feet.

Friday evening is expected to be mild with northwesterly winds that are light to moderate and occasionally active along coastal areas, ranging from 15 to 50 km/h. Minimum temperatures will range between 21°C and 23°C, and the sea will be light to moderate, occasionally reaching two to six feet in wave height.

On Saturday, the weather will be warm during daytime with light to moderate northwesterly winds, occasionally active, ranging from 15 to 50 km/h, with a chance of dust. Expected high temperatures will range between 34°C and 36°C. Sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves occasionally reaching two to six feet.

In the evening, the weather will be mild with light to moderate northwesterly to variable winds, ranging from 8 to 32 km/h. Minimum temperatures are expected between 19°C and 21°C. Sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves between one and four feet.



Cars weave through warm, hazy conditions on their way to Kuwait City.

Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Israel, Hamas to swap hostages and prisoners after agreeing to a pause

## Kuwait welcomes 1st phase Gaza ceasefire plan

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (Agencies):** The State of Kuwait welcomed on Thursday the first phase of the plan proposed by US President Donald Trump, which includes a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the start of the negotiating process to end the war and the suffering of the Palestinian people in the war-torn enclave.

A statement by the Foreign Ministry said that Kuwait supported all international efforts and paths lead-

ing to implementation of the ceasefire, allowing the immediate entry of necessary humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

These efforts would bolster security and peace in the region, affirmed the statement, commending the positive efforts by Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the US, and Turkiye in reaching this agreement.

The State of Kuwait renewed its unwavering stance

and support of the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent state within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, saying that such a right was according to international legitimacy, the Arab Peace Initiative, and the New York Declaration concerning the two-state solution, indicated the ministry.

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Attia Waris, UN Independent Expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations and human rights, addresses the press.

## UN expert praises Kuwait's innovative financial system

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9:** United Nations (UN) Independent Expert on foreign debt, other international financial obligations and human rights Attia Waris said Kuwait achieved a social contract without relying on domestic taxes and it stands at the forefront of countries keen on developing their financial system.

In a statement to the press at UN-Kuwait towards the end of her visit to the country, Waris disclosed that "as a leader committed to solidarity and assistance, I commend the commitment of Kuwait to cooperate with the countries in the South and the international community."

She lauded the innovative approach of Kuwait in establishing mechanisms structures and strategies to develop its

public finance system. She stated that by establishing the country's oldest development fund in 1961, just months after its independence, Kuwait set an example of early commitment to the human rights principle of international cooperation and assistance as a State obligation -- an approach that continues up to this day throughout the country.

She said "Kuwait has always been one of the first countries in the Gulf region to adopt new international standards, having established the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and a sovereign wealth fund, as well as participating in the development of Islamic financial standards through the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions.

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## Experts highlight benefits of Kuwait's digital justice move

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9:** Legal experts welcomed the Cabinet's recent approval of a legislative amendment that enables courts to issue summary orders entirely through digital platforms for minor cases.

They described the move as a major leap toward building a smart judiciary in Kuwait, one that enhances transparency, speeds up the judicial process, and ensures accuracy while guaranteeing legal rights.

The Council of Ministers had earlier approved an amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure allowing courts to handle minor cases digitally - from receiving requests and deliberations to issuing and announcing rulings - all via an integrated electronic system.



Al-Bassman



Al-Qattan

Simplified summary order process

Lawyer Faisal Al-Bassman explained that a "summary order" is a simplified judicial decision issued by a judge in minor criminal cases without the need for a court session or witness testimony. The decision is made solely based on a review of the case file submitted by the Public Prosecution.

Exclusion of major cases

He pointed out that the penalties under this system are typically limited to fines or minor sanctions, making it one of the most appropriate mechanisms for full digital implementation without undermining justice guarantees. However, he clarified that major cases or felonies that require thorough investigations or public hearings are excluded from this system.

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## Kuwait calls for GCC integration

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA):** Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi on Thursday said rapid regional and global developments require more Gulf soli-

darity and integration.

Al-Mutairi, who doubles as Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), made

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## Kuwait to open new runway, control tower on October 30

By Mohammad Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9:** The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced the opening of a number of vital projects at Kuwait International Airport.

Deputy Director General for Planning and Projects at DGCA Saad Al-Otaibi revealed that the directorate is currently preparing for the opening of the third runway and the new air traffic control tower at the airport on Oct 30.

In a televised statement, Al-Otaibi

expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation to all parties that contributed to the completion of this vital project, considering it is a qualitative shift in the history of the Kuwaiti air transport sector.

He explained that the third runway is one of the most important development projects in the infrastructure of the airport, indicating it is 4.4 kilometers long, and it is regarded as one of the best runways in the world in terms of design and technical standards.

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### Newswatch

**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, congratulating him on the occasion of his birthday.

His Highness the Amir wished President Putin good health and the Russian people further progress and development. (KUNA)

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**KUWAIT CITY:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a cable to Egyptian President Abdelattah El-Sisi expressing congratulations on the appointment of Dr. Khaled Ahmad Al-Enani as Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

His Highness the Amir expressed pride of this high-esteem designation for Dr. Al-Enani, wished him success and expressed good wishes to the Egyptian president. (KUNA)

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**PARIS:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation arrived in France on Thursday on an official visit.

Receiving the Kuwaiti delegation at Lyon Airport were Kuwait's Ambassador to France Abdullah Al-Shaheen, President of INTERPOL Major General Dr. Ahmad Al-Raisi, and staff members of the Kuwaiti Embassy. (KUNA)



2 Egypt marks 52nd 'October War' victory anniversary



2 Kuwait's borrowing is not an achievement

Gulf Bank Challenge returns: 10 athletes begin their journey to Kuwait's Premier Marathon

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Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:26	Asr .....	14:55
Sunrise ..	05:45	Maghrib ..	17:25
Zohr .....	11:35	Isha .....	18:42

# Local

**Expected weather for next 24 hrs:**  
**By Day:** Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-50 km/h with a chance for rising dust.  
**By Night:** Mild with light to

Weather			
moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait Airport	39	21	
Abdaly	40	24	
Bubyan	30	17	
Jahra	40	25	
Failaka Island	35	21	
Salmiyah	34	27	
Ahmadi	38	23	
Nuwaisib	37	21	
Wafra	40	20	
Salmiya	37	20	

## Sheikh Ahmad calls for full implementation toward Vision 2035

# Prime Minister reviews Kuwait-China projects

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah headed on Thursday the 30th meeting of the ministerial committee tasked with implementing agreements signed between the State of Kuwait and the People’s Republic of China.

The meeting provided visual and detailed updates from several government entities regarding the agreements including the first phase of the environmental protection and anti-desertification, and sand creeping project north of Kuwait, the initial steps for the sewer treatment project, the third and fourth phases of the Al-Abdaliya and Al-Shagaya renewable energy project, in addition to the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, which would kick-

start its initial phase at the end of the technical and construction studies next month.

His Highness the Prime Minister called on the ministerial committee to continue following up on the agreements, making sure that they were implemented to the fullest and during the agreed-upon time slot.

Assistant Minister for Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat affirmed that coordination was continuing to achieve the economic growth sought by Kuwait through cooperation with Chinese governmental companies tasked with the project according to agree upon schedules.

He indicated that weekly reports were delivered to the ministerial committee to review and

brief the top authorities to usher in the projects, which are part of Kuwait’s Vision 2035.

Present at the meeting were Chief of His Highness the Prime Minister Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Minister of Defense Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Meshari, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Dr. Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Fatwa and Legislation, Counselor Salah Al-Majed, and Assistant Minister for Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Sameeh Hayat.



Prime Minister Diwan photo  
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairing a meeting of the Ministerial Committee at Bayan Palace Thursday to follow up on the implementation status of the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed between the governments of the State of Kuwait and the friendly People's Republic of China.

# Egypt marks 52nd ‘October War’ victory anniversary

Kuwaiti and Egyptian leaders praise heroism, brotherly solidarity and deep bilateral ties

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyasah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah asserted that the Oct 6, 1973 War victories are considered a glorious page in the history of the Arab nation, as it embodies the unity of the Arab position and the importance of brotherly solidarity in facing challenges.**

Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah made the statement at the celebration organized by the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Kuwait on the occasion of the 52nd anniversary of the October War victories, with a number of representatives of diplomatic missions in attendance.

He explained that this precious occasion commemorates the victory of the valiant Egyptian Army, and the epic cooperation and solidarity achieved by the sons of the Arab nation, indicating that the sacrifice and immortal heroism of the Army contributed to strengthening Arab national security and protecting its resources.

He said the historic fraternal relations between Kuwait and Egypt were established by two wise leaderships and have deepened over decades of cooperation in various fields, particularly in the fields of defense and security. He emphasized that the close cooperation that unites the two countries reflects a shared destiny and a common stance on upholding



Egyptian ambassador with the Military Attaché pose for a photo during the 52nd Anniversary of the October War Victory.



Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah delivering a speech at the celebration.



Bahrain Ambassador with Qatari Military Attaché and Qatari Deputy Ambassador.



Editor-in-Chief Ahmed Al-Jarallah with the Egyptian Ambassador

justice and supporting regional stability.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Military Attaché Colonel Mustafa Al-Dallal

said the State of Kuwait played a prominent and honorable role in this historic epic, providing money, effort, ammunition and lives. “Its sons

participated alongside their Egyptian brothers in the battle, mixing the blood of Kuwaiti and Egyptian martyrs on the pure land of Sinai,”

he stressed.

Al-Dallal confirmed that Kuwait offered the largest number of martyrs among the Arab armies par-

ticipating in the War of Attrition and the October War, and their graves in Egypt remain a witness to their heroism and glory.

He added that the 52nd anniversary of the victory reflects the greatness of the Egyptian people and their ability to have a massive military accomplishment despite the challenges, stressing that this victory remains a symbol of pride, the restoration of land and dignity.

Bishop of the Egyptian Coptic Church in Kuwait Father Bigol Anba Bishoy expressed his pride and honor in participating in this immortal national occasion, stressing that the October victory is a shared source of pride for Egypt and Kuwait. He added “I say to Egypt: Live and celebrate, always in joy and victories. Despite the passage of 52 years, the October victories remain renewed as they were yesterday, because they are a symbol of pride and unity. On this anniversary, we recall the mingling of Kuwaiti blood with Egyptian blood, just as Egyptian blood was once mingled with Kuwaiti blood.”

He praised the broad participation of Kuwaitis in the celebration, saying, “I am very impressed and happy over the remarkable interaction I witnessed among Kuwaitis. This celebration is not just for Egypt, but for both countries, because they are one nation and one spirit.”

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to everyone who contributed to the commemoration, which manifests the strength of fraternal and historic ties between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti peoples.

The ceremony featured artistic and patriotic performances that expressed the spirit of victory and the depth of the historic relations between Kuwait and Egypt, amid a festive atmosphere that evoked feelings of pride and honor in the two brotherly peoples and countries.



Officials and guests gather at the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait on the 52nd Anniversary of the October War Victory.

Photos by Mohammad Morsi

Al-Masoud urges stronger MENA-ARIN co-op

## Kuwait leads regional asset recovery

JEDDAH, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Attorney General Counselor Dr. Omar Al-Masoud reaffirmed the importance of activating frameworks of international cooperation for the purpose of asset recovery.

Al-Masoud made this statement on Thursday on the sidelines of the first annual general meeting of the Regional Asset Recovery Network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA-ARIN), held in Jeddah.

Kuwait has affirmed the importance of having a guiding manual that outlines the nature of assets and how each type can be recovered, with regard to cooperation requests through the MENA-ARIN network, Al-Masoud said.

Kuwait has also emphasized the importance of having designated contact points within the network., he added.

The meeting marks a turning point in the regional and international efforts to combat corruption, as it represents the official launch of the new regional network, which has chosen the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the headquarters of its permanent secretariat.

The State of Kuwait is keen on supporting regional and global efforts in preparing legal frameworks for the recovery of assets, said a Kuwaiti official on Wednesday.

Delivering his speech to the first an-



Counselor Dr. Omar Al-Masoud, Attorney General of the Kuwaiti Public Prosecution

nual meeting of the Middle East and North Africa Regional Asset Recovery Network (MENA-ARIN) in Jeddah, Attorney General Counselor at Kuwait’s Public Prosecution, Dr. Omar Al-Masoud affirmed that his country had established a bureau at the public prosecution to retrieve assets and seek compensation for crimes committed abroad.

The Kuwaiti official highlighted the achievements of Kuwait, especially on the regional level and in cooperation with GCC member states, with around

USD 88.94 million (an estimated USD 290 million) retrieved in assets collectively.

Al-Masoud affirmed that Kuwait was eager to expand cooperation on the international level involving all states willing to expedite mechanisms for justice and asset recovery.

He commended the meeting in Jeddah, saying that it was the culmination of efforts among regional players in asset recovery and the combat of crime affecting many countries across the globe.

## Other Voices

## Kuwait’s borrowing is not an achievement

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

Kuwait’s Ministry of Finance has chosen to celebrate debt as though it were an achievement. That celebration is hollow. Borrowing is not a triumph. It is an obligation that signals weakness, not strength. The deficit already exceeds five percent of GDP and is projected to rise above six billion dinars, about twenty billion US dollars. These are not abstract numbers. They reveal an economy running out of both money and time.

Debt is only meaningful if it delivers results. It must finance projects that generate growth, jobs and lasting revenue. Yet the Ministry hailed the latest sovereign issuance of more than eleven billion dollars as a success simply because investors subscribed and pricing looked favorable. That is not success. That is spin. The real test is whether the money produces a different economic future or disappears into the same cycle of deficits and waste.

The record speaks for itself. Nearly two years have passed without a serious economic plan. No reform program has been unveiled, no re-



Al-Anjeri

structuring attempted, no vision presented. The government is borrowing on the strength of past wealth, not present competence. Credit markets still view Kuwait as a safe borrower only because of assets built up over decades, not because of today’s leadership.

The absurdity is easier to see through a corporate lens. Imagine a holding company listed on the stock exchange. It drains its reserves year after year without producing new revenue. The same board and executives then return to the market, borrow again and applaud themselves for pulling it off. They promise no new strategy, no innovation, no restructuring, no change at all. Shareholders would laugh them out of the room. Kuwait is living that farce in real time. Borrowing without reform is not a rescue plan. It is incompetence with a price tag.

History offers no comfort. In 2017 Kuwait issued bonds without offering the public any serious disclosure of how the funds were spent. When the pandemic hit and oil prices collapsed, the result was one of the highest deficits in the world, more than ten percent of GDP. The truth is plain. The strength of a nation is not measured by its ability to borrow but by its ability to turn borrowing into real wealth. Loans are not gifts. They are debts that must be repaid. To cheer them without returns is to dance to the sound of unpaid bills.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

# Creative ‘house’ mothers shaping future generations

“TODAY, I won’t be discussing a political or economic issue, but rather a purely social one – one with many meanings and implications that can inspire positive changes in various areas. I am referring to the “house” mothers I observed during my vacation in some European countries, and how skillfully they manage their children’s summer and free time,” columnist **Eng. Adel Jarallah Kharafi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“These Kuwaiti mothers, who set aside much of the usual ostentation, organize programs for their children while abroad, and teach them to be organized and to enjoy their time through learning. You will find them early in the morning, with two or three children, gathering in parks and launching activities that resemble fun, outdoor study sessions.

“These are young, well-educated mothers who are fluent in English and French, and handle financial matters wisely, protect their children’s belongings and ensure their safety, and understand the laws. I saw many of these “house” mothers disciplining their children, while some were engaging in cultural activities.

“On one occasion, I passed by a group of children and was surprised to find them sitting on the ground in a garden, holding books like “My Curiosity” and the Kuwaiti book “Balaghat Al-Shuf” (The Eloquence of Seeing). The books were filled with colorful drawings of animals. While one mother was

explaining to about ten children, a group of mothers, and even some fathers, were chatting nearby.

“Curious about “Balaghat Al-Shuf”, I wanted to know the nationalities of these children. With all due respect to every nationality, I discovered that these were Kuwaiti daughters who understand the value of knowledge, exploration through tourism, and guidance.

“So, when you see these young women and mothers raising their children abroad in this way, know that creative generations are on the horizon. While it is true that some may neglect their children, leaving their care to nannies or housekeepers, this example offers great reassurance that the future will be much brighter.

“These “house” mothers are a shining example of creative Kuwaiti women who honor their country both at home and abroad, especially considering the many Kuwaiti women studying overseas, proving every day that they stand as equals to men, and will be the makers of the future generation.”

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“The Public Prosecution in Kuwait is an important institution in the criminal justice system, as it plays a

crucial role in prosecuting crimes and delivering justice,” Kuwaiti writer **Imad Khomees Eqab** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Under Kuwaiti law, the Public Prosecution is responsible for prosecuting criminal cases, investigating crimes, and presenting evidence in court. This vital role makes it a cornerstone in maintaining public order and ensuring the fair and effective application of the law.

“One of its primary functions is overseeing the prosecution and investigation of crimes. The law designates it as the specialized body responsible for managing the progress of criminal investigations, whether simple or complex.

“Members of the Public Prosecution have the authority to summon witnesses, collect evidence, and conduct field investigations. This role demands a thorough understanding of criminal laws and judicial procedures, along with advanced analytical and investigative skills.

“The Public Prosecution is also responsible for presenting evidence in court. After completing investigations, it prepares the case file, which includes all evidence and testimonies collected. The Public Prosecution presents this information systematically

and clearly before the judge to provide a comprehensive understanding of the crime.

“This role requires strong presentation skills and the ability to make convincing arguments supported by evidence. The Public Prosecution takes legal action against suspects by assessing the evidence gathered during investigations to determine if there is enough to file charges. If so, it prepares an indictment and presents it to the court.

“Prosecutors have the authority to take various legal measures against suspects, including issuing arrest warrants and bringing cases to trial. The Public Prosecution represents society in court during judicial hearings, acting as the prosecutor seeking justice on behalf of the community. This role demands professional and skillful interaction with judges, the defense, and witnesses. This is essential to ensure that the law is applied fairly and equitably, and that justice is served to all parties involved.

“In conclusion, the Public Prosecution in Kuwait is a fundamental pillar of the criminal justice system. By prosecuting crimes, investigating them, presenting evidence in court, and taking legal action against suspects, the Public Prosecution plays a vital role in achieving justice and maintaining public order. These responsibilities require high legal skills and expertise, reinforcing the importance of the Public Prosecution in Kuwaiti society.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



KUNA photo  
Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Affairs

## Envoy highlights global cooperation

## Kuwait reaffirms firm stance on combating ‘terrorism’ financing

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Affairs and Chairman of the UN Security Council Resolutions Implementation Committee, Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan, reaffirmed Kuwait’s firm commitment to combating terrorism and its financing.

This came during a meeting on Wednesday with US State Department officials, where the two sides reviewed ongoing efforts within the Global Coalition against Daesh, where Kuwait has played a prominent role since its establishment through active political engagement.

The talks focused on countering terrorism financing, which Al-Mashaan described as one of the most pressing challenges facing the international community.

Speaking to KUNA, Al-Mashaan said Kuwait’s contributions stem from a principled foreign policy based on respect for international law, multilateral cooperation, and support for global stability, emphasizing Kuwait’s firm stance against terrorism in all its forms.

He highlighted Kuwait’s adoption of advanced legislation and national measures to combat money laundering and terrorism financing in accordance with international standards - efforts that have earned global recognition.

The meeting also shed light on Kuwait’s leading humanitarian role, particularly in alleviating the suffering of vulnerable groups, including women and children affected by crises.

Al-Mashaan noted the importance of sustained coordination with international partners, stressing that effective counterterrorism efforts require comprehensive strategies that go beyond security to include developmental, intellectual, and humanitarian dimensions.

Kuwait has reaffirmed its firm stance on combating terrorism in all its forms, emphasizing commitment to drying up sources of terrorist financing in line with international

law and human rights conventions.

This came in a statement delivered by Diplomatic Attache Jana Al-Dhafiri on Tuesday evening before the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly.

Al-Dhafiri highlighted Kuwait’s recent legislative amendments to its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing law to align with international standards and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements, enhancing the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

She underscored that countering terrorism is a collective responsibility that requires stronger international partnerships to build an effective global system to address the threat. She pointed to Kuwait’s co-hosting, alongside Tajikistan and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, of the Fourth High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms,” held on November 4-5, 2024, which resulted in the adoption of the “Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management.”

She expressed pride in Kuwait’s active role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, citing the Council’s adoption in 2019 of Resolutions 2462 and 2482 on criminalizing terrorism financing and addressing threats to international peace and security.

Kuwait also co-chairs, alongside the Netherlands and Türkiye, the Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters within the Global Coalition Against Daesh, and with Kenya, it leads the East Africa Working Group under the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

Al-Dhafiri condemned violations of international law and the UN Charter that threaten global peace and security, calling for intensified international cooperation to counter terrorist groups and safeguard future generations through a rules-based international order.

# Kuwait drives GCC economic unity

Al-Mukhaizeem urges joint action and integration

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Minister of Electricity, Water, Renewable Energy and Finance and acting Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem stressed the importance of advancing the path of joint Gulf action, and solidifying economic and development cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which will consolidate integration and support the position of the GCC countries in the global economy.**

and Development Affairs Authority on Thursday, during which he underscored the need to maintain Gulf cooperation and implement joint decisions and initiatives. He also emphasized the importance of harnessing all capabilities and unifying efforts to translate the aspirations of the GCC leaders into a tangible economic and development reality.

The GCC ministers of Finance and Economy and Secretary General of the GCC Jassim Mohammed Al-Budaiwi attended the meeting, which tackled a number of topics, particularly Gulf economic unity, removing obstacles to the implementation of Gulf decisions and agreements, intensifying economic integration among the GCC states, and fulfilling the requirements of the Gulf Common Market.

A number of joint economic and development issues were discussed as well, such as the timeline and

action plan for achieving Gulf economic unity, completing the requirements of the customs union, developments in the initiatives included in the roadmap for economic unity, the report on indicators of Gulf economic integration, and a report on free trade agreement negotiations with international partners and the importance of strengthening the unified Gulf negotiating position to serve the economic interests of the GCC countries.

During the meeting, the ministers deliberated on the most important indicators of economic developments in the GCC countries, and the opportunities and challenges that necessitate enhanced joint action and integration of economic policies.

Meanwhile, a senior Gulf official told the newspaper that the intensive meetings of the finance and economy ministers of the GCC countries aim to advance decisions, agreements and recommendations related to the economic progress of Arab Gulf states.

He confirmed the serious efforts of GCC countries with similar economies to diversify sources of income, so that oil no longer dominates the revenues in most GCC countries’ budgets, especially since most Gulf countries have made significant strides in diversifying income

sources by focusing on tourism, up to the point that some Gulf cities and capitals have become leading global tourism destinations, in addition to diversifying other sources of income in trade, industry and agriculture.

Furthermore, Al-Budaiwi stated that the GCC countries are focusing on all areas of Gulf cooperation, specifically the economic and development sectors. He underscored the importance of coordination, integration and interconnectedness among member states in all fields, and strengthening cooperation between their peoples in various fields. He pointed out that economic indicators show the importance of the GCC bloc at the regional level, as the GCC countries’ gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices reached \$2.3 trillion last year, ranking ninth globally in terms of GDP.

He revealed the sovereign wealth of the GCC is estimated at \$4.8 trillion, more than 32 percent of the combined assets of the world’s top 100 sovereign wealth funds.

He said the GCC countries rank first globally in oil production, with crude oil production exceeding 16.1 million barrels per day, in addition to being first globally in crude oil reserves, amounting to about 512.1 billion barrels.

## Major drug ring busted

## Traffic violation leads to arrest of DCGD fugitive

By Munif Naif  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: A young man arrested on Jaber Causeway for a traffic violation was found to be wanted by the Drug Control General Department for (DCGD).

According to security sources, officers patrolling Jaber Causeway stopped a person for a traffic violation. Upon checking his records, they found that he was wanted by DCGD. He was immediately handed over to the relevant authorities.

The sources affirmed that security personnel continue their round-the-clock efforts on Jaber Causeway to apprehend wanted individuals and lawbreakers.

Meanwhile, the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) arrested four individuals in two separate cases, and seized large amounts of narcotics and psychotropic substances, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that in the first case, the department dismantled a drug trafficking network operating in Saad Al-Abdullah, Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and Hawally.

Three individuals were arrested inside the country, including two Kuwaiti military personnel from the Ministry of Interior and one Bedoun resident. The network is reportedly run by a Bedoun man residing in the United Kingdom.

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SCAN FOR ORDER

## Anti-financial crimes busts bribery and forgery ring

# MoJ issues circular on enforcement procedures

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Head of the General Administration of Execution at the Ministry of Justice Counselor Abdullah Al-Qassimi issued Administrative Circular No. 26/2025 regarding the provisions of Law No. 59/2025 amending the enforcement procedures.

This move is aimed at unifying procedures and implementing the amended Code of Civil Procedures. The newspaper obtained a copy of the circular, stating that in the event that one of the parties in a dispute files the ‘first objection’ to the initiated enforcement procedures against him like asset seizure or travel ban, the seizure or travel ban order remains in effect if issued prior to the

filing of the objection. It clarified that the arrest and subpoena procedures are merely a prelude to the imprisonment of the debtor, and they may not continue once the objection is filed.

Al-Qassimi stressed that the arrest and summons procedures against the debtor must be lifted once the conditions for the first objection are met, and the imprisoned debtor must be released. These procedures could be repeated at the creditor’s request if a decision is issued to reject or dismiss the objection, without requiring the creditor to prove the debtor’s solvency in this case.

The circular also emphasized the need for all enforcement judges, department directors, supervisors and department heads in the General Administration of Enforcement and its branches in the governorates to comply with its provisions

and act accordingly. It indicated that this circular takes effect from the date of issuance.

This measure is within the framework of modernizing enforcement mechanisms and ensuring a balance between creditor rights and debtor protection, in line with the provisions of the law and the direction of the Ministry of Justice towards developing the judicial work environment.

Meanwhile, the Public Prosecution on Wednesday ordered the detention of the members of a network involved in forging address change transactions for 21 days in the Central Prison.

These individuals were arrested by the Anti-Financial Crimes Department at the Ministry of Interior, as the latter acted on a tip-off about a public sector employee exploiting his position to process illegal transactions.



Al-Mashaan affirms commitment

Public Works minister follows up Damascus Street upgrade works



MPW photo  
The Minister of Public Works inspects the maintenance work on Damascus Street.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan conducted a field visit to Damascus Street to follow up the progress of major maintenance work and review the latest on-site developments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Mashaan said the inspection is part of the ministry's commitment to meeting the scheduled timelines and enhancing road quality in accordance with approved technical standards.

She stressed that infrastructure development in various regions of the country is a top priority for the ministry.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Works said the consumption of quaternary and tertiary treated water in September totaled 14.573 million cubic meters.

According to the ministry, the consumed quaternary treated water reached 13.568 million cubic meters, while the tertiary treated water reached 1.004 million cubic meters.

These quantities indicate the growing reliance on treated water for irrigation, landscaping and various production projects.

Municipal Committees approve key site allocations in Jahra and Capital

KNPC road and new utility sites get green light

By Inaas Awadh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Jahra Governorate Committee at the Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Enezi, held its fourth meeting for the fourth term on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the committee approved the request of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to create a temporary road linking Al-Liyah intersection with the new fuel depot project site in Mutlaa.

The committee decided to retain on its agenda the request of the Ministry of Defense to allocate four sites, measuring 62,500 square meters each,

as well as the proposal of Al-Enezi to allocate a site for permanent parking at the new commercial complex being built next to Jahra Shooting Club.

Regarding the response of the executive body to the queries of Al-Enezi about the locations of the tree belt project in Mutlaa Residential City, the committee recommended the following:

- Remove all obstacles to the implementation of the project.
- Intensify efforts of public sanitation and road work inspectors and Safety Department employees to monitor the compliance of individuals and oper-



Al-Enezi



Kamal

ating companies, strictly enforce the law, uncover violations, take the necessary measures to ensure site cleanliness, and prevent encroachment on public squares and roads to achieve an organized and clean environment.

■ Activate the media role of the Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality in raising public awareness on public hygiene and environmental conservation.

Meanwhile, the Capital Governorate Committee, chaired by Dr. Hassan Kamal, held its fifth meeting for the fourth term on the same day.

The committee approved the following:

- Request of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) to allocate a temporary site for Shuwaikh Fire Station in the Second Shuwaikh Industrial Area along the Fourth Ring Road,
- Request of the Public Authority for Sports to use the old site in Faihaa, Block Four as headquarters for the Girls' Club for the Deaf,
- Request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy to allocate a site for the establishment of the secondary station in Rawda, Block Two, and proposed Site Three.

Furthermore, the committee rejected the request of the Public Facilities Management Company to manage, operate and maintain the surface parking lots adjacent to Kuwait Credit Bank in Qibla, Block 11 -- behind the Municipality site.

Namaa charity projects bring relief aid to Kenya

KHARTOUM, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's Namaa charity has completed a wide array of development projects in Kenya that offer life-saving aid to impoverished families across the East African nation, it said on Wednesday.

These projects are part of Kuwaiti efforts to ratchet up humanitarian aid for the African continent, which runs the gamut from health-care and relief to development, the charity's financial and administrative chief Waleed Al-Bassam told KUNA.

Such efforts come as per the directives of Kuwait's political leaders, who seek to further reinforce Kuwait's position in the humanitarian arena, he added.



Part of Namaa's projects in Kenya.

KUNA photo

Al-Huwailah moves to protect transparency

Social Affairs Minister dissolves Saad Al-Abdullah co-op's board

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, announced the dissolution of the Board of Directors of the Saad Al-Abdullah Cooperative Society and the referral of its members to the Public Prosecution.

The decision follows the detection of serious administrative and financial violations by the ministry's inspection teams, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Dr. Al-Huwailah stressed that the decision reflects the ministry's efforts to uphold the principles of governance, transparency, and integrity in the cooperative sector, and to protect shareholders' funds

from misuse or violations.

She affirmed that the ministry will not hesitate to take legal action against any board proven to have breached laws or regulations.

The minister assured that the co-operative sector in Kuwait is strongly supported by the state, due to its vital role in both social and economic development.



Al-Huwailah

Revenues climb 47% amid service expansion

North West Sulaibikhat Co-op records strong growth in 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Treasurer of the North West Sulaibikhat Cooperative Society Thiyab Al-Daihani says the cooperative society has achieved a massive improvement in both financial and service performance in 2025, due to the board's strategy to strengthen its financial standing and expand investment and service offerings, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, Al-Daihani explained that sales during the first nine months of the year increased by 15 percent, and revenues grew by 47 percent compared to the same period in 2024.

Since taking office, the board has been committed to implementing the directives of Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah and Undersecretary Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi to enhance the performance of cooperative societies and boost their financial sustainability.

New Activities

Al-Daihani noted that several new service and investment outlets have recently opened, including a student supply store, a ladies' salon, a children's salon, a juice shop, and a men's tailor.

He indicated that work is currently underway to open additional outlets, such as a pharmacy and a children's play area in the investment complex and central market.

Al-Daihani revealed that the coopera-

tive society is preparing to launch a new range of investment projects in the near future, including a fish market, a perfume store, and an electronics shop.

Integrated Walkway

In response to shareholder feedback, Al-Daihani stated that approvals are being obtained from the relevant authorities to build a fully integrated walkway along the coastal strip of the area.

He revealed that efforts are also underway to allocate land for a car repair center and a bank branch, adding that all necessary procedures have been completed to establish a new gas branch to serve the area's residents.

Development Projects

Al-Daihani emphasized that the board is working based on a comprehensive vision that combines financial, service, and social development, indicating that the upcoming period will witness further development projects aimed at serving the residents of the area.



Al-Daihani



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KUNA photo  
KUNA launches training course presented by senior KUNA editor Mohammad Abu Bakr.

KUNA concludes website news editing training

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Center for the Development of Media concluded on Thursday a training course on website news editing.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Ministry of Education has called on its Kuwaiti employees who receive social allowance to update their information online through the ministry's official website under the Administrative Services section, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the update

The course was presented by senior KUNA editor Mohammad Abu Bakr and focused 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. (KUNA)

can be completed by filling out the designated form available at <https://eservices.moe.edu.kw/>. The update period will remain open until November 30.

The ministry affirmed the importance of completing the process within the specified timeframe to ensure procedures are carried out in accordance with applicable regulations.

MoE launches online data update





Photos during a high-level visit by a Qatar Foundation delegation.

Dr. Al-Ashwal hails progress in Kuwait’s research and innovation ecosystem

# KFAS, Qatar Foundation explore new avenues for scientific cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announced Wednesday a high-level visit by a Qatar Foundation delegation led by Dr. Hilal Al-Ashwal, Advisor to the Chairperson for Research, Development and Innovation, aimed at strengthening strategic partnerships and exchanging expertise in scientific research, education and innovation.

KFAS said in a press statement the three-day visit included meetings with the Foundations execu-

tive leadership and heads of its affiliated centers, where KFAS strategy to drive sustainable development through investment in science, research and innovation was reviewed.

The two sides discussed a proposed regional agreement to bolster cooperation among research entities in the State of Kuwait and the State of Qatar, exchange expertise and research plans in areas of mutual interest, and examine mechanisms to activate this cooperation.

The program included field



Photos by KFAS Photo during the Qatar Foundation delegation's visit to Sadu House.

visits to several research and academic centers, among them Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Talent and Creativity, Abdullah Al-Salem University, The Scientific Center, Kuwait University, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Dasman Diabetes Institute, in addition to Sadu House.

KFAS affirmed that cooperation with Qatar Foundation reflects a shared vision of investing in science and knowledge and lays the groundwork for a new phase of regional partnership in innovation,

research and education.

The statement quoted Dr. Al-Ashwal as praising the progress he witnessed in Kuwait’s research and innovation ecosystem, affirming that synergy between the two institutions will help build a regional research network that benefits the wider region.

The visit concluded with a coordination meeting that agreed on preparing a joint work plan for the coming phase, to include shared research initiatives and co-developed development programs.

Continued from Page 1

## PACI rolls

Recent Electricity Bill: A bill issued within the last month to confirm active residency.

Declaration of Accuracy: A signed statement confirming the correctness of the submitted data.

Proof of Identity: A copy of the tenant’s passport for identity verification.

3. When the Property Is Under a Mortgage

This applies to properties currently under mortgage and requires coordination between the tenant and the lending bank.

Required documents:

Property Deed Copy: A clear copy of the property ownership deed registered in the mortgagor’s name, including the deed number and the full automated property number.

Bank Authorization Letter: An official letter from the mortgage bank granting approval to proceed with updating the property data.

Declaration of Accuracy: A signed statement attesting to the accuracy of all submitted information.

Proof of Identity: A copy of the tenant’s valid passport for verification.

PACI underscored the importance of keeping residential information accurate and up to date, stressing that doing so helps tenants and property owners access housing and civic services without interruption. The authority also warned that outdated or incorrect data may lead to legal complications or service delays.

Applicants are advised to carry the original versions of all documents for verification purposes when submitting their requests at PACI centers.

described the amendment as a major step toward faster justice.

He stressed that minor cases make up more than half of the cases reviewed annually, and digitizing them will greatly reduce the burden on judges while saving time and resources.

Lawyer Al-Wawan emphasized that the digital transition must be supported by strengthened legal guarantees, especially proper electronic notification and allowing defendants to file objections electronically within the legal timeframe.

**Preventing manipulation**

Lawyer Abdullah Al-Alanda highlighted that the success of this initiative depends on a strong technical infrastructure and secure data encryption to ensure the accuracy and safety of procedures.

He said verified electronic records will prevent tampering or errors in rulings, stressing the importance of properly managing and disposing of confiscated illegal items when no longer needed.

**Four types of cases covered**

Lawyer Dr. Faisal Al-Basman explained that the digital system will apply to cases that do not require courtroom hearings or the physical presence of the parties. These include four categories:

1. Minor traffic violations, such as speeding or parking in unauthorized areas
2. Small financial misdemeanors, like issuing a cheque without sufficient funds for limited amounts
3. Administrative and municipal violations, including unlicensed construction or encroachment on state-owned land
4. Minor commercial fraud and environmental violations punishable only by fines

book fairs in 2024, which displayed hundreds of thousands of political, economic and social books and attracted more than 5.5 million visitors, as clear-cut evidence of growing Gulf cultural status and influential role in promoting global cultural communication.

The GCC chief hoped that this Kuwait-hosted gathering would contribute to pushing forward common Gulf action.

## Kuwait to

He pointed out that the completion of this project is the result of continuous efforts for four years. “These efforts culminate in the official opening of the runway at the end of this month. It will greatly contribute to the safety and security of landing and takeoff traffic, including the development of the operational capacity of the airport,” he added.

He said the new control tower, which will be inaugurated simultaneously with the third runway, is an integral part of the comprehensive development of the airport infrastructure. “It is equipped with the latest air navigation systems and globally approved air monitoring technologies to guarantee safety and air navigation standards, while enabling efficient air traffic management for jumbo jets, cargo, passenger and private aircraft,” he elaborated.

He added these projects will improve operational efficiency and increase the capacity of the airport. He expects the control tower to handle more than 600,000 takeoffs and landings annually, which will result in increased revenues and stimulate economic activity related to air transport.

He stated that the DGCA has an integrated strategy based on these main objectives – improving services provided to passengers through infrastructure development and increasing revenues for the State through partnerships with the private sector, given that modern airports have become major investment and economic platforms, not merely gateways for travel.

According to Al-Otaibi, the strategy includes developing and qualifying nationals through training programs in the fields of air navigation, ground operations and technical services, in addition to enhancing the operational efficiency and coordinating with entities operating at the airport, such as airlines, ground service providers and relevant government agencies.

## Kuwait calls

the remarks while addressing the 29th meeting of the GCC Minister of Culture, held in Kuwait under his chairmanship.

He said that this integration reflects the GCC system’s firm status and promotes the rule of Gulf culture in addressing the latest developments and challenges.

He added that the GCC, under such circumstances, marks a model of unity, solidarity, integrity and togetherness as the core pillar of Gulf development and prosperity.

“Culture represents one of the central points of our soft power and effective tool in building people-to-people bridges and translation of our values and identity into an influential cultural discourse that promotes dialogue, understanding and peace and deepens fraternal bonds between our countries first and then between our countries and the entire world,” he added.

The minister boasted that Kuwait has been named Capital of Arab Culture and Media for 2025 as some sort of honoring and national responsibility that reflects Kuwait’s pioneering status and role in supporting joint Arab cultural action.

He considered cultural and political integration a significant addition to establishing Gulf identity and promoting it worldwide in a civilized honorable manner.

The Kuwaiti information minister hoped that this meeting would be an opportunity to complete the gains of previous gatherings and to launch fresh initiatives aiming at widening prospects of regional and international cooperation.

For his part, GCC Secretary-General Jassem Al-Budaiwi thanked and appreciated the State of Kuwait for hosting this pan-Gulf gathering, as well as its relentless support for the GCC system.

He boasted that the GCC has achieved great and various accomplishments under the direction of GCC leaders, calling for doubling efforts to fulfill the hopes and expectations of the Gulf people.

He added that Gulf culture and heritage mark the essence of Gulf identity and vivid memory as the core pillar of Gulf strength and resolve to build a prosperous present and brighter future for generations to come.

He cited the GCC hosting of over 8,000 publishers during international

## UN expert

This institutional development proves its ability to rapidly adopt global regulatory frameworks.”

She cited the development plan of Kuwait, which is in line with the UN 2030 Agenda, including efforts to diversify the economy by developing non-oil economic sectors and improving citizens’ living standards while preserving the values of Kuwaiti identity.

She praised as well the efforts of Kuwait to uphold human rights in the financial sector by applying the guiding principles of financial legitimacy like accountability, transparency, responsibility, efficiency, effectiveness, fairness and justice. “By combining spiritual values with institutional mechanisms, this system has been able to provide both domestic and international assistance. It plays a fundamental role in reducing poverty, promoting social solidarity, and achieving international human rights goals,” she explained.

She urged the concerned authorities to continue the current efforts to strengthen national financial transparency frameworks, including anti-money laundering. She also encouraged Kuwait to continue sharing information across borders, particularly in the context of investigations into illicit financial flows, as well as the Kuwaiti approach in supporting the development of a global financial framework.

She confirmed that she will submit her full report to the Human Rights Council at its 61st session in March 2026.

## Experts highlight

**Faster case resolution**

Lawyer Abdulmohsen Al-Qattan said the amendment aims to speed up the resolution of minor cases, ease the burden on courts, simplify procedures, and improve the efficiency of justice.

He pointed out that the decision also supports replacing paper files with a secure digital system, ensuring higher judicial efficiency, easier electronic case tracking, increased transparency, and fewer chances of error.

**Saving time and effort**

Lawyer Jarrah Mubarak Al-Wawan

# Kuwait nods KD5.3b power cable projects

Four governorates to benefit from upgrade

**By Mohammad Ghanem**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy recently obtained approval from the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award two tenders for the extension and welding of medium-voltage underground cables in four governorates to bidders who met the conditions and specifications at a total cost of KD5.3 billion, say sources from the ministry.**



People visit the Gulf International Jewelry Fair (GIJF) in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait on Oct. 7, 2025. The GIJF opened Tuesday and will last until Oct. 12. (Xinhua)

Sources said one of the tenders is for the extension of cables in Jahra and Farwaniya governorates at a total cost of KD2.6 billion, while the other is for the extension of cables in Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorates at a total cost of KD2.7 billion.

The ministry indicated that based on the approval of CAPT, the ministry will refer the tender documents to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for

review, and will soon approve the contracting of the two winning bids.

Sources pointed out that the two tenders are part of the ongoing efforts of the ministry to expand the electricity distribution network responsible for transmitting electricity from the main stations to homes through secondary transformer stations and their associated cables. They stated that the extension work planned for the two tenders will enable the ministry to provide electricity continuously and meet the increasing demand for energy resulting from urban expansion in the four

governorates.

On the other hand, according to a report from the ministry, the number of its Kuwaiti employees with postgraduate degrees increased by 50 from January to August last year. At the beginning of the period, the number of such employees was 540 -- 537 Kuwaitis and three non-Kuwaitis. This number has increased to 590 -- 587 Kuwaitis and three non-Kuwaitis.

It is worth noting that the total number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees in the ministry reached 36,467.

## Khalidiya diwaniya empowers Down syndrome youth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Kuwait Down Syndrome Society has launched the “Youth Diwaniya” at its headquarters in Khalidiya, as part of its ongoing efforts to empower young people with Down syndrome and support their integration into society, reports

Al-Seyassah daily.

The diwaniya aims to provide a safe space for youth to express themselves and develop their social and cultural skills through gatherings, activities, and dialogue programs.

Vice Chair of the society Maryam Al-

Kandari said the opening of the diwaniya promotes the independence of youth with Down syndrome and encourages their active participation in community life. She reaffirmed the society’s keenness to continue launching such initiatives that benefit its members.

Gulf Group stresses rule of law globally

## Kuwait highlights justice, transparency at forum

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (KUNA): The Gulf Group at the United Nations (UN) said that the rule of law at both national and international levels is the basis of inter-state relations and essential guarantee of peace, security, development and respect of human rights.

This came in a speech delivered by Kuwaiti Diplomatic Attache Faisal Al-Fowzan late Wednesday on behalf of the Gulf Group at the Sixth Committee under the item entitled: The rule of law at the national and international levels.

He added that the GCC countries underline that the international order should be based on clear-cut and agreed rules, rather than selectivity and double standards, with a view to promoting international justice and equality.

He welcomed the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ recent report about the promotion of the secu-

city system in the field of the rule of law, calling for capitalizing on modern technologies and digital transition in ensuring transparency, accountability and justice.

At the national level, Al-Fozan affirmed that the GCC countries attach paramount significance to the development of their legislation and judicial establishments in a way that aligns with international commitments.

In this regard, the Kuwaiti diplomat noted that joint efforts had led to the conclusion of pan-Gulf agreement in the areas of justice, economy and environment, and contributed to boosting the efficiency of legal systems, principles of justice and rule of law.

He added that the GCC countries had continued working for empowering women, promoting judicial independence and upgrading legislative systems only out of their commitment

to the principles of good governance, equality and equal opportunities.

Internationally, Al-Fozan reiterated the GCC countries’ unwavering support for bolstering international justice and rejecting any breach of international law and UN Charter principles.

He reaffirmed the GCC countries’ observation of international law, multilateralism and International Court of Justice (ICJ) verdicts as the primary tool of settling disputes by peaceful means.

He, further, emphatically condemned the recent Israeli occupation attack on Qatar as a blatant violation of its sovereignty, territorial integrity and international justice principles.

He also voiced the Gulf group’s denunciation of Israeli occupying forces’ policies and practices of starvation, displacement and genocide against the Palestinian people.



## Lack of trust making it harder to end govt shutdown: frustrated lawmakers

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (AP): A president looking to seize power beyond the executive branch. A Congress controlled by Republican lawmakers unwilling to directly defy him. And a minority party looking for any way to fight back.

The dynamic left Washington in a stalemate Thursday - the ninth day of the government shutdown - and lawmakers openly venting their frustration as they tried to gain traction without the trust that is typically the foundation of any bipartisan deal.

"To have good-faith conversations, you have to have trust. There's a real challenge of trust," said Rep. Brad Schneider, chair of the New Democratic Coalition, a pragmatic group of House Democrats.

Groups of lawmakers - huddled over dinners, on phone calls, and in private meetings - have tried to brainstorm ways out of the standoff that has shuttered government offices, kept hundreds of thousands of federal employees at home and threatened to leave them without a scheduled payday. But lawmakers have found themselves running



US Rep Michael Lawler, R-NY, (left), confronts House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-NY, in a heated discussion to endorse House bill H.R.5145 that would extend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 at the US Capitol on Oct 8, in Washington. (AP)

up against the reality that the relationship between the two parties is badly broken.

"We're in an environment where we need more than a handshake," said Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat who has engaged in talks

with Republicans.

President Donald Trump and Republicans have so far held to the stance that they will only negotiate on Democratic demands around health care benefits after they vote to reopen the government.

## Trump says Illinois gov, Chicago mayor should be jailed as they oppose troops deployment

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (AP): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the Illinois governor and Chicago mayor should be jailed as they oppose his deployment of National Guard troops for his immigration and crime crackdown in the nation's third-largest city. The officials said they would not be deterred.

The Republican president made the comment in a social media post, the latest example of his brazen calls for his Democratic opponents to be prosecuted or locked up - a break from long-time norms as the Justice Department traditionally has strived to maintain its independence from the White House.

Trump wrote on Truth Social that Mayor Brandon Johnson and Gov. JB Pritzker "should be in jail for failing to protect Ice Officers!" It was a reference to the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

It was not immediately clear what Trump was objecting to.

Johnson, in a post on X, said, "This is not the first time Trump has tried to have a Black man unjustly arrested. I'm not going anywhere." Pritzker, also on X, said, "I will not back down. Trump is now calling for the arrest of elected representatives checking his power. What else is left on the path to



Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, speaks at a news conference in Chicago on Oct 6. (AP)

full-blown authoritarianism?"

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson, when asked what crimes the president believed Pritzker and Johnson had committed, failed to identify any, but she said they "have blood on their hands" and pointed to Chicago Police Department reports that at least five people were killed and 25 shot over the weekend.

"Instead of taking action to stop the crime, these Trump-Deranged buffoons would rather allow the violence to continue and attack the President for wanting to help make their city safe again," Jackson said.

National Guard troops from Texas are positioned outside Chicago, despite a lawsuit by the state and city to block the deployment.

### White House says fee won't apply to existing visa holders

## \$100,000 H-1B visa fee threatens rural schools, hospitals reliant on immigrant workers

SIOUX FALLS, SD, Oct 9, (AP): When Rob Coverdale started his job in 2023 as superintendent of the K-12 Crow Creek Tribal School in South Dakota, there were 15 unfilled teaching positions.

Within nine months, he had filled those vacancies with Filipino teachers, the majority of whom arrived on the H-1B, a visa for skilled workers in specialty occupations.

"We've hired the H-1B teachers because we quite simply didn't have other applicants for those positions," Coverdale said. "So they're certainly not taking jobs from Americans. They're filling jobs that otherwise just simply we would not get filled."

Now a new \$100,000 fee for H-1B visa applications spells trouble for those like Coverdale in rural parts of the country who rely on immigrants to fill vacancies in skilled professions like education and health care.

The Trump administration announced the fee on Sept 19, arguing that employers were replacing American workers with cheaper talent from overseas. Since then, the White House has said the fee won't apply to existing visa holders and offered a form to request exemptions from the charge.

H-1Bs are primarily associated with tech workers from India. Big tech companies are the biggest user of the visa, and nearly three-quarters of those approved are from India. But there are critical workers, like teachers and doctors, who fall outside that category.

Over the last decade, the US has faced a shortage in those and other sectors. One in eight public school positions are vacant or filled by uncertified teachers, and the American Medical Association projects a shortage of 87,000 physicians in the next decade. The shortages are often worse in small, rural communities that struggle to fill jobs due to lower wages and often lack basic necessities like shopping and home rental options.

H-1B and J-1 visas provide communities an option to hire immigrants with advanced training and certification. The J-1s are short-term visas for cultural exchange programs that aren't subject to the new fee but, unlike the H-1B, don't offer a pathway to permanent residency.

While large companies may be able to absorb the new fee, that's not an option



The Crow Creek Tribal School system is marked by a sign in Stephan, SD on Feb 7. (AP)

for most rural communities, said Melissa Sadorf, executive director of the National Rural Education Association.

"It really is potentially the cost of the salary and benefits of one teacher, maybe even two, depending on the state," she said. "Attaching that price tag to a single hire, it just simply puts that position out of reach for rural budgets."

A coalition of health care providers, religious groups and educators filed a lawsuit on Friday to stop the H-1B fee, saying it would harm hospitals, churches, schools and industries that rely on the visa. The Department of Homeland Security declined to comment and referred a query to its website.

Coverdale said spots like Stephan, where Crow Creek is based, struggle to attract workers in part because of their isolation. Stephan is nearly an hour's drive from the nearest Walmart or any place that sells clothes, he said.

"The more remote you are, the more challenging it is for your staff members to get to your school and serve your kids," he said.

Among Coverdale's hires is Mary Joy Ponce-Torres, who had 24 years of teaching experience in the Philippines and now teaches history at Crow Creek. It was a cultural adjustment, but Ponce-Torres said she's made friends and Stephan is now a second home.

"I came from a private school," she said. "When I came here, I saw it was more like a rural area ... but maybe I was also looking for the same vibe, the same atmosphere where I can just take my time, take things in a much slower pace."

Many immigrants like Ponce-Torres leave their family behind to pursue the experience and higher wages that a US job can provide.

Sean Rickert, superintendent of the Pima Unified School District in Pima, Arizona, said he would stop seeking H-1B teachers if the new fee is imposed. "I just plain don't have the money," he said.

Though schools can also use J-1 visas to bring in immigrant teachers, it increases turnover because it is shorter term.

"It's so important that we find permanent people, people who can buy homes, who can become part of our community," said George Shipley, superintendent at Bison Schools in the town of Bison, South Dakota. "So the H-1B opens that possibility. It is super important, in my opinion, to actually transition from the J-1 visas to the H-1B."

Without enough staff, schools may hire uncertified teachers, combine classes, increase caseloads for special education managers or drop some course offerings. Shipley said any future shortage of teachers in Bison would force some classes to move online.

The rural reliance on immigrant teachers is concentrated on harder-to-fill specialties, Sadorf said.

"It's a lot more difficult to find a high school advanced math teacher that's qualified than it is to fill a second or third grade elementary class position," she said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, (background center), attends the Russian Tajikistan's talks with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, (third from right back to a camera), at the Palace of the Nation in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on Oct 9. (AP)

### Russian defenses responsible for Azerbaijani jet crash last year: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia's air defense was to blame for downing an Azerbaijani jetliner in December that killed 38 people, his first admission of responsibility for the crash in an apparent bid to ease tensions between the neighbors.

Putin said the missiles fired by Russian air defenses to target a Ukrainian drone exploded near the Azerbaijani Airlines plane flying from Baku as it was preparing

to land in Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, on Dec. 25, 2024. Ukrainian drones have regularly struck deep inside Russia.

Speaking at a meeting with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Tajikistan's capital of Dushanbe, where both arrived to attend a summit of the former Soviet nations, Putin pledged to punish those responsible and provide compensation for the victims. (AP)

## French prez to name new PM within 48 hours after deepening political crisis

PARIS, Oct 9, (AP): French President Emmanuel Macron said Wednesday that he will name a new prime minister in the next 48 hours, for now rejecting other options in the face of a political storm.

The naming of a replacement for outgoing Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu, who abruptly resigned on Monday, will - at least for now - move France away from the likelihood of snap legislative elections, another possibility that is available to the French leader but which could plunge the European Union's second-largest economy into even greater uncertainty.

The announcement from Macron's office of a prime ministerial appointment before the weekend came after Lecornu - at the president's request - spent the two days after his resignation taking the temperature in Parliament, to see whether there was enough support in the powerful but fractured lower house to form a new government.

Lecornu concluded that there was, even though Macron's camp and its allies don't have a majority in the National Assembly and the French leader's prime ministerial appointments, leading minority governments, have tumbled one after another in quick suc-



French socialist party secretary general Olivier Faure, (right), with Boris Vallaud, (left), president of the socialist parliament members at the National Assembly, and socialist mayor of Nantes Johanna Rolland, answers reporters after a meeting with outgoing Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu on Oct 8 in Paris. (AP)

cession over the past year.

The presidential statement said that in the wake of his talks with political parties, Lecornu determined that a majority of National Assembly lawmakers don't want snap legislative elections and that it's "possible" that

they could agree on a 2026 budget for France by the end of the year.

"On this basis, the president of the Republic will name a prime minister within 48 hours," the statement said, without a hint of who Macron will choose.

## EU's chief Ursula Von der Leyen easily survives 2 more no confidence votes

BRUSSELS, Oct 9, (AP): The European Union's top official comfortably survived on Thursday two more votes of no confidence, as an overwhelming number of EU lawmakers rejected censure motions against her.

In the votes on European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, 378 lawmakers rejected a far-right censure motion, with 179 in favor and 37 abstaining. On a far-left motion, 383 lawmakers voted against, with 133 in support and 78 abstentions.

Von der Leyen has now survived three no confidence votes in a year since beginning her second 5-year term at the helm of the EU's powerful executive branch. She is the first commission chief to face any such votes in more than a decade.

The commission proposes EU laws and supervises whether those that enter into force are respected. It also manages trade on behalf of the 27 member countries and is Europe's top competition regulator.

The nationalist Patriots for Europe political group insists that migration "has exploded" under von der Leyen's leadership and threatens "our iden-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, (center), poses with, from left, Cabo Verde's Prime Minister Jose Ulisses Correia e Silva, Angola's President Joao Lourenco, Guatemala's President Bernardo Arevalo de Leon, Ethiopia's President Taye Atske Selassie Amde, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa and Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan during a group photo at the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels on Oct 9. (AP)

tity and security." Its members say she abandoned farmers and consumers, jeopardizing food safety with pro-environment policies.

The Left group blames her for "signing off on a number of detrimental

trade deals" and failing "to act against the Israeli government's systemic violations of international law in Gaza."

But von der Leyen was backed by the big pro-European centrist groups during the votes in Strasbourg, France.

## Pope urges news agencies to stand as bulwark against lies, manipulation and post-truths

VATICAN CITY, Oct 9, (AP): Pope Leo XIV encouraged international news agencies on Thursday to stand firm as a bulwark against the "ancient art of lying" and manipulation, as he strongly backed a free, independent and objective press.

History's first American pope called for imprisoned journalists to be released and said the work of journalists must never be considered a crime. Rather, journalism is a right and a pillar upholding "the edifice of our societies" that must be protected and defended, he said.

"If today we know what is happening in Gaza, Ukraine and every other land bloodied by bombs, we largely owe it to them," Leo said of journalists. "These extraordinary eyewitness accounts are the culmination of the daily efforts of countless people who work to ensure that information is not manipulated for ends that are contrary to truth and human dignity."

Leo's comments came in a speech to executives of international news agencies belonging to MINDS International, a consortium of leading agencies including The Associated Press.

In his five months as pope, the Chicago-born Leo has spoken often strongly on the need to protect freedom of expression and the rights of journalists. In his first meeting with reporters right after his election, Leo called for the release of imprisoned journalists and affirmed the "precious gift of free speech and the press."

More recently, he insisted that journalism was "not only an act of justice, but a duty of all those who long for a solid and participatory democracy." In a letter to a crusading Peruvian journalist repeatedly sued for her work, Leo affirmed the freedom of the press was an "inalienable



Pope Leo XIV holds his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican on Oct 8. (AP)

common good."

On Thursday, he strongly encouraged news agencies amid a double crisis they are facing, with economic pressures threatening their survival and consumers increasingly unable to distinguish truth from lies.

"I urge you: Never sell out your authority!" Leo said.

He quoted Hannah Arendt's "The Origins of Totalitarianism" in asserting that the world needs free and objective information. He cited her warning that "the ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction and the distinction between true and false no longer exist."



Modi inaugurates second international airport for Mumbai

India, Australia sign security deal that includes military talks and submarine cooperation

MELBOURNE, Australia, Oct 9, (AP): Australian and Indian defense ministers signed a new bilateral security deal Thursday that Australia said upholds Indo-Pacific stability.

Rajnath Singh has become the first Indian defense minister to visit Australia since 2013, his Australian counterpart Richard Marles said.

“Australia and India are top-tier security partners and our defense cooperation delivers practical effects to uphold Indo-Pacific stability,” Marles’ office said in a statement.

Marles and Singh signed an agreement that included establishing a forum for joint staff talks between the two militaries and submarine rescue cooperation.

“The bilateral arrangements that will be signed today reflect the significant growth in our defense partnership and our shared ambition for its future,” Marles said before the signing.

Closer defense relations became evident in July when India for the first time participated in the biennial Talisman Sabre multinational military exercises in Australia.

Talisman Sabre began in 2005 as a joint exercise between the United States and Australia. This year, more than 35,000 military personnel from 19 nations took part.

India and Australia are linked with the United States and Japan through an alliance known as the Quad.

The four countries’ foreign minister met in Washington in July and agreed to expand their cooperation on maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

Raji Rajagopalan, a senior fellow at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute think tank, said Singh’s visit to Australia was “highly significant” both symbolically and in practical value.

While an Indian defense minister had not visited Australia in 12 years, Marles had visited India for high-level meetings several times, she said.

Rajagopalan said India used such bilateral relationships to play a part in the



India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, (center), walks with his Australian counterpart Richard Marles, (left), at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia on Oct 9. (AP)

strategic struggle between China and the United States in the Indo-Pacific.

“There is a lot of historical hesitancy that continues to influence how far India wants to get close to the US. But India is also pragmatic in recognizing that if China is India’s number one national security problem, it (India) also needs to

work with the US to manage the China problem,” Rajagopalan said.

“If India is sensitive about US-India relations and getting close to the US as a security partner, I think multilateralism and Quad also offer India some sort of a middle path in a sense. So India is not just working with the US, but working also with other partners; with Japan, with Australia, with France and other countries. It does give India a little bit more maneuverability in terms of strategic spacing and managing relationships,” she added.

Australia has been building bilateral security ties with its South Pacific island neighbors. Australia on Monday signed a defense treaty with Papua New Guinea that will integrate the nations’ defenses. It is Australia’s only alliance-level security pact other than the ANZUS Treaty signed with the United States and New Zealand in 1951.

Also:

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new international airport in India’s financial capital, Mumbai, on Wednesday, marking a step forward in expansion of the country’s fast-growing aviation network.

Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to begin operating in December and will make Mumbai the only metropolitan area in the world’s most populous country to have a second international airport. It aims to become a key passenger and cargo hub in Asia and to help ease congestion at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, one of the country’s busiest.

The airport built by the Adani Group for an estimated \$2.2 billion is the latest project underscoring India’s push to modernize infrastructure and strengthen air connectivity as its economy grows and air travels surge.

Over the past decade, the government has opened and upgraded dozens of airports to link smaller cities and improve cargo movement, aiming to make air travel a key driver of economic growth. The number of airports in the country has increased to 160 from 74 in 2014, official data show.

North Korea’s ruling party turns 80 with foreign leaders in attendance

BEIJING, Oct 9, (AP): North Korea is celebrating Friday the 80th anniversary of the ruling party and different foreign dignitaries and leaders will be part of the commemoration.

The Workers’ Party celebrations will serve to show once again how North Korea is trying to shore up its relations with some key global players and allies, such as China and Russia, who are sending high-level representatives.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has had in China his most important ally, and in recent years he has also built ties with Russia, a country North Korea has helped by sending troops to participate in its war against Ukraine.

In September, Kim Jong Un stood next to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin as part of a visit to Beijing to attend a massive military parade marking the end of the World War II.

The plans of what will happen during the commemoration have not been revealed, but some foreign leaders have started arriving.

Here’s a view of some of the leaders and high-level representatives that are expected to attend:

Premier Li Qiang arrived Thursday in Pyongyang, North Korea’s capital, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Li’s presence is the highest-level



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (second left), and Vietnamese General Secretary of Communist Party To Lam, (third left), review honor guards during a welcome ceremony for Lam’s state visit in Pyongyang, North Korea on Oct 9. (AP)

visit by a Chinese leader since 2019. He is one of seven members of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party’s Politburo, the apex of power in China.

As premier, he is generally considered the No. 2 leader in China after President Xi Jinping. Li has been representing China on more foreign trips and high-level events recently, including the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Russia is sending Dmitry Medvedev, the former Russian president who serves as deputy head of the Security Council chaired by Putin, to this week’s anniversary celebrations, North Korea’s official KCNA news agency said Monday.

North Korea has been expanding cooperation with Russia, another neighbor to China. It has supplied combat troops and ammunition to support Russia’s war against Ukraine.

DR Congo govt reaffirms commitment to political solution to conflict with M23

KINSHASA, Oct 9, (Xinhua): The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains firmly committed to seeking a political and diplomatic solution to the conflict in the country’s eastern provinces, a senior official said late Wednesday.

Speaking at a press briefing, minister of Communication and Media and government spokesperson, Patrick Muyaya, said that, as part of the ongoing peace process, a dialogue between security experts representing the DRC government and representatives of the March 23 Movement (M23) rebel group will resume “in the coming days” in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

“These discussions aim to advance the conclusion of the peace agreement planned in Doha,” he said, adding that the talks will focus on ceasefire mechanisms and confidence-building measures, including humanitarian issues and the release of detainees, under the facilitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In July, Kinshasa and the M23 signed in Doha the Declaration of Principles, a roadmap calling for the



Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo addresses the audience during the Global Gateway Forum in Brussels on Oct 9. (AP)

launch of negotiations no later than Aug. 8 and the conclusion of a peace accord before Aug. 18, a timetable that

has already lapsed.

Since January, the M23 has seized several key cities, including Goma and Bukavu, worsening an already dire humanitarian crisis. According to the United Nations, more than 27.8 million people in the DRC face food insecurity, while over 7 million are internally displaced, many of them multiple times. Enditem

Also:

**KIGALI:** More Rwandan refugees returned home from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on Wednesday with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), authorities said.

A total of 382 Rwandans were repatriated through the La Corniche border post in Rubavu District, the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management said in a statement.

The returnees were transported to the Nyarushishi Transit Center in western Rusizi District, where they will be sheltered while undergoing repatriation procedures.

Number of kids in Haiti displaced by violence nearly doubles: UNICEF

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Oct 9, (AP): The number of children displaced by violence in Haiti has nearly doubled to 680,000, according to a new UNICEF report released Wednesday that warns minors are increasingly facing hunger, violence and recruitment by armed groups in the Caribbean nation.

Overall, around 6 million Haitians - half the country’s population - need humanitarian assistance, including more than 3.3 million children, UNICEF said.

“Without decisive action, the future of an entire generation is at stake,” the report stated.

Gang violence has displaced a record 1.3 million Haitians in recent years, with many cramming into makeshift shelters after their communities were razed.

The number of such shelters has doubled countrywide to 246 in the first six months of the year, according to the report. Of those, more than 30% lack infrastructure that would provide basic protection.

Many of the shelters are located in dangerous areas, with gangs controlling up to 90% of Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital.



Children look at students attending school at a shelter for families displaced by gang violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Oct 7. (AP)

“In many areas, aid workers cannot safely reach communities, and families cannot travel to clinics, food distribution points or schools,” the report noted.

About 5.7 million people, including more than 1 million children, are facing acute hunger.

“This has to change,” said Geraldine

Matha-Pierre, mother of two boys, ages 13 and 15. “I’m hungry. My kids are hungry.”

They have been living in a shelter for the past two years after gangs raided their community, and Matha-Pierre often calls friends to see if they have any food they can send over.

Asia

Typhoon hits Japanese islands south of Tokyo:

Heavy rain from a typhoon on Thursday battered a chain of Japanese islands south of Tokyo and the government urged residents to watch for landslides and flooding.

Kyodo news agency reported there has been record rainfall in parts of the Izu island chain located 280 kilometers (174 miles) south of the Japanese capital.

Hundreds of people took refuge at evacuation centers. One man died after being swept away by waves while fishing in Oiso, Kanagawa prefecture, on the main Japanese island of Honshu.

Japan’s weather agency issued a heavy rain emergency warning for parts of the Izu island chain south of Tokyo.

The most severe weather alert covered Hachijo Island, some 280 km south of Tokyo, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said, warning about life-threatening conditions and calling on people in Hachijo to evacuate immediately for their safety. (Agencies)

**Quake hits China’s Sichuan:** No casualties or significant damage to homes have been reported after a 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck the county of Xinlong in the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC), the earthquake struck at 1:17 pm on Thursday at a depth of 10 kilometers.

Local authorities have said that critical infrastructure, including power, transportation and communication infrastructure, remain normal in areas near the epicenter. The provincial emergency management and earth-



This image from a video released by Tokyo Metropolitan Government Bureau of Port and Harbor shows waves hitting the shore of Kaminato Port in Hachijo Island, south of Tokyo Japan on Oct 9. (AP)

quake administrations have dispatched teams to conduct on-site investigations. (Xinhua)

**Death toll in Philippine quake rises to 74:** Emergency workers retrieved two more bodies from the ruins of the 6.9-magnitude earthquake that struck the central Philippines on Sept. 30, bringing the death toll to 74, the Philippines’ highest body for disaster risk reduction and management reported on Thursday.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) further reported that 559 people have been injured in the 5-km-deep, offshore quake that hit Cebu province.

The tremor has affected more than 189,000 families, or approximately 666,000 villagers, and caused widespread damage to infrastructure, homes, and businesses. (Xinhua)

US strike in Caribbean may have killed Colombian citizens, says president

BOGOTA, Colombia, Oct 9, (AP): Colombia’s President Gustavo Petro said Wednesday there were “signs” that Colombian citizens were killed in the last small boat attacked by the US military off the coast of Venezuela.

“A new front in the war has opened: the Caribbean,” Petro wrote on the social platform X. “Signs show that the last bombed boat was Colombian with Colombian citizens aboard.”

He did not provide any explanation for what those signs were. “I hope that their families come forward and report it,” he added.

Neither Petro’s office nor Colombia’s Defense Ministry responded immediately to requests for additional information.

The US government also has not identified who was aboard the boat, nor the three boats attacked previously.

Last Friday, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced the strike on a small boat he accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela. He said the strike killed four men but offered no details on who they were or what group they belonged to.

The first military strike was carried out on Sept 2 on what the Trump administration said was a drug-carrying speedboat, killing



A supporter of Colombian President Gustavo Petro attends a rally, ahead of Petro’s first appearance since the United States revoked his visa, in Ibague, Colombia on Oct. 3. (AP)

11. US President Donald Trump claimed the boat was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang, which started in Venezuela’s prisons and was listed by the US as foreign terrorist organization earlier this year.

Then, on Sept 15, Trump announced the US military had carried out a strike on a boat allegedly carrying drugs from Venezuela. That strike also killed three on board.

On Sept 19, Trump in a social media posting said another strike was carried out against a vessel “affiliated with a Designated Terrorist Organization conducting narcotraf-ficking in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility” and killed three.

Trump has told US lawmakers he was treating drug traffickers as unlawful combatants and military force was required to combat them.

Costa Rica nominates ex-vice president Rebecca Grynspan to lead United Nations

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Oct 9, (AP): Costa Rica put forward Wednesday longtime diplomat and former Vice President Rebeca Grynspan as a candidate to be the next secretary-general of the United Nations.

The economist is currently the secretary-general of UN Trade and Development in Geneva.

She was a major player in the UN effort to ship Ukrainian and Russian grains to global markets at the start of the war in Ukraine and outgoing Secretary-General António Guterres designated her as the senior U.N. official to deal with the Russians.

“This candidacy will be formally registered at the United Nations in the coming weeks,” Costa Rica President Rodrigo Chaves said in a video message Wednesday. “We trust that the career and commitment of Rebeca Grynspan, who has very broad experience in issues of development, international cooperation and regional leadership, will significantly contribute to strengthening multilateralism.”

Speaking at a news conference in San Jose on Wednesday, Grynspan said she would campaign for the position, capitalizing on being well known in diplomatic circles. She also acknowledged that there would be competition for the position, including



Former vice president Rebeca Grynspan gives a press conference in San Jose, Costa Rica on Oct 8. (AP)

from within Latin America.

“I know the United Nations well, I know it well enough to reform it and well enough to defend it,” Grynspan said. “The United Nations requires both things. Right now, being a multilateralist means being a reformer.”

Grynspan served as Costa Rica’s vice president in the administration of ex-President José María Figueres

(1994-1998) and later worked in various multilateral organizations.

Guterres’ term ends Dec 31, 2026, and the process to replace him will run through the final quarter of 2026. Changes have been made in recent years to make the selection process more transparent, including public discussions with the candidates and a series of straw polls to measure support before a formal resolution.



Kuwait crude oil rises to \$67.08 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil edged 19 cents higher during Wednesday’s trading to reach USD 67.08 per barrel compared with US 66.89 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum

Corporation (KPC) said Thursday. Brent future rose 80 cents to USD 66.25 pb and West Texas Intermediate up 82 cents to USD 62.55 pb.

Business

In partnership with the Lebanese Embassy

AAW and Cura Health donate medical equipment to Lebanon

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), together with its subsidiary Cura Health, announced the donation of medical equipment and supplies to the Government of Lebanon. This contribution is aimed at increasing the medical response capacity of the Lebanese Ministry of Defense, as part of an initiative to strengthen public healthcare services during emergencies and natural disasters.

The announcement was made at a meeting between AAW Chairman and CEO, Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa and the Minister of Defense of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Mounsef, during his recent visit to Kuwait, along with his accompanying delegation. The meeting was also attended by Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon in the State of Kuwait, Ms. Mia Al Adem,

The donations include a wide range of advanced medical equipment, medical imaging devices, as



Meeting held between AAW chairman and Lebanese Defense Minister accompanied by Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Lebanon in Kuwait.

well as first aid and wound care supplies. All were provided at the ministry’s request to strengthen Lebanon’s healthcare system, equipping it with the necessary tools to save lives and respond quickly to emergencies and disasters.

Mr. Faisal Ali Al Mutawa said: “Lebanon is a country with which we share enduring historical, cultural, and humanitarian ties. Kuwait, through its leadership and people, has consistently supported Lebanon in times of difficulty. This

contribution continues that humanitarian spirit and underscores Kuwait’s commitment to supporting Lebanon.”

Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. has previously contributed to several humanitarian

and healthcare initiatives in Lebanon, most notably its participation earlier this year in the Lebanese Embassy’s campaign in Kuwait, “Kuwait Wants Your Safety” and its donation of medical equipment to the Sibleen Gov-

ernmental Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. The company also continues to support the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon, along with a number of other humanitarian initiatives across the Arab region.



‘Self-financing strategy’

Cabinet approves Zakat House law amendment

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Following the Cabinet’s approval of a draft decree-law to amend Article 4 of Law No. 5/1982 on the establishment of the Zakat House, a new clause has been added to form a committee dedicated to the development and investment of the Zakat House’s financial and real estate portfolio. This committee will have the sole responsibility of preparing strategies and policies for investing the Zakat House’s funds.

Several economists expressed their support for this step, stressing that it will expand the development of all Zakat House investments, and ensure improved returns.

They affirmed that forming such a committee will allow the Zakat House to benefit from investment and real estate opportunities, especially given its local and international capital and investments.

The experts stressed that the committee will work on enhancing returns in ways that comply with Islamic Sharia principles.

Some experts also recommended applying a similar approach to the General Secretariat of Awqaf to better manage its investments and boost its financial returns.

Self-Financing

Economic expert and consultant Mohammed Al-Furaih praised the Cabinet’s approval to form a committee specialized in developing and investing the financial and real estate portfolio of the Zakat House.

He explained that the committee will exclusively prepare strategies and policies for investing these funds, which is an excellent step, as the committee will shape economic policies aimed at growing and investing the Zakat House’s investment portfolio, both financial and real estate, in line with the state’s new policy of self-financing projects. Such new ideas will free the Zakat House from relying on the Ministry of Finance’s support, as investing its funds will generate greater returns, especially since the investments are in the sectors of finance and real estate.

The committee’s responsibilities will include setting investment strategies and policies in line with the principle of self-financing for state institutions.

Amendment to Article 4

Economic expert and former Chair of the Kuwait Contractors Association Dr. Salah Boursali said the government’s approval to amend Article 4 of the Zakat House Law to form an economic committee comprising specialized members to develop its capital will increase financial inflows.

He noted that the Zakat House owns substantial funds that were previously difficult to grow due to restrictive laws limiting its work. This had hindered the development of its financial and real estate investment sectors. With the formation of a committee from the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), the development of the Zakat House’s funds and returns will be guaranteed.

The committee will improve the performance of the real estate sec-

tor since most of the Zakat House’s investment buildings require maintenance and continuous supervision. The committee also aims to demolish old properties and build residential and commercial towers in their place to increase the Zakat House’s returns.

Dr. Boursali affirmed that these new ideas will enable the Zakat House to rationalize spending and carry out all its charitable projects locally and internationally for helping the poor and needy inside and outside Kuwait more effectively.

He suggested implementing a similar step for the General Secretariat of Awqaf, which manages substantial investments, recommending the issuance of a decree similar to the Zakat House’s decree to form a specialized committee to manage the Awqaf’s investments and increase their financial returns.

Investment Development

In a related context, economic expert Nasser Al-Mutairi welcomed the government’s direction to develop all investments of the Zakat House.

He said this approach is in line with the new economic reform era managed through economic visions focused on resource generation.

Al-Mutairi highlighted that the new era is characterized by activity, movement, and a departure from bureaucracy.

He explained that the Zakat House has huge financial surpluses capable of generating millions of dinars annually. Therefore, the government’s approval to form a committee to develop and invest the financial and real estate portfolio will activate the stagnant management of the investment portfolio, benefiting needy and poor people both inside and outside the country. This approach will ensure the Zakat House does not rely on funds from the Ministry of Finance, as the government’s current policy systematically aims to reduce expenses and increase resources.

Al-Mutairi added that developing and expanding the Zakat House’s financial and real estate investment portfolio according to Islamic Sharia principles offers many benefits, primarily because Islamic investments are low-risk. Furthermore, most Kuwaiti banks now operate under Sharia-compliant transactions.

KD 102 million revenues for the Zakat House

On August 17, 2025, a decree was issued to approve the final accounts for 13 entities for the fiscal year 2024/2025, including the Zakat House. The decree indicated that the Zakat House’s revenues amounted to approximately KD 102 million, compared to expenditures of KD 18.6 million.

Funding from government ministries and departments (Ministry of Finance – General Accounts) for the fiscal year 2024/2025 amounted to KD 18.46 million.

The Zakat House was also allocated an annual grant of KD 100,000 from the budget of government ministries and departments (Ministry of Finance – General Accounts) for the fiscal year 2024/2025.

Main Market Index sees modest 0.06% gain

Boursa Kuwait All Share Index falls 0.36%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday’s session with a decline in its All Share Index, which dropped 31.48 points, or 0.36 percent, closing at 8,780.10 points. Trading activity saw 695.9 million shares exchanged across 33,042 transactions, with a total value of KD 126.4 million (USD 385.5 million).

The Main Market Index posted a modest gain of 4.77 points, or 0.06 percent, finishing at 8,428.42 points. This came through 452.6 million shares traded in 22,357 transactions, amounting to KD 59.15 million (USD 180.4 million).

In contrast, the Premier Market Index recorded a drop of 42.08 points, or 0.45 percent, settling at 9,301.65 points. A total of 243.3 million shares were traded in 10,685 transactions, valued at KD 67.3 million (USD 205.2 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index edged up by 0.49 points, or 0.01 percent, closing at 8,744.62 points. Trading on this index involved 255.9 million shares across 11,841 transactions, with a total worth of KD 36.5 million (USD 111.3 million).

Campaign runs from Sept to Nov in two phases

CMA launches awareness campaign for World Investor Week

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has launched a large-scale awareness campaign to mark its fifth participation in the World Investor Week, which started in early September and will continue until the end of November.

The campaign addresses several issues that align with the themes of this year’s event, as determined by the organizing committee of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

It is implemented in two phases: the first -- from Sept 4 to Nov 27 -- focuses on raising awareness on “Sustainable Finance” and “Investment Fundamentals” including simplified explanations of the basic principles. This phase coincides with an awareness campaign addressing the same topic as part of the joint Gulf awareness program, ‘MALAM.’

The second phase, which started on Oct 6 and will conclude at the end of November, is dedicated to the remaining event topics, such as technology and digital finance, artificial intelligence, prevention of financial fraud and scams, crypto-assets and more.

This is the Authority’s fifth participation in the event, which is organized annually by the

international organization in October. CMA first participated in the event in 2021 in line with its commitment to be active in various events and activities of relevant international organizations.

It is worth noting that the World Investor Week is an annual event organized by IOSCO since 2017 with the aim of raising awareness and protecting investors, developing their financial literacy and learning opportunities, and strengthening cooperation among members of the international organization to achieve these goals.

This year’s event (Oct 6-12) -- the ninth initiative of the international organization focuses on several topics as follows:

■ Technology and Digital Finance: The aim is to cover digital tools and platforms available in the world of investment, automated recommendations, and digital interaction tools. It addresses both the advantages and risks, and provides guidance on handling recommendations from financial influencers.

■ Artificial Intelligence: This course aims to raise awareness on AI technologies, their advantages and pitfalls, and considerations when using them to make investment decisions.

■ Financial Fraud: This course aims to raise

awareness on financial fraud practices and methods, especially since the use of AI has become more prevalent in financial transactions, and provides guidance on avoiding scams.

■ Crypto-assets: This course aims to raise awareness on the risks and pitfalls associated with this type of investment opportunity, which requires careful evaluation. It also aims to avoid misleading methods and to avoid being influenced by celebrities as a facade to attract investors.

■ Investment Basics: This course aims to enable investors to master the basics of investing before embarking on their investments, such as understanding returns and risks, diversifying investments, planning investments, and understanding their mechanisms and controls.

As part of its participation in the event this year, the awareness campaign of CMA includes broadcasting awareness messages approved by the international organization on its official social media accounts, after aligning them with local regulations, in addition to CMA-specific awareness messages addressing some of the event’s topics. It is also preparing to hold awareness workshops related to some of its topics.

Including seminars and complimentary medical screenings

KFH organizes various events for its Breast Cancer Awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continued its diverse activities and events under the breast cancer awareness campaign titled “You are Stronger”. The campaign which runs throughout the month of October aligns with the global Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The initiative is part of KFH’s social responsibility efforts, reaffirming its leadership in addressing various topics concerning the community, including health awareness and other community initiatives in the field.

Seminars and complimentary screenings

KFH’s campaign includes many events aimed at raising awareness among women about the importance of early detection and introducing them to preventive measures and symptoms of breast cancer.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Al Salam Hospital, KFH organizes seminars and workshops for female employees to highlight preventive ways and treatment methods. KFH also partners with Al Salam Hospital to provide complimentary medical screening, underscoring the significance of early detection and ongoing awareness.

Inspiring stories

The program also features real-

life stories of recovered women shared on KFH’s social media platforms to learn from their experiences and instill an optimistic perspective.

Additionally, KFH continues to deliver awareness messages for women as part of the campaign, with employees taking part in interactive and community events held across multiple locations. These efforts enable the public to engage with doctors and specialists, fostering greater health awareness across Kuwaiti society and motivating women to lead healthier lives.

Digital platforms

KFH leverages its social media and digital platforms to amplify the campaign’s impact by sharing awareness videos, informative media messages, contests, events, interviews and various seminars.

It is worth noting that KFH has an extensive track record in supporting the healthcare sector, a key pillar of its social responsibility strategy. This is reflected KFH’s sponsorship and continuous support for various health-related programs, including diabetes awareness initiatives, first aid courses, blood donation events, and numerous health education campaigns focused on preventing a wide range of diseases.



KFH’s ‘You are Stronger’ Breast Cancer Awareness campaign.



US Fed rate cut and Saudi reforms drive regional rally

# GCC index sees biggest gain in 21 months mainly led by gains in TASI

By KAMCO Invest

GCC equity indices witnessed consistent gains during the second half of September-2025 that more than offset declines at the start of the month. The gains were initially led by announcement of a 25 bps rate cut by the US Fed that was fully replicated by GCC central banks. Further gains were mainly led by Saudi Arabia after the government said that it is in the process of removing the 49% cap on foreign ownership on listed companies in the Kingdom. The move resulted in steep buying of Saudi stocks by foreign investors, especially banks, during the second half of the month.

The MSCI GCC index registered a monthly gain of 4.9% during September-2025, the highest in 21 months and the index closed the month after touching the highest level in almost 3 years. Saudi Arabia was the best performing market in the GCC during the month with a gain of 7.5%, also one of the highest amongst key global financial indices. Boursa Kuwait was next with the All Share index gaining 3.5% during the month followed by Oman and Bahrain with gains of 3.0% and 1.0%, respectively. On the other hand, Dubai witnessed the biggest monthly decline of 3.7% followed by Qatar and Abu Dhabi with declines of 1.5% and 0.8%, respectively. In terms of YTD-2025 performance, Kuwait topped in the GCC with 9M-2025 gain of 19.5%, one of the highest in the world followed by Oman and Dubai both registering YTD gain of 13.2%.

Global equity markets also remained largely positive during the month, led by buying in Technology stocks in the US as well as healthy gain in emerging market indices. The MSCI World index closed the month with a gain of 3.0% following 5.3% gain in Nasdaq Composite while S&P 500 trailed with a gain of 3.1%. The MSCI EM index surged 6.5% during the month mainly led by healthy gains in Korea, Mexico and Taiwan.

## Boursa Kuwait

Boursa Kuwait returned to growth with all the four benchmark indices seeing gains during September-2025. The gains were mainly led by mid-cap and small-cap stocks as the Main 50 Index outperformed the other indices on the exchange with a gain of 6.7% to close at 8,507.1 points. Main Market Index witnessed a slightly smaller monthly growth of 5.2% while the Premier Market Index was up 3.1%. The All-Share Market Index reported a monthly growth of 3.5% and closed at 8,795.7 points. With the gains in September-2025, Boursa Kuwait regained the top position in the GCC in terms of YTD-2025 gains that reached 19.5% for the the All-Share Index. These gains were once again supported by Main 50 Index which was up 25.0% followed by the Market Index at 19.1% while the Premier Market index registered a gain of 19.6%.

The monthly sector performance chart was skewed toward gainers that included nine sectors while the remaining five sectors declined. The Health Care index peaked during September-2025 with a double-digit gain of 18.3% followed by Real Estate and Consumer Discretionary indices with returns of 6.1% and 5.4%, respectively. On the decliner's side, the Technology index witnessed the biggest decline of 16.0% followed by the Consumer Staples and Utilities indices with declines of 9.9% and 7.7%, respectively. The gains in the Health Care sector was buoyed by 43.2% gains in shares of ATC. The performance of the Real Estate index was supported by gains of 31.3% in shares of Al-Argan International RE and a 23.3% gain in shares of A'ayan Real Estate. Gains in the Consumer Discretionary sector were mainly led by 7.3% surge in shares of Oula Fuel Marketing Co. Large-cap sectors like Banks reported a gain of 3.1% after seven out of nine banks reported gains in September-2025. Shares of CBK, NBK and KFH led gains in the sector at 6.0%, 3.9% and 3.2%, respectively. In the Telecom sector, shares of STC posted a marginal loss, while the remaining telcos posted gains. The decline in the Technology index was led by fall in shares of its sole constituent Automated Systems Co. The Consumer Staples sector was dragged down by a decline in the shares of Mezzan Holding Co. which was down by 11.1%.

Prominent gainers during September-2025 included Hayat Communications, ACICO and National Cleaning Co. with gains of 76.1%, 75.2% and 60.5%, respectively. On the decliner's side, shares of Credit Rating & Collection Co. led with a fall of 25.3% followed by ASC and United Projects with declines of 16.0% and 14.2%, respectively. In terms of trading activity, monthly volume traded increased by 13.3% to 10.7 Bn shares vs. 9.4 Bn shares during August-2025. Monthly value traded also increased by 15.3% to KWD 2.3 Bn vs. KWD 2.0 Bn during August-2025. The monthly value traded -chart was topped by KFH with KWD 188.2 Mn in trades followed by GFH and Al Arabiya RE at KWD 139.0 Mn and KWD 115.5 Mn, respectively.

## Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)

After reporting losses during the previous two consecutive months, Saudi Arabia's TASI recorded the biggest monthly gain in the GCC during September-2025 after the index surged 7.5% during the month. The Index breached the psychological mark of 11,000 points after trading below this level for almost 10 weeks and closed the month at the highest level since May-2025 at 11,503.0 points. Notably, TASI surged 5.1% on 24-Sept-2025 to close at 11,437 points, marking its strongest single-day gain since 2020.

The performance of the index was buoyed by a combination of factors, including the CMA announcement of plans to ease foreign ownership limits on listed companies and the recent gain in crude oil prices despite the agreement by OPEC+ to raise oil output in October 2025 by 137,000 bpd. Gains during the month lowered TASI's YTD-2025 decline by more than two-thirds to 4.4%. During the month, the Saudi central bank (SAMA) cut its benchmark repo and reverse repo rates by 25 bps to 4.75% and 4.25%, respectively following US Fed announcement to cut rates, resulting in gains during the third week of the month. In terms of main market activity, the month saw two new listings with Marketing Home Group listed in the Consumer Discretionary Distribution & Retail sector and Dar Al Majid in the Real Estate Management & Development sector.

The monthly sector performance chart favored gainers and was topped by the Financial Services index with a double-digit gain of 12.3% followed by Banks and Insurance indices with gains of 10.7% and 10.2%, respectively. Large-cap sectors like Energy and Telecom also reported monthly gains of 3.8% and 5.8%, respectively. In the Banking sector, all the listed banks reported gains during the month following the announcement by the CMA to remove foreign ownership limits. Shares of Al Rajhi Bank, Saudi National Bank and Bank Albilad led the sector gains during the month at 14.0%, 11.94% and 11.87%, respectively. Within the Telecom sector, all the constituent stocks posted gains during the month. Gains for the Energy sector were led by 24.6% gain in shares of National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia and 9.9% gains in shares of Ades Holding Co. Shares of Saudi Aramco recorded their sharpest increase in two years, rising by 3.4% during the month. All the constituent stocks in the Media index witnessed gains mainly led by shares of MBC Group Co. and Arabian Contracting Services Co. which were up by 23.3% and 17.7%, respectively, during the month.

The monthly gainer's chart was topped by National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia with a gain of 24.6% followed by Saudi Arabian Mining Co. and Chubb Arabia Cooperative Insurance with gains of 24.39% and 24.38%, respectively. On the decliner's side, Sport Clubs Co topped with a decline of 12.62% followed by Saudi Real Estate Co. and Arriyadh Development Co. with declines of 12.58% and 11.3%, respectively. Trading activity on the exchange strengthened in September-2025 with total value traded surging by 38.9% to reach SAR 125.7 Bn compared to 90.5 Bn in August-2025. The total volume improved marginally by 0.8% to reach 5.83 Bn shares compared to 5.79 Bn in August-2025. Americana Restaurants topped



the monthly volume chart with 608.4 Mn shares followed by Tourism Enterprise Co. and Aramco at 606.5 Mn shares and 315.9 Mn shares , respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Al Rajhi Bank topped with SAR 12.0 Bn worth of shares traded during the month followed by MBC Group and Aramco at SAR 8.1 Bn and SAR 7.6 Bn, respectively.

## Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

The FTSE ADX Index recorded a 0.8% decline in September-2025, though it maintained its level above 10,000 points mark for the third straight month, ending the month at 10,014.6 points. The Index's YTD performance slipped to 6.3% during the period. Sectoral performance across the exchange largely favored decliners, as seven of the ten sectors registered losses, while the remaining three sectors advanced during the month. The overall weakness of the FTSE ADX Index was mainly attributable to declines in heavy-weighted sectors, most notably Consumer Staples (-5.8%), Industrials (-5.0%) and Real Estate (-2.1%). Within the Consumer Staples Sector, the steepest falling sector during September-2025, five of the six constituent companies experienced declines, including Lulu Retail Holdings (-7.4%) and Phoenix Group (-8.1%). Conversely, strong performances in the Utilities Sector (+4.8%), Telecommunications (+4.0%) and Energy Sector (+3.3%) mitigated much of the weakness in the seven underperforming sectors, thereby limiting the overall decline of the broader market Index.

Regarding monthly stock performance, GFH led the gainers for September-2025, recording a 22.9% share price increase. It was followed by Union Insurance and ADNOC Gas, which posted gains of 15.0% and 6.3%, respectively. ADNOC Gas signed a 10-year LNG supply agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. The deal entails delivery of 0.5 million metric tons per annum (mmtpa) LNG sourced from the company's Das Island liquefaction facility. On the decliners' side, ARAM Group registered the sharpest loss, with its share price plunging 33.2% during September-2025. This was followed by ADC Acquisition and Umm Al Qaiwan General Investments Co., which posted declines of 15.2% and 13.0%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange was mixed in September-2025. The total volume of shares traded fell by 1.5%, reaching 5.1 Bn shares as compared to 5.2 Bn in August-2025. Conversely, the total value of traded shares increased by 14.3%, amounting to AED 24.0 Bn, up from AED 21.0 Bn the prior month. ADNOC Gas emerged as the most active stock by volume, with 1.0 Bn shares exchanged, followed by ADNOC Logistic & Services and PRESIGHT AI, which recorded 0.5 Bn and 263.9 Mn shares, respectively. By traded value, ADNOC Gas also led with AED 3.5 Bn, followed by ADNOC Logistic & Services and International Holdings Company PJSC at AED 2.7 Bn and AED 2.4 Bn, respectively.

In terms of economic news, the UAE Central Bank revised up its earlier projected GDP growth outlook for the country from 4.4% to 4.9% citing momentum being mainly driven by an increase in non-oil activity. The central bank penciled 5.3% growth for the country's economy in 2026. Specifically, the Real Estate & Tourism Sector are forecasted to drive economic expansion during this year. So far, UAE residential sales increased by 13.7% y-o-y for the first five months of 2025 while off-plan sales increased by 14.3% during the similar period. Moreover, total value of deals in Abu Dhabi's real estate reached AED 54 Bn (USD 14.7 Bn) mainly underpinned by 38% growth in residential unit sales that reached AED 25 Bn. Moreover, the volume of property transactions increased by 25% y-o-y to 15,578 transactions during 1H-2025. Moreover, the UAE's Insurance Sector is one of the non-oil sectors that are expected to contribute to the overall GDP expansion of the country during 2025. Gross written premiums of the UAE Insurance Sector increased by 14.5% y-o-y during the first six months of 2025

## Dubai Financial Market

The DFM General Index declined for the second consecutive month, recording a 3.7% fall during September 2025 to close at 5,839.6 points. This decline reduced the index's YTD-2025 return to 13.2%, the second-highest in the GCC this year. Sectoral performance was skewed to the decliners during the month, with six out of eight sector indices posting declines, while the remaining two indices recorded gains. However, apart from the negatively skewed distribution, the monthly decline of highly weighted sector indices such as the Financial Index (-2.5%) and the Real Estate Index (-8.3%) contributed to the overall dip in the general index. Large-weight banks such as Emirates NBD (-3.8%) and Commercial Bank of Dubai (-2.4%) under-

pinned the overall fall of the Financial Index. In the Real Estate Index, six out of the seven companies that constitute the sector recorded declines during September 2025. On the other hand, the Materials Index recorded the biggest increase among the indices at 0.4% to close the month at 187.8 points, while the Industrials Index, the only other gaining index during the month, recorded a marginal rise of 0.1% during the month.

According to Bloomberg's monthly stock performance data, Gulf Navigation headed the list of top gainers in September-2025, with a gain of 25.3%. It was trailed by GFH and National Industries Group, which posted advances of 20.4% and 10.5%, respectively. Shares of GFH gained after one of its affiliates secured a final, non-appealable court judgment against another company resulting in a payment of USD 24 Mn. On the monthly decliners' side, Shuaa Capital recorded the sharpest fall, with a 14.5% drop, followed by Emirates Integrated Telecom and United Kaipara Dairies, which reported decreases of 12.0% and 10.0%, respectively, during the month. Emirates Integrated Telecom (Du) also announced the sale of 342 million shares. The shares were offered for sale by Mamoura Diversified Global Holdings.

Trading activity on the exchange was mixed during September-2025. The total volume of shares traded on the DFM exchange declined by 20.9%, reaching 3.8 Bn shares vs. 4.8 Bn shares in August-2025. The total value of shares traded increased by 9.6%, amounting to AED 13.2 Bn in September-2025 versus AED 12.1 Bn in August-2025. Talabat topped the monthly trading volume chart with 0.9 Bn shares exchanged, followed by Drake & Scull International and Emaar Properties with volumes of 0.5 Mn and 0.4 Mn shares, respectively. In terms of traded value, Emaar Properties led with AED 5.1 Bn worth of shares changing hands during the month, followed by Dubai Islamic Bank and Emirates NBD at AED 1.3 Bn and AED 1.1 Bn, respectively.

In economic news, Dubai real estate market witnessed a strong growth in the first nine months of 2025. Overall real estate sales in Dubai increased by 33.7% y-o-y reaching nearly AED 500 Bn during the 9M-2025 while total number of transactions increased by 18.5% y-o-y surpassing 155,000 during similar period against 130,360 transactions in 9m-2024. Moreover, according to data from Harbor Real Estate, total value of real estate transactions increased by 23.4% y-o-y during 9M-2025 to reach AED 670 Bn as compared to AED 543 Bn in 9M-2024. Similarly, total deals surged by 20.5% y-o-y to reach 200,000 deals during the similar period as compared to 165,909 transactions in 9M-2024.

## Qatar Exchange

The Qatar Stock Exchange reported declines for the second consecutive month during September-2025. The QE20 index closed the month at 11,052.8 points registering a decline of 1.5% while the Qatar All Share Index registered a slightly smaller decline of 1.4% during the month. With the decline during September-2025, the 9M-2025 gain for the QE20 index was lowered to 4.6%, while the QE All Share index recorded a gain of 9.9%. In terms of sectoral performance, the picture was slightly skewed towards decliners after four out of the seven indices recorded declines during the month. Among the gainers, the Telecoms, Insurance and Consumer Goods & Services Index topped the table in September-2025, posting a notable gain of 4.0%, 2.0% and 1.4%, respectively. On the other hand, the biggest decline was seen in the Transportation benchmark that registered a fall of 2.5% followed by Banks & Financial Services and Real Estate indices, with declines of 2.2% and 1.5%, respectively.

Gains for the Telecom index were mainly led by shares of Ooredoo that gained 5.3% during the month, while shares Vodafone Qatar remained largely unchanged. The performance of the Insurance index was supported by gains of 5.2% in shares of Damaan Islamic Insurance Co. and a 4.2% gain in shares of Al Khaleej Takaful Group QSC. The performance of the Consumer Goods & Services index was supported by gains from 11.6% in shares of Medicare Group and a 5.4% gain in shares of Baladna. The Transportation Sector was dragged down by losses in its constituent stocks including Qatar Gas Transport Co Ltd (-3.4%), and Qatar Navigation QSC (-1.7%). In the Banks & Financial Services sector, all the constituent stocks reported declines during the month, barring shares of Al Rayan Bank that were flat. Shares of Qatar International Islamic Bank and Ahli Bank posted declines of 4.4% and 4.1%, respectively.

The monthly stock performance chart was topped by Medicare Group, with a gain of 11.6% followed by Estithmar Holding QPSC with a gain of 6.1% and Baladna with a gain of 5.4%. On the monthly decliner's chart, Widam

Food Co topped with a decline of 4.5% followed by Qatar International Islamic Bank and Qatar National Cement Co QSC with declines of 4.4% and 4.3%, respectively. In terms of trading activity, the total shares traded declined by 21.1% to reach 3.3 Bn shares as compared to 4.1 Bn shares in the previous month. Total value traded also declined by 3.6% to reach QAR 9.2 Bn in September-2025 as compared to QAR 9.5 Bn in August-2025. Baladna topped the monthly volume chart with 654.5 Mn traded shares followed by Ezdan Holding Group QSC and Estithmar Holding Co. at 385.9Mn shares and 219.2 Mn traded shares, respectively. On the monthly value traded chart, Baladna topped with shares worth QAR 1.0 Bn traded during the month followed by Estithmar Holding Co. and Qatar National Bank with value traded at QAR 907.2 Mn and QAR 822.1Mn, respectively.

In economic news, Qatar's real GDP grew by 1.9% y-o-y in Q2-2025, reaching QAR 181.8 Bn, up from QAR 178.5 Bn in Q2-2024, as per data from NPC. The growth, however, slowed from 3.7% y-o-y during Q1-2025. The expansion was primarily driven by the non-hydrocarbon sector, which rose by 3.4% to QAR 119.3 Bn in Q2-2025 compared to QAR 115.4 Bn in Q2- 2024. Non-hydrocarbon growth was driven mainly by Agriculture, Hospitality, Recreation, Trade, and Construction sectors.

## Bahrain Bourse

The Bahrain Bourse All Share Index turned positive in September-2025, posting a 1.0% rise to close the month at 1,948.17 points. The monthly sectoral performance was largely negative, with four of seven indices declining and three advancing over the period. However, gain in heavyweight sectors like Materials (+1.6%) and Financials Index (+1.4%) more than offset the declines in other indices. Strong showings from key constituents such as GFH Financial Group (+23.7%) and Solidarity Bahrain (+4.6%) supported the Financials Index's increase during September-2025. Likewise, Aluminum Bahrain, the sole constituent in the Materials index, advanced 1.6%, matching the index's gain in September-2025. Moreover, the Real Estate Index increased 0.8%, entirely reflecting a 9.5% share-price rise in Bahrain Car Park Company during September-2025. Conversely, the Consumer Discretionary Index recorded a 4.6% decline, the largest drop among the indices during the month closing at 2,989.1 points, mainly due to an 8.8% share-price decrease in Bahrain Duty Free Complex during the month.

In terms of share price performance, Bloomberg data indicated that GFH Financial Group was the top monthly gainer, advancing 23.7% in September-2025. It was followed by Bahrain Car Park Co., which recorded a 9.5% increase, while Solidarity Bahrain registered a 4.5% rise. Among decliners, Bahrain Islamic Bank posted the steepest drop of 9.6%, followed by Bahrain National Holding and Bahrain Duty Free Complex, which fell 9.1% and 8.8%, respectively.

Trading activity on the Bahrain Bourse recorded a notable uptick during September-2025. Overall traded volume rose sharply by 108.2%, reaching 51.2 Mn shares compared with 24.6 Mn shares in August-2025. Likewise, the total value of traded shares on the exchange increased by 71.5% to BHD 14.9 Mn in September-2025, versus BHD 8.7 Mn in the preceding month. GFH Financial Group ranked first in monthly trading volumes with 20.0 Mn shares exchanged, followed by Al Salam Bank-Bahrain and Bahrain Telecommunications at 5.3 Mn and 3.5 Mn shares, respectively. On the value-traded side, GFH Financial Group led with BHD 8.8 Mn, while Aluminum Bahrain and Kuwait Finance House followed with BHD 2.7 Mn and BHD 1.9 Mn, respectively.

In economic news, direct investments attracted by the Kingdom's Economic Development Board totaled around USD 1.52 Bn during the first nine months of 2025. These inflows were realized through 75 local and international projects. The direct investments accounted for 43% of newly established projects in the Kingdom as well as 57% of expansions of existing companies in the country. Regarding trade performance, the value of non-oil imports rose by 17% y-o-y to reach BHD 544 Mn in July-2025 compared to BHD 464 Mn in July-2024. In contrast, the total value of the Kingdom's non-oil exports fell slightly by 1%, recording BHD 333 Mn in July-2025 against BHD 337 Mn in July-2024. Saudi Arabia ranked first among destinations for non-oil exports of national origin, amounting to BHD 80 Mn in July-2025 and representing 24% of all non-oil exports of national origin during the month. By comparison, China retained its position as the leading source of imports to Bahrain, with BHD 72 Mn in July-2025, representing 13% of the Kingdom's overall imports during the month.

## Muscat Stock Exchange

Oman's MSX 30 Index posted its third consecutive monthly gain in September-2025, rising 3.0% after a 5.2% increase in August-2025. The index closed the month at 5,181.6 points after touching the highest level in eight years on 29-September-2025. The advance was broad-based, with all three sectoral indices recording gains. The Services Index led the upturn with a notable 6.3% increase. The Financials Index rose 1.8%, closing the month at 8,524.92 points. This growth was primarily driven by share price gains in key constituents, including Global Financial Inv. Co (+14.1%) and OMINVEST (+8.8%). Similarly, growth in the Services Index was fueled by significant increases from several constituents, such as Al Suwadi Power Co. (+39.0%) and Al Batinah Power Co. (+38.0%). Meanwhile, the Industrials Index recorded a 0.3% gain, reflecting moderate performance across its constituent companies.

The monthly stock performance table was led by Al Suwadi Power Co, which delivered a 39.0% advance in September-2025. Al Batinah Power Co. followed with a 38.0% increase, while Phoenix Power Company recorded a 31.0% rise. On the decliners' side, Majan Glass posted the sharpest fall with its shares retreating by 21.4%, followed by Oman Qatari Telecommunications Co. and Dhofar International Dev. & Inv. Holding Co., which registered declines of 9.3% and 8.9%, respectively.

Trading activity on the exchange was down during September-2025. The total volume of shares traded slipped by 13.7% to 2.3 Bn shares compared with 2.7 Bn shares in August-2025. Similarly, the total value of shares traded declined by 2.6%, reaching OMR 505.3 Mn in September-2025 versus OMR 518.6 Mn in the prior month. OQ Exploration & Production headed the monthly value-traded ranking with OMR 90.2 Mn worth of trades during the month, followed by Bank Muscat and OQ Base Industries with OMR 86.5 Mn and OMR 82.9 Mn, respectively. By trading volume, OQ Base Industries ranked first with 571.1 Mn shares exchanged, followed by Sohar Bank and Bank Muscat at 479.7 Mn shares and 271.5 Mn shares, respectively.

In economic developments, S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed Oman's sovereign credit ratings at "BBB-" for the long term and "A-3" for the short term in both foreign and local currency. The agency highlighted the Sultanate's stable outlook, supported by its fiscal and economic reform agenda, while noting its vulnerability to adverse and volatile oil price shocks. Following three consecutive years of fiscal surpluses averaging around 2% of GDP, the ratings agency projects a modest deficit of 0.5% of GDP in 2025 as compared to a 1.5% surplus in 2024. In parallel, S&P forecasts Oman's real GDP to expand by 2% annually during the 2025-2028 period, versus a growth rate of 1.7% in 2024. Furthermore, Oman's GDP increased by 2.4% y-o-y in the first six months of 2025 to reach USD 53.5 Bn, largely supported by non-oil activities. At the same time, data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information revealed that Oman's crude oil revenues contracted by 10.3% y-o-y to USD 14.25 Bn in 1H-2025. Conversely, non-oil activities surged by 4% y-o-y to USD 36.6 Bn during 1H-2025, mainly driven by expansions in mining, manufacturing, and fishing sectors.



Pipeline would transport 830,000 barrels of Canadian crude daily

Carney raises Keystone XL revival with Trump at White House

TORONTO, Oct 9, (AP): Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney raised the prospect of reviving the contentious Keystone XL pipeline project with U.S. President Donald Trump during his White House visit this week, a government official familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

A Canadian company pulled the plug on it four years ago after the Canadian government failed to persuade then-President Joe Biden to reverse his cancellation of its permit on the day he took office. It was to transport crude from the oil sand fields of western Canada to Steele City, Nebraska.

Trump previously revived the long-delayed project during his first term after it had stalled under the Obama administration. It would have moved up to 830,000 barrels (35 million gallons) of crude daily, connecting in Nebraska to other pipelines that feed oil refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast.

The Canadian government official said Trump was receptive to the idea when it was talked about during their White House meeting Wednesday. The official said Carney linked energy cooperation to Canada's steel and aluminum sectors, which is subject to 50% U.S. tariffs. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

Carney mentioned building major projects and "unleashing Canadian energy" in a live video call with business leaders in Toronto on Wednesday.

Biden canceled Keystone XL's border crossing permit in 2021 over longstanding concerns that burning oil sands crude could make climate change worse and harder to reverse.

A spokesperson for South Bow Corp., the oil pipeline operator that



A Keystone pipeline facility stands in Hardisty, Alberta, Nov. 6, 2015. (AP)

owns the existing Keystone pipeline system, said they are not privy to the ongoing discussions between the Canadian and U.S. governments.

"South Bow is supportive of efforts to find solutions that increase the transportation of Canadian crude oil. We will continue to explore opportunities that leverage our existing corridor with our customers and others

in the industry," the spokesperson said in an email.

Carney is under pressure from the oil-rich province of Alberta to get a pipeline built.

Former Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said building a new pipeline to increase oil shipments to the U.S. Gulf Coast would be the cheapest, fastest and least complicated route for a major oil pipeline.

"Strategically this would increase, not decrease our dependence on the US export market. But it would be a brilliant judo move to find common ground with the Trump Administration, and help him to realize that the US benefits from and needs its privileged relationship to Canada, and access to our resources," Kenney posted on social media.

"Played smartly, Canada's cooperation could be strong leverage to push for reductions in Trump tariffs," he added.

Carney mentioned Wednesday in the call that tariffs on Canada's aluminum exports are not wise, noting the country provides 60% of the aluminum the U.S. needs.

"For the U.S. to produce that much aluminum, it would need the equivalent of the energy of 10 Hoover Dams," Carney said. "Is making aluminum really the first best use of that power at a time when you've got the AI revolution, and you're reassuring manufacturing that you want to keep people's electricity costs down at home."

Carney also reiterated that Canada's relationship with the U.S., which led to increasing integration over many years, has changed.

"Our relationship will never again be what it was," Carney said. "We understand America first."

Fed signals more rate cuts ahead

Officials cite rising job risks, easing inflation

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (AP): Most members of the Federal Reserve's interest-rate setting committee supported further reductions to its key interest rate this year, according to minutes from last month's meeting released Wednesday.

A majority of Fed officials felt that the risk unemployment would rise had worsened since their previous meeting in July, while the risk of rising inflation "had either diminished or not increased," the minutes said. As a result, the central bank decided at its Sept. 16-17 meeting to reduce its key rate by a quarter-point to about 4.1%, its first cut this year.

Rate cuts by the Fed can gradually lower borrowing costs for things like mortgages, auto loans, and business loans, encouraging more spending and hiring.

Still, the minutes underscored the deep division on the 19-person committee between those who feel that the Fed's short-term rate is too high and weighing on the economy, and those who point to persistent inflation that remains above the central bank's 2% target as evidence that the Fed needs to be cautious about reducing rates.

Only one official formally dissented from the quarter-point cut: Stephen Miran, who was appointed by President Donald Trump and was approved by the Senate just hours before the meeting began. He supported a larger, half-point cut instead.

But the minutes noted that "a few" policymakers said they could have supported keeping rates unchanged, or said that "there was merit" in such a step.

The differences help explain Chair Jerome Powell's statements during the news conference that followed the meeting: "There are no risk-free paths now. It's not incredibly obvious what to do."

Miran said in remarks Tuesday that he thinks inflation will steadily decline back toward the Fed's 2% target, despite Trump's tariffs, and as a result he doesn't think the Fed's rate needs to be nearly as high as it is. Rental costs are steadily declining and will bring down inflation, he said, while tariff revenue will reduce the government's budget deficit and reduce longer-term interest rates, which gives the Fed more room to cut.

Yet many other Fed officials remain concerned about stubbornly high inflation, the minutes showed. Jeffrey Schmid, president of the Federal Reserve's Kansas City branch, said in a speech Monday that "inflation is too high" and argued that the Fed should keep rates high enough to cool demand and prevent inflation from worsening.

And Austan Goolsbee, president of the Fed's Chicago branch, said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that he supported a cautious approach toward more cuts, and wanted to see evidence that inflation would cool further.

"I am a little uneasy with front loading rate cuts, presuming that those upticks in inflation will just go away," he said.

The minutes provide insight into how the Fed's policymakers were thinking last month about inflation, interest rates, and hiring. Since then, however, the federal government shutdown has cut off the flow of economic data that the Fed relies on to inform its decisions. The September jobs report wasn't issued as scheduled last Friday, and if the shutdown continues, it could also delay the release of the inflation report set for next Wednesday.

Union leaders warn of worsening delays and safety risks

Staffing shortages cause more US flight delays as government shutdown reaches seventh day

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (AP): Staffing shortages led to more flight delays at airports across the U.S. on Tuesday as the federal government shutdown stretched into a seventh day, while union leaders for air traffic controllers and airport security screeners warned the situation was likely to get worse.

The Federal Aviation Administration reported staffing issues at airports in Nashville, Boston, Dallas, Chicago and Philadelphia, and at its air traffic control centers in Atlanta, Houston and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The agency temporarily slowed takeoffs of planes headed to the first three cities.

Flight disruptions a day earlier also were tied to insufficient staffing during the shutdown, which began Oct. 1. The FAA reported issues on Monday at the airports in Burbank, California; Newark, New Jersey; and Denver.

Despite the traffic snags, about 92% of the more than 23,600 flights departing from U.S. airports as of Tuesday afternoon took off on time, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

But the risk of wider impacts to the U.S. aviation system "is growing by the day" as federal workers whose jobs are deemed critical continue working without pay, travel industry analyst Henry Hartevelt said. The longer the shutdown drags on, the more likely it is to affect holiday travel plans in November, he said.

"I'm gravely concerned that if the government remains shut down then, that it could disrupt, and possibly ruin, millions of Americans' Thanksgiving holidays," Hartevelt said in a statement.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said Monday that there has already been an uptick in air traffic controllers calling out sick at a few locations. When there aren't enough controllers, the FAA must reduce the number of takeoffs and landings to maintain safety, which in turn causes flight delays and possible cancellations.

That's what happened Monday afternoon, when the control tower at Southern California's Hollywood Burbank Airport shut down for several hours, leading to average delays of two-and-a-half hours.

When a pilot preparing for take-



A plane takes off near the air traffic control tower at Harry Reid International Airport, Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025, in Las Vegas. (AP)

off radioed the tower, according to communications recorded by LiveATC.net, he was told: "The tower is closed due to staffing."

Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, said the shutdown highlighted some issues his union's members already face on a regular basis due to a national airspace system that is critically understaffed and relies on outdated equipment that tends to fail.

A couple of controllers missing work can have a big impact at a small airport already operating with limited tower staffing, he said.

"It's not like we have other controllers that can suddenly come to that facility and staff them. There's not enough people there," Daniels said Tuesday. "There's no overtime, and you have to be certified in that facility."

Air travel complications are likely to expand once a regularly scheduled payday arrives next week and air traffic controllers and TSA officers don't receive any money, the union leader said. If the impasse between Republican and Democratic lawmakers on reopening the government persists, the workers will come under more

pressure as their personal bills come due, Daniels said.

"It's completely unfair that an air traffic controller is the one that holds the burden of 'see how long you can hang in there in order to allow this political process to play out,'" he said.

Johnny Jones, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employees chapter that represents TSA workers, said he was hearing concerns from members about how they will be able to pay bills, including child support and mortgage payments, and if they're at risk for termination if they have to miss work during the shutdown.

"The employees are struggling. They're assessing what they need to do and they're assessing how this is all going to work out," said Jones, who has worked as a screener since the TSA was established.

Some TSA officers already have called in sick, but Jones said he did not think the numbers were big enough to cause significant problems and delays at airports.

Aviation unions and U.S. airlines have called for the shutdown to end as soon as possible.

The unions are also making ap-

peals to food banks, grocery chains and airports to secure support for workers during the shutdown. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was offering federal workers \$15 food vouchers and allowing them to park in the terminal, according to Jones.

John Tiliacos, the chief operating officer of Florida's Tampa International Airport, said the facility started preparing for the shutdown well before it began.

Nicknamed "Operation Bald Eagle 2" among airport staff, the efforts center around pulling together resources for the roughly 1,100 federal employees who are working at the airport without pay, including security screeners and air traffic controllers.

Tiliacos said the help would include a food pantry, free bus rides to work and a program with the local utility provider to keep the lights on at the homes of the workers.

"Whatever we can do to make life a little easier for these federal employees that allows them to continue coming to work and focus on keeping our airport operational, that's what we're prepared to do," he said.

Vucic pledges stability

US imposes sanctions on Serbia's 'Russian-controlled' oil supplier

BELGRADE, Oct 9, (AP): The United States has introduced sanctions against Serbia's main oil supplier, which is controlled by Russia, the company said on Thursday. Serbia's president said this could have "unforeseeable" consequences for the Balkan country.

Serbia depends almost entirely on Russian gas and oil supplies, which it receives mainly through pipelines in Croatia and other neighboring states. The gas is then distributed by Petroleum Industry of Serbia (NIS), which is majority-owned by Russia's state oil monopoly Gazprom Neft.

The sanctions could deprive Serbia of gasoline and heating oil ahead of the winter months. Populist President Aleksandar Vucic is already under pressure at home from 11 months of anti-government protests.

He said the sanctions will have "extremely dire consequences" in many aspects: "This is something that will affect every citizen."

Vucic said Serbia will continue talks with both American and Russian officials, adding that people shouldn't panic and the government is prepared for the situation.

"Trust your state. We will go through this together," he said.

Gazprom Neft also owns Serbia's only oil refinery.

NIS said Thursday it had failed to secure another postponement of the U.S. sanctions, which could jeopardize its efforts to secure oil and gas deliveries in a longer term.

"The special license from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which enables unhindered operational business, has not yet been extended," NIS said in a statement. It added that it has stored enough supplies to keep the operation moving for customers for a longer while.

It also said problems could occur at NIS gasoline stations with payments made by foreign bank cards but added that cash payments would be accepted.

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control originally placed sanctions on Russia's oil sector on Jan. 10 and gave Gazprom Neft a deadline to exit ownership of NIS, which it didn't do.

U.S. officials have not commented.

Although formally seeking European Union membership, Serbia has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over its invasion in Ukraine, in part because of the crucial Russian gas deliveries.

The pro-Russian President Vucic is facing one of the biggest threats to more than a decade of his increasingly autocratic rule. Protests have been held by university students and others following the collapse almost a year ago of a concrete canopy at a railway station in the country's north that killed 16 people.

Many in Serbia believe rampant corruption and nepotism among state officials led to sloppy work on the building reconstruction, which was part of a wider railroad project with Chinese state companies.

Trade pact to cut tariffs

Modi & Starmer hold talks to boost India-U.K. partnership

NEW DELHI, Oct 9, (AP): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his British counterpart Keir Starmer on Thursday in talks meant to deepen cooperation on trade, defense and technology while promoting a trade deal between the countries.

The talks in India's financial capital of Mumbai marked Starmer's first official trip to India since taking office earlier this year. The two-day visit that began Wednesday comes as the Indian government increases efforts to attract global investment for the nation's rapidly expanding economy.

The prime ministers said Thursday's meeting focused on pushing forward a trade agreement signed during Modi's visit to London in July and boosting cooperation in digital infrastructure, technology, defense, critical minerals and education.

The countries are natural partners and strengthening the partnership "is an example of stability in an uncertain world," Modi said.

"India-U.K. partnership is becoming crucial foundation for global stability and economic progress," Modi said, announcing the countries have reached an agreement on military training coopera-

tion, while nine U.K. universities plan to open India campuses.

Starmer is visiting India with a 125-member delegation that includes business, university and culture sector leaders. He said the trip was about "doubling down on the potential of the trade deal" that will drive growth and jobs in both countries.

"We are creating a new modern partnership focusing on future," Starmer said.

The trade agreement, which both nations said they aim to implement within the next year, will slash tariffs on products including Scotch whisky, English gin shipped to India and Indian food and spices sent to the U.K. The British government said in a statement that the deal would raise bilateral trade by a further \$34 billion and increase exports to India by nearly 60%.

Modi and Starmer also shared views on Indo-Pacific stability and discussed the war in Ukraine and developments in Gaza. Starmer hailed the first stage of a peace plan between Israel and Hamas, saying it brings "profound relief," especially for hostages, families and civilians who have suffered over the past two years.



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, left and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, India, Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025. (AP)



## Country superstar says she ‘ain’t done working yet’

# Parton responds to concerns about her health: ‘I’m not dying’

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): Dolly Parton “ain’t dead yet,” the country superstar said on social media Wednesday following public speculation about her health.

“There are just a lot of rumors flying around. But I figured if you heard it from me, you’d know that I was okay,” the 79-year-old singer said in a new two-minute video posted on Instagram. “I’m not ready to die yet. I don’t think God is through with me. And I ain’t done working.”

Her post, which appeared on numerous of Parton’s social media accounts and her website, was captioned, “I ain’t dead yet.”

Late last month Parton postponed her first Las Vegas residency in 32 years, citing “health challenges.”

She was scheduled to perform six shows at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace for “Dolly: Live in Las Vegas” between Dec. 4 and Dec. 13, overlapping with the National Finals Rodeo. Her dates have been moved to next year - Sept. 2026.

She did not provide specific details at the time, writing, “As many of you know, I have been dealing with some



Dolly Parton poses at the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Ceremony in New York, on Oct. 13, 2022. (AP)

health challenges, and my doctors tell me that I must have a few procedures. As I joked with them, it must be time for my 100,000-mile check-up, although it’s not the usual trip to

see my plastic surgeon!”

In the new video clip shared Wednesday, Parton is seen sitting on a set speaking directly to camera, telling her audience that she’s about to record a few commercials for the Grand Ole Opry, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

“Everyone thinks that I am sicker than I am. Do I look sick to you? I’m working hard here! Anyway, I wanted to put everybody’s mind at ease, those of you who seem to be real concerned, which I appreciate,” she continued. “And I appreciate your prayers because I’m a person of faith. I can always use the prayers for anything and everything.”

On Tuesday, a Facebook post shared by her sister Freida Parton escalated concerns around Parton’s health when she wrote that she had been “up all night praying for my sister, Dolly.” Hours later, Freida Parton followed up with another post.

“I want to clear something up. I didn’t mean to scare anyone or make it sound so serious when asking for prayers for Dolly,” she wrote. “She’s been a little under the weather, and I simply asked for prayers because I believe so strongly in

the power of prayer.”

Parton offered her own clarification in the video, referencing her late husband of nearly 60 years Carl Dean, who died earlier this year at age 82.

“I want you to know that I’m OK. I’ve got some problems as I’ve mentioned. Back when my husband Carl was very sick, that was for a long time, and then when he passed, I didn’t take care of myself. So I let a lot of things go that I should’ve been taking care of,” she said. “So anyway, when I got around to it, the doctor said ‘We need to take care of this. We need to take care of that.’ Nothing major but I did have to cancel some things so I could be closer to home, closer to Vanderbilt, where I’m kind of having a few treatments here and there.”

And in true Parton fashion, she ended with a joke. “But I wanted you to know that I’m not dying. Did you see that AI picture of Reba (McEntire) and me, oh Lordy! I mean, they had Reba at my deathbed, and we both look like we need to be buried,” she laughed.

“If I was really dying, I don’t think Reba would be the one at my deathbed. She might come visit me earlier.”

### Variety

**GLASGOW:** Sharing a Glasgow hotel with pop star **Katy Perry** hasn’t been much of a distraction for Scotland coach Steve Clarke as he prepares his team for two



Perry

crucial World Cup qualifiers this week.

“I didn’t know she was there,” the 62-year-old coach said, acknowledging that he wasn’t very familiar with the artist whose “Lifetimes Tour” came to Glasgow on Tuesday.

“I’ve heard the name,” Clarke added. “I’m sure if you played a couple of her songs I’d say, ‘Oh, I recognize that one,’ but I couldn’t name you one song, I’m sorry.”

Clarke said he wouldn’t have recognized Perry herself either if he’d run into her at the team’s hotel.

“That’s no disrespect to Katy, but I’m from a different generation,” the former Chelsea defender said, adding: “And she wouldn’t recognize me.”

Clarke aims to lead Scotland to its World Cup tournament since 1998 and the wait has felt like a lifetime for the Tartan Army fans. (AP)

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**NEW YORK:** Puerto Rican superstar Bad Bunny’s music catalog has seen a jump in streams since his 2026 Super Bowl halftime performance was announced.

According to Luminate, an industry data and analytics company, Latin music is primarily consumed via streaming. They found that Bad Bunny saw a 26% increase in on-demand streams in the United States following the Sept. 28 announcement, soaring from 173 million nine days before the announcement to 218.5 million streams in the eight days that followed.

The singer born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio recently said concerns about the mass deportation of Latinos played into his decision to bypass the mainland US during his residency. He performs in Spanish and will do so at the Super Bowl, further proving that connecting with a US and international audience does not require singing in English.

Since the NFL, Apple Music and Roc Nation announced Bad Bunny will lead the halftime festivities from Levi’s Stadium on Feb. 8 in Santa Clara, California, the selection has provoked conversation.

For his fans, Bad Bunny’s booking at the Super Bowl is viewed as a landmark moment for Latino culture. That feeling is no doubt related to his just-concluded, 31-date residency in Puerto Rico that brought approximately half a million people to the island during the slow summer tourism season and generated an estimated \$733 million for the island. (AP)

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**NEW YORK:** A New York City judge has dismissed a civil summons against Alex O’Keefe, a former writer for FX’s hit show “The Bear” who was removed from a commuter train in handcuffs last month following a seating dispute.

O’Keefe, who is Black, has accused transit officers of targeting him over his race after another passenger complained about how O’Keefe was sitting on a Metro-North train.

In a video filmed by O’Keefe that gained widespread attention online, the TV screenwriter can be heard asking officers: “You’re going to arrest the one Black dude on the train, because this white woman said she didn’t like the way I was sitting on the train?”

The train didn’t appear to be full in the video.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority said police arrived after a conductor complained that O’Keefe had spread his legs across an adjacent seat on the train in violation of the rail line’s rules.

He refused officers’ directions to exit the train, the MTA said, and was placed in handcuffs, questioned on a platform and released with a summons for disorderly conduct.

That summons was dismissed Tuesday by an administrative judge, a common outcome for such alleged violations. (AP)

### Television



Nadine Leopold



Victoria Beckham



Emma Bunton



Eva Longoria

Nadine Leopold, Victoria Beckham, Emma Bunton and Eva Longoria pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the television series ‘Victoria Beckham’ in London, Wednesday, Oct. 8. (AP)

## Roberts in a stark, somber take on #MeToo culture

# ‘After the Hunt’ is less farce than tragedy

LOS ANGELES, Oct 9, (AP): It’s not so often that the font of a movie’s opening credits is, itself, a provocation.

But in Luca Guadagnino’s muddled but darkly absorbing “After the Hunt,” the white Windsor Light Condensed lettering against a black background, with cast in alphabetical order and soft jazz playing, is immediately recognizable as the style of a Woody Allen movie opening.

In the juggling act to follow in “After the Hunt,” where Guadagnino will playfully twirl a twisting narrative of alleged sexual assault, cancel culture, privilege in academia and Gen Z victimization, the credits are not so much an opening salvo than they are an introductory wink.

Like many an Allen film, “After the Hunt” is set among a well-educated, self-involved class. It takes place around Yale University. But unlike Allen’s anxious, existential, chattering characters, Guadagnino’s cocktail party collection of professors and students is a more scheming and unpleasant lot.

That includes a philosophy professor, Alma Imhoff (Julia Roberts), on the precipice of tenure, her friend and department colleague, Hank Gibson (Andrew Garfield), and Imhoff’s star pupil, a Ph.D. student named Maggie Resnick (Ayo Edebiri), who after a party at Alma’s house accuses Hank of sexual assault.

Guadagnino’s film, shot by Malik Hassan Sayeed, is somberly and flatly lit and rife with reflections. Under these drab surfaces, the central characters of “After the Hunt” - an ensemble of singularly charming actors who here have drained away much of their natural charisma - go at each other on everything from Foucault to feminism in a psychological battle set across a #MeToo minefield.

That, at least, is the promise of “After the Hunt.” But Guadagnino’s dour and



This image released by Amazon MGM Studios shows Andrew Garfield in a scene from ‘After the Hunt.’ (AP)

languid film, scripted by Nora Garrett, only fitfully coheres as the conversation piece it aspires to be. Its plot turns can be rash or implausible, and the movie increasingly feels like ideas and set pieces strung tenuously together.

Yet I also enjoyed the prickliness of “After the Hunt.” Though there’s a strong anti-woke vein to it, Guadagnino’s film is more about how seemingly quite different generations have much more in common than they might appear. The cultural debates depicted in the movie are often so colored by moralistic superiority, but that’s not the case here. Everyone is kind of rotten in “After the

Hunt.”

That’s especially unusual for Roberts, whose Alma is far more complicated a character than she normally tackles. Alma is esteemed, fiercely intelligent, ambitious and hard to read. Her husband, a psychiatrist named Frederik (a fabulous Michael Stuhlbarg as combustible cocktail of cuckold and cook) worships her, but her affection is less evident.

But shorn of her natural ebullience, Roberts’ restraint of the role comes off more like weariness. That adds to some of the off-kilter tenor of “After the Hunt,” but it’s hard not to imagine someone like Cate Blanchett

in the part.

“When did offending someone become a cardinal sin?” Hank asks at the party that opens the movie.

A sign of what Guadagnino might be up to comes not long after, after Maggie has alleged the assault. Alma goes to meet a distraught Hank at a local restaurant. While they hash out what’s true and what’s fiction in Maggie’s account, it’s hard not to notice the mirrors that surround Hank.

The real mirror of “After the Hunt” is Alma and Maggie. Edebiri is here a kind of stand-in for Gen Z, and her case expands to include a wider range of issues of inclusivity and othering. As things spiral and Maggie’s case leads to increasing intensity on campus and in Alma’s personal life, Alma shifts from Maggie’s mentor to something more like a foe. But Alma’s own past begins to play a role in the fallout, adding a new frame to “After the Hunt” that casts Alma and Maggie’s plights in a different light.

Is this a good time? Not especially, though Garfield is great in a rage. Glib insertions don’t help. In one scene, when Alma meets a fellow faculty member (Chloë Sevigny) in a bar, a Smiths song plays and she seems surprised a Morrissey tune isn’t outlawed.

I’m not sure “After the Hunt” has too much more to say than that shrug-of-the-shoulders scene. But “After the Hunt” deserves credit not so much more wading into these hot-button topics, but for trying to find its own way through them. It’s not a #MeToo procedural but more like a tragedy. When “optics over substance” governs all, as one character laments, no one lives happily ever after.

“After the Hunt,” an Amazon MGM release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language and some sexual content. Running time: 139 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.



Writer’s compelling and visionary work honored

Hungary’s László Krasznahorkai wins Nobel Prize in literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 9, (AP): Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, whose philosophical, bleakly funny novels often unfold in single sentences, won the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for his “compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art.”

The Nobel judges praised his “artistic gaze which is entirely free of illusion, and which sees through the fragility of the social order combined with his unwavering belief in the power of art.” Steve Sem-Sandberg of the Nobel committee said at the announcement.

“László Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through (Franz) Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterized by absurdism and grotesque excess,” the Nobel judges said.

Zsuzsanna Varga, a Hungarian literature expert at the University of Glasgow, said Krasznahorkai’s apocalyptic and surreal novels probe the “utter hopelessness of the condition of human existence,” while also managing to be “incredibly funny.”

Varga said Krasznahorkai’s near-endless sentences made his books the “Hotel California” of literature - once readers get into it, “you can never leave.”

Other books include “The Melancholy of Resistance,” a surreal, disturbing tale set in a small Hungarian town, and “Baron Wenckheim’s Homecoming,” the sprawling saga of a gambling-addicted aristocrat.

Several works, including his debut, “Satanstango,” and



Hungary’s Laszlo Krasznahorkai poses for photographers in London, Tuesday, May 19, 2015. (AP)

“The Melancholy of Resistance” were turned into films by Hungarian director Béla Tarr.

Varga suggested readers new to Krasznahorkai’s work start with “Satanstango,” his debut, which set the tone for what was to follow.

“Satan who is dancing a tango - I mean, how surreal can you be?” she said.

Krasznahorkai has also written several books inspired by his travels to China and Japan, including “A Mountain to the

North, a Lake to the South, Paths to the West, a River to the East,” published in Hungarian in 2003.

Sem-Sandberg said that Krasznahorkai had been on the Nobel radar for some time, “and he has been writing and creating one outstanding work after another.” He called his literary output “almost half a century of pure excellence.”

Krasznahorkai, 71, couldn’t immediately be reached for his reaction. He didn’t speak at the announcement.

He was born in the southeastern Hungarian city of Gyula, near the border with Romania, and has since traveled the world. Throughout the 1970s, he studied law at universities in Szeged and Budapest before shifting his focus to literature.

Krasznahorkai has been a vocal critic of autocratic Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, especially his government’s lack of support for Ukraine after the Russian invasion.

But in a post on Facebook, Orbán was quick to congratulate the writer, saying: “The pride of Hungary, the first Nobel Prize winner from Gyula, László Krasznahorkai. Congratulations!”

In an interview with Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet earlier this year, Krasznahorkai expressed criticism both of Orbán’s political system and the nationalism present in Hungarian society.

“There is no hope left in Hungary today and it is not only because of the Orbán regime,” he told the paper. “The problem is not only political, but also social.”

He also reflected on the fact that he has long been a contender for the Nobel Prize in literature, saying: “I don’t want

to lie. It would be very interesting to get that prize. But I would be very surprised if I got it.”

Krasznahorkai has received many earlier awards, including the 2015 Man Booker International Prize. The Booker judges praised his “extraordinary sentences, sentences of incredible length that go to incredible lengths, their tone switching from solemn to madcap to quizzical to desolate as they go their wayward way.”

He also won the National Book Award for Translated Literature in the U.S. in 2019 for “Baron Wenckheim’s Homecoming.”

The American writer and critic Susan Sontag once described Krasznahorkai as the “contemporary master of the Apocalypse.” He was also friends with American poet and writer Allen Ginsberg and would regularly stay in Ginsberg’s apartment while visiting New York City.

He’s the first winner from Hungary since Imre Kertesz in 2002. He joins an illustrious list of laureates that includes Ernest Hemingway, Toni Morrison and Kazuo Ishiguro.

The literature prize has been awarded by the Nobel committee of the Swedish Academy 117 times to a total of 121 winners. Last year’s prize was won by South Korean author Han Kang for her body of work that the committee said “confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.”

The literature prize is the fourth to be announced this week, following the 2025 Nobels in medicine, physics and chemistry.

Heritage

Obit



The historic Al-Masmak Palace in the heart of Saudi Arabia’s capital, Riyadh.



Visual images showcasing life outside the palace walls.



Majlis (meeting room) of Al-Masmak Palace.



The main entrance of Al-Masmak Palace.

Masmak Fortress: A historic gem of Saudi resilience and heritage

Al-Masmak Palace, a fortress-like structure, is located in al-Thumairi neighborhood of Riyadh City, stands as a powerful symbol of Saudi Arabia’s unification and its founding era under King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Saud.

Built in 1865 during Imam Abdullah bin Faisal’s reign, the clay-and-stone fortress reflects traditional Najdi architecture, known for its simplicity and durability.

Spanning 3,885 square meters, it features a massive western gate with a small opening, “Khooqah,” for controlled entry.

Today, Masmak Fortress serves as an open museum, housing photographs, maps, weapons, and documents that tell the story of Saudi Arabia’s founding and cultural and architectural heritage. (KUNA)

Ted’s ex-wife

Joan Kennedy has died at 89

BOSTON, Oct 9, (AP): **Joan B. Kennedy**, the former wife of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy who endured a troubled marriage marked by family tragedies, her husband’s infidelities and her own decades-long struggles with alcoholism and mental health, died on Wednesday. She was 89.

The former Joan Bennett, one of the last remaining members of a family generation that included President John F. Kennedy, was a model and classically-trained pianist when she married Ted Kennedy in 1958.

Her lives would change unimaginably over the next decade and a half.

Brother-in-law John F. Kennedy was elected president in 1960 and assassinated three years later. Brother-in-law Robert F. Kennedy served as attorney general under JFK, was elected to the US Senate in 1964 and assassinated while seeking the presidency.

Her husband was elected to the US Senate and became among the country’s most respected legislators despite initial misgivings that he was capitalizing on his family connections. But Ted Kennedy also lived through scandals of his own making. In 1969, the car he was driving plunged off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, killing his young female passenger, Mary Jo Kopechne.

Kennedy, who swam to safety and waited hours before alerting police, later pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident. Chappaquiddick shadowed him for the rest of his life, weighing against his own chances for the presidency.

Joan Kennedy had three children with her husband, but also had miscarriages, including one shortly after the Chappaquiddick accident. She stood by her husband through the scandal, but their estrangement was nearly impossible to hide by the time of his unsuccessful effort to defeat President Jimmy Carter in the 1980 Democratic primaries. They had been separated by then, and would later divorce. One bumper sticker from the campaign read “Vote for Jimmy Carter, Free Joan Kennedy.”

Her death comes about a year after Ethel Kennedy, the wife of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, died at the age of 96, having raised their 11 children after he was assassinated, and remaining dedicated to social causes and the family’s legacy for decades thereafter.

Virginia Joan Bennett was born into a prominent Bronxville, N.Y., family and as a teen she worked as a model in TV ads. She was a classmate of Jean Kennedy, the future senator’s sister, at Manhattanville College, where her exceptional beauty caught Ted Kennedy’s eye when he visited the campus for a building dedication in 1957.

They married a year later, but Joan Kennedy struggled from the start to fit in to the high-powered family.

“Joan was shy and a really reserved person, and the Kennedys aren’t,” Adam Clymer, author of “Edward M. Kennedy: A Biography” said in an 2005 interview with the AP.

Her love of piano would be a trademark for much of her life. She was known for opening her husband’s campaign rallies with a piano serenade and, after they divorced, touring with orchestras around the world. Her family said she would combine her masterful playing with a message about the transformational potential of the arts and the need for equitable arts education.



Kennedy

New tool tackles spam calls on iPhone

Tech tip: Say goodbye to junk calls with new iOS 26 call screen feature

LONDON, Oct 9, (AP): iPhone users have a new tool to combat the scourge of nuisance phone calls: a virtual gatekeeper that can screen incoming calls from unknown numbers.

It’s among the bevy of new features that Apple rolled out with last month’s release of iOS 26. The screening feature has been getting attention because of the ever-increasing amount of robocalls and spam calls that leave many phone users feeling harassed.

Here’s a run-through of the new function:

First, you’ll need to update your iPhone’s operating system to iOS 26, which is available to the iPhone 11 and newer models.

To switch call screening on, go into Settings--Apps-Phone. Scroll down and you’ll find a new option: Screen Unknown Callers.

You’ll be presented with three choices. The Never option lets any unknown call ring through, while Silence sends all unidentified numbers directly to voicemail. What you want to tap is the middle option: Ask Reason for Calling.

If the option isn’t there, try restarting your phone.

I still couldn’t find it after updating to iOS 26, but, after some online sleuthing, I checked my region and language settings because I saw some online commenters reporting they had to match. It turns out my region was still set to Hong Kong, where I lived years ago. I switched it to the United Kingdom, which seemed to do the trick and gave me the updated menu.

Call screening introduces a layer between you and new callers.

When someone who’s not in your contacts list dials your number, a Siri-style voice will ask them to give their name and the purpose of their call.

At the same time, you’ll get a notification that the call is being screened. When the caller responds, the answers will be transcribed and the conversation will pop up in speech bubbles.

You can then answer the call.

Don’t want to answer? Send a reply by tapping one of the pre-written messages, such as “I’ll call you later” or “Send more information,” which the AI voice will read out to the caller.

Or you can type out your own message for the computer-generated voice to read out.

If you don’t respond right away, the phone will continue to ring while you decide what to do.

In theory, call screening is a handy third way between the nuclear option of silencing all unknown callers - including legitimate ones - or letting them all through.

But it doesn’t always work perfectly, according to Associated Press colleagues and anecdotal reports from social media users.

One AP colleague said she was impressed with how seamlessly it worked. Another said it’s handy for screening out cold callers who found his number from marketing databases.

“However, it’s not great when delivery drivers try to call me and then just hang up,” he added.

Some internet users have similar complaints, complaining that im-



The iPhone 17 is displayed during an announcement of new products at Apple Park on Sept 9, 2025 in Cupertino, Calif. (AP)

portant calls that they were expecting from their auto mechanic or plumber didn’t make it through. Perhaps the callers assumed it was an answering machine and didn’t seem to realize they had to stay on the line and interact with it.

I encountered a different issue the first time it kicked in for me, when an unknown caller - whether mistakenly or not - threw me off by giving my name instead of theirs. So I answered because I assumed it was someone I knew, forgetting that I could tap out a reply asking them again for their name.

The caller turned out to be someone who had obtained my name and number and was trying to get me to do a survey. I had to make my excuses and hang up.

If you don’t like call screening, you can turn it off at any time.

Apple is catching up with Google, which introduced a similar automatic call screening feature years ago for Pixel users in the United States.

Last month, the company announced the feature is rolling out to users in three more countries: Australia, Canada and Ireland.

If it’s not already on, go to your Phone app’s Settings and look for Call Screen.

Google’s version is even more automated. When someone you don’t know calls, the phone will ask who it is and why they’re calling. It will hang up if it determines that it’s a junk call, but let calls it deems to be legit ring through.

Google warns that not all spam calls and robocalls can be detected, nor will it always fully understand and transcribe what a caller says.

Samsung, too, lets users of its Galaxy Android phones screen calls by using its AI assistant Bixby’s text call function, which works in a similar way.

Variety

**NEW YORK:** A novel about identity and a missing youth, a history of the overthrow of the Shah of Iran and a picture book celebrating the underappreciated belly button are this year’s winners of the Kirkus Prize, which includes a \$50,000 cash award for each of the three categories.

**Lucas Schaefer’s** “The Slip,” which follows a man’s search for a nephew who disappeared years earlier, won for fiction, while the award for nonfiction was given to Scott Anderson’s “King of Kings: The Iranian Revolution: A Story of Hubris, Delusion and Catastrophic Miscalculation.” The winner for young readers’ literature was Thao Lam’s “Everybelly,” a poolside view of belly buttons and the stories they tell.

Established in 2014, the prizes are overseen by the trade publication Kirkus Reviews.

“This year’s Kirkus Prize winners bring us vital messages for our time - messages about the joys of community, the power of self-transformation, and the mutability of historical events - all conveyed through exhilarating prose and pictures,” Kirkus Editor-in-Chief Tom Beer said in a statement Wednesday.

Finalists included Angela Flournoy’s novel “The Wilderness”; Nicholas Boggs’ biography of James Baldwin, “Baldwin: A Love Story”; and Arundhati Roy’s memoir, “Mother Mary Comes to Me.” (AP)



Schaefer

**FORT COLLINS, Colo.:** A former Wyoming library director who was fired amid an uproar over books with sexual content that some people complained were inappropriate for youngsters and who sought their removal from youth shelves will be paid \$700,000 after settling a lawsuit.

Terri Lesley was fired as the library system director in northeastern Wyoming’s Campbell County in 2023, two years into the book dispute at the library in Gillette. Lesley sued last spring over her termination and reached the settlement with county officials Wednesday.

“I do feel vindicated. It’s been a rough road, but I will never regret standing up for the First Amendment,” Lesley said.

A major coal-mining area on the Western high plains, Campbell County is among the most conservative areas in one of the most conservative states.

Public officials there sided with the book objectors and violated Lesley’s First Amendment rights, Lesley claimed in her federal lawsuit against Campbell County, including its commission and library board.

The county denied Lesley’s claims. Only Lesley’s performance - not the dispute over the books - played a role in her dismissal, the county argued in court documents.

A private-practice attorney hired by the county for the lawsuit, Patrick Holscher, and County Attorney Nathan Henkes didn’t immediately return phone messages Wednesday seeking comment. (AP)



Conference focuses on sharing expertise, enhancing care standards

Kuwait hosts first Gulf Pediatric Conference to advance childcare

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: President of Kuwait Pediatric Association and Head of the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at the National Bank of Kuwait Children's Hospital Dr. Sundus Al-Sharida said the First Gulf Pediatric Conference will be held on Oct 11, with the participation of health and educational officials from various Gulf countries, along with international experts from global medical centers.

In a press statement on Wednesday, Al-Sharida disclosed that the three-day conference aims to strengthen Gulf cooperation in pediatrics, exchange expertise and experiences among specialists, and lay down unified strategies to develop pediatric services in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as per the latest international standards in child care and health.

She stated that this conference was established in coordination with the Gulf pediatric associations and societies to serve as a unified platform for scientific cooperation and

integration among the GCC countries.

She said 64 lecturers will participate in 14 workshops covering different fields of pediatric medicine, indicating that this scientific event is considered "a regional platform for unifying professional and scientific efforts and expanding the network of cooperation between the Gulf pediatric associations, while contributing to ongoing efforts to improve the health of Gulf children and shape a promising future for integrated care." She added the conference includes 15 scientific discussion sessions, with three to four lectures

presented in each session covering various specializations in pediatric medicine, with the participation of Gulf and international experts and consultants.

The conference program consists of several scientific and interactive workshops that provide participants with a unique practical learning experience. These workshops are on sonar and electrocardiogram, brain sonar, intravenous nutrition, leadership in medicine and medical ethics, along with other workshops aimed at developing the clinical and professional skills of doctors and other participants.



The Los Angeles skyline is seen from a Baldwin Hills overlook, Feb. 9, 2024. (AP)

Hospitals to hotels turn to green cooling

Buildings turn to ‘ice batteries’ for sustainable air conditioning

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): Every night some 74,000 gallons (280,000 liters) of water are frozen at Norton Audubon Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. The hospital used to get all of its air conditioning from a conventional system found in most US buildings, but now 27 tanks of ice sustain a network of cold-water pipes keeping operating rooms at safe temperatures and patients comfortable.

This type of thermal energy storage, also known as ice batteries, is being added to buildings in the US for its ability to provide cool air without releasing planet-warming emissions. These systems cut electricity usage and lower the strain on the grid. With rising temperatures and the growing demand for electricity in the US, ice thermal energy storage offers a sustainable option for cooling buildings.

Trane Technologies, a company that makes heating and cooling equipment, says it has seen a growing demand for this technology over the past few years. Its ice batteries are mostly used in schools as well as commercial and government buildings. Nostromo Energy, another company that makes ice batteries, is pursuing customers among energy-intensive data centers that have high cooling demands. Smaller systems are also made for homes by companies such as Ice Energy.

Ice thermal energy storage technology varies between manufacturers, but each follows a similar concept: At night when electricity from the grid is at its cheapest, water is frozen into ice that thaws the next day to cool the building. The ice chills water that is circulating through pipes in the building, absorbing heat from the rooms and creating a cooling effect. Air cooled by the system is then pushed through vents.

Norton Audubon Hospital uses a Trane ice battery system. Trane said its ice batteries are often used alongside traditional air conditioning, and the ice-based cooling is used to lower energy costs during peak demand times. The traditional AC components are typically left in place or downsized when ice batteries are added.

The stored ice doesn't require energy to thaw, which reduces the strain on the grid and minimizes the building's electricity usage, ultimately lowering monthly bills.

"Storing energy for further uses is where we're going with the future of the grid," said Ted Tiffany, senior technical lead at the Building Decarbonization Coalition. He said access to air conditioning is a major public health need that is being exacerbated by a warming planet, and ice batteries are a sustainable way to address health risks associated with extreme heat.

Energy costs at Norton Audubon were \$278,000 lower for the first year the ice battery system was in operation after it was installed 2018. The hospital estimates that the system and other energy-saving measures have saved it nearly \$4 million since 2016.

"The technology has been awesome for us," said Anthony Mathis, a Norton Healthcare executive who oversees sustainability. He said he receives inquiries from other building operators about the technology and thinks more facilities will adopt it as awareness grows.

Experts on sustainable energy say ice thermal energy storage is among the options commercial buildings can use to reduce electricity demand or store excess energy. Some commercial buildings use lithium batteries, which can store excess solar or wind energy that are available intermittently.

Dustin Mulvaney, environmental studies professor at San Jose State University, said ice batteries are a sensible option for health care settings and senior homes because lithium batteries can pose a fire risk.

Manufacturers also see opportunities in data centers, which are increasing in number to support artificial intelligence and have high energy and cooling needs. A December report from the Department of Energy found that data centers consumed more than 4% of the electricity in the country in 2023 and that number could grow up to 12% by 2028.

Calif. leads nation in school nutrition reform

US aims to improve school nutrition by phasing out ultraprocessed food

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Oct 9, (AP): California will phase out certain ultraprocessed foods from school meals over the next decade under a first-in-the-nation law signed Wednesday by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The law seeks to define ultraprocessed foods, the often super-tasty products typically full of sugar, salt and unhealthy fats. The legislation requires the state's Department of Public Health to adopt rules by mid-2028 defining "ultraprocessed foods of concern" and "restricted school foods."

Schools have to start phasing out those foods by July 2029, and districts will be barred from selling them for breakfast or lunch by July 2035. Vendors will be banned from providing the "foods of concern" to schools by 2032.

Newsom, flanked by first partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and state lawmakers, signed the measure at a middle school in Los Angeles.

"California has never waited for Washington or anyone else to lead on kids' health - we've been out front for years, removing harmful additives and improving school nutrition," Newsom said in a statement. "This first-in-the-nation law builds on that work to make sure every California student has access to healthy, delicious meals that help them thrive."

Newsom issued an executive order earlier this year requiring the Department of Public Health to provide recommendations by April on limiting harms from ultraprocessed foods. The Democratic governor signed a law in 2023 banning certain synthetic food dyes from school meals.

Legislatures across the country have introduced more than 100 bills in recent months seeking to ban or require labeling of chemicals that make up many ultraprocessed foods, including artificial dyes and controversial additives.

Americans get more than half their calories from ultraprocessed foods, which have been linked to a host of health problems, including obesity,



Cafeteria worker Alexandria Noriega prepares salads in the kitchen of Britton Middle School in Morgan Hill, Calif., Monday, Oct. 6. (AP)

diabetes and heart disease. However, studies haven't been able to prove that the foods directly cause those chronic health problems.

Defining ultraprocessed foods has been tricky. The most common definition is based on the four-tier Nova system developed by Brazilian researchers that classifies foods according to the amount of processing they undergo.

Researchers often describe ultraprocessed foods as the types of products that contain industrially made ingredients that you won't find in a home kitchen.

But some highly processed foods -- think tofu, certain types of whole-grain bread and infant formula - can be healthful. And it's not clear whether it's the processing of the foods or the combination of nutrients such as sugar, fat and salt that leads to poor health outcomes.

US health officials recently launched an effort to come up with a federal definition of ultraprocessed foods, saying there are concerns over whether current definitions "accurately capture" the range of foods that may affect health.

Some critics of the ban say it is too broad and could unintentionally limit access to nutritious foods.

"For foods served in schools, food and beverage manufacturers meet the rigorous unique safety and nutrition standards set by the USDA and state agencies," John Hewitt with the Consumer Brands Association said in a statement. He added the brands the association represents are committed to "providing safe, nutritious and convenient" products.

The California School Boards Association is concerned about the cost for districts to phase out these foods in the next few years. There is no extra money attached to the bill.

"You're borrowing money from other areas of need to pay for this new mandate," spokesperson Troy Flint said.

The law could raise costs for school districts by an unknown amount by potentially making them purchase more expensive options, according to an analysis by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Some school districts in California are already phasing out foods the law seeks to ban.

No new cases

Ebola spread slows in Congo

DAKAR, Senegal, Oct 9, (Agencies): An Ebola outbreak that has plagued southern Congo in recent weeks is starting to be contained, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, with no new cases reported since the UN health agency's last update on Oct. 1.

"As of Oct. 5, 2025, 10 days have passed without any newly reported cases, indicating potential control of transmission in the affected areas," the agency said during a news conference.

The agency said a total of 64 cases, including 53 confirmed and 11 probable, have been reported in Congo's Kasai Province as of Oct. 5. The WHO also reported 43 deaths, including 32 confirmed and 11 probable.

Congolese authorities announced an Ebola outbreak in Congo's southern Kasai province on Sept. 4, the first in 18 years in the remote part of the country located more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the capital of Kinshasa.

Health authorities and organizations had recently sounded the alarm, warning they lack the funds and resources to mount an effective response to the crisis.

The WHO said improved logistics and field operations, including helicopter and ground deliveries of medical supplies and the decontamination of three health facilities, have helped contain the outbreak over the last week.

"This steady decline in transmission and improved case management reflect the impact of coordinated interventions led by the Ministry of Health with support from WHO and partners," the agency said.

The WHO still advised caution, as almost 2,000 contacts - people who may have been exposed to the disease - are being monitored and a "single missed contact could reignite transmission chains, especially in areas with high population movement or limited community surveillance."

Meanwhile, the 35th batch of the Chinese medical team to Tanzania's Zanzibar on Wednesday held a free medical clinic at the Botanic Garden, providing services to residents in rural and remote areas.

The event aimed to deliver quality medical services directly to local communities and ease the challenge of limited healthcare access, especially for women, according to Bao Zengtao, head of the Chinese medical team.

Terms misleading

EU to ban ‘meat’ labels on vegetarian products

BRUSSELS, Oct 9, (Agencies): Lawmakers in the European Parliament on Wednesday voted to ban the labelling of vegetarian protein with terms such as "steak" or "meat."

The lawmakers voted 532 to 78 to define meat as "edible parts of animals" and to curtail the use of words like steak, escalope, sausage or burger for animal and not plant-based products. The proposal will go to a parliamentary committee to be clarified, before going back to the EU executive arm and then to the bloc's 27 member states for further negotiations.

Céline Imart, a conservative German lawmaker and former farmer, said using meat-related terms for vegetarian products was misleading.

"Now, we're not talking about banning vegetable or plant-based alternatives, of course not. But I think that terms should speak for themselves and should mean what they mean," she said in a parliamentary debate on Tuesday.

Her colleague, Austrian MEP Anna Stürzk from the liberal NEOS party, said consumers are not easily fooled by

food labels on non-meat products. "A beef tomato doesn't contain any beef ... Ladies' fingers are not made of actual ladies' fingers," she said. "Let's trust consumers and stop this hot dog populism."

Meanwhile, the Philippines has lifted the temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds from several countries and regions previously affected by avian influenza outbreaks, the country's Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel signed several memorandum orders formally allowing the resumption of poultry imports of live birds, both domestic and wild, specifically for pets or zoos, from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, as well as Kelantan and Sabah in Malaysia.

The DA had imposed the ban following reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza in those areas. However, according to the DA, all reported cases have since been resolved with no new outbreaks, prompting the government to reopen its borders to these poultry shipments.

Hope for target treatment

Women have higher genetic risk of depression: research

SYDNEY, Oct 9, (Xinhua): An Australian-led study has found that women carry a significantly higher genetic risk of depression compared to men.

The study revealed for the first time important genetic differences in how females and males experience depression, which could lead to more targeted intervention and treatments, according to a statement released Wednesday by Australia's QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

The research team discovered about twice as many genetic "flags" for depression in the DNA of females compared with males, the statement said.

The team identified about 7,000 changes in the DNA that could cause depression in both sexes, and about a further 6,000 DNA changes that could cause depression in females only, it said.

"We found some genetic differences that may help explain why females with depression more often experience metabolic symptoms, such as weight

changes or altered energy levels," said QIMR Berghofer Researcher Jodi Thomas, lead author of the study published in Nature Communications.

The study analyzed DNA from hundreds of thousands of people with and without depression, including around 130,000 females and 65,000 males with depression, with additional analyses confirming the findings were robust and not solely due to sample size differences. "Depression looks very different from one person to another. Until now, there hasn't been much consistent research to explain why depression affects females and males differently, including the possible role of genetics," said Brittany Mitchell, senior researcher at QIMR Berghofer's Genetic Epidemiology Lab.

The researchers said their findings highlight the importance of considering sex-specific genetic influences in studying depression and other health conditions, noting that most drug trials and therapies are tested on males.



Preparing 10 participants physically, nutritionally, and mentally to compete in Kuwait’s only globally certified marathon

Gulf Bank Challenge returns: 10 athletes begin their journey to Kuwait’s Premier Marathon



A group photo of the sponsors with several winners at the Gulf Bank Challenge.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: As part of its continuous preparations for the highly anticipated Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, scheduled to take place on November 29, Gulf Bank has proudly announced the launch of the second edition of the Gulf Bank Challenge. This initiative is designed to support, sponsor, and train ten participants to compete in Kuwait’s only internationally certified marathon, reinforcing the Bank’s commitment to community well-being and the promotion of sports as a vital pillar of a healthy lifestyle.

This year’s participants – five men and five women with an average age of 33 years old – were carefully selected from among hundreds of applicants, following a challenging evaluation process that measured their goals, dedication, and readiness to embark on this journey. The program offers them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to elevate their performance, build resilience, and achieve their athletic and personal ambitions.

Over the course of six weeks, the ten participants will undergo an intensive training program under the guidance of professional trainer Coach Mohammed

Al-Hithal. This comprehensive program prepares them physically, mentally, and nutritionally, ensuring they are fully ready for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. It is powered by Gulf Bank’s ongoing partnership with SUFFIX, the sports event management company, and further supported by trusted partners including Nomo Nutrition Company, Clinic Medical Center, Intersport Kuwait, and Platinum Health Club. Together, these partners provide holistic support, from professional coaching and personalized nutrition plans to healthcare and fitness resources.

Commitment to Sports and Community Health During a special ceremony to announce the winners of the Gulf Bank Challenge, Najla Aleisa, Chief Marketing Officer at Gulf Bank, commented:“We are proud to launch the second edition of the Gulf Bank Challenge, which reflects our ongoing commitment at Gulf Bank to promoting sports and a healthy lifestyle within the community. We believe that sports can bring about real and positive change, and this initiative empowers participants to push past their limits, prepare



Najla Aleisa addressed the audience.

thoroughly for competition, and achieve their dreams- whether by winning or by breaking their personal records. Our goal is not only to prepare athletes for a race but also to inspire a movement toward healthier living across the country.”

The ten selected participants expressed their heartfelt gratitude and excitement at being chosen for this exceptional opportunity. They thanked Gulf Bank and its partners for their



Highlights from the audience.

**Najla Aleisa:**  
■ The “Gulf Bank Challenge” reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting sports and a healthy lifestyle in the community.

unwavering support, affirming that the Gulf Bank Challenge marks the beginning of a remarkable journey toward their athletic and personal goals. Many participants highlighted how the program has already instilled in them a renewed sense of confidence, determination, and optimism. They emphasized that the tailored guidance they receive in training, nutrition, and healthcare serves as a strong motivation to overcome challenges and to strive for excellence both on and off the track.

About the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon has grown to become one of Kuwait’s most prominent annual sporting

events, drawing thousands of runners and sports enthusiasts from across Kuwait and around the globe. The event is more than a race; it is a festival of health, unity, and determination. It represents an open invitation for individuals of all ages and fitness levels to embrace healthier lifestyles, adopt fitness as a daily habit, and experience the transformative power of sports.

At a time when lifestyle-related illnesses such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease are on the rise, the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon emphasizes the urgent need for physical fitness and wellness. The event also plays a vital role in supporting Kuwait’s tourism, sports, and healthcare sectors, with participants and spectators contributing to the local economy while enjoying a world-class sporting experience.

The unique marathon course highlights Kuwait’s most iconic landmarks, including the Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakiya, and the Gulf Bank Headquarters, offering runners a scenic and memorable route that combines the excitement

of competition with the beauty of the country’s heritage and culture.

Marathon Categories

The marathon includes four race categories designed to accommodate participants of all backgrounds and abilities:

- 5 KM Walk or Run – open to participants aged 11 years and older
- 10 KM Run – open to participants aged 16 years and older
- Half Marathon (21 KM) – open to participants aged 18 years and older
- Full Marathon (42 KM)

Registration is now open, and those interested in participating can register through the official website: [www.gulfbank642marathon.com](http://www.gulfbank642marathon.com)

By organizing the Gulf Bank Challenge and the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, Gulf Bank continues to demonstrate its role as a leading advocate for sports, health, and community engagement in Kuwait. These initiatives underscore the Bank’s belief in the power of perseverance, teamwork, and determination, while inspiring the broader community to embrace fitness and strive for personal growth.

Wilson hits late jumper as Aces close in on WNBA Championship

Mercury in a big hole

PHOENIX, Oct 9, (AP):The Las Vegas Aces didn’t play their best late in Game 3 in the WNBA Finals, coughing up a 17-point lead in the final quarter that meant the game came down to one offensive possession with five seconds remaining.

Even so, there wasn’t any panic. The security of having a four-time MVP in the paint is nice.

A’ja Wilson made a turnaround jumper with 0.3 seconds left, capping a stellar 34-point, 14-rebound night and lifting the Aces over the Phoenix Mercury 90-88 on Wednesday night for a 3-0 lead in the WNBA Finals.

Aces coach Becky Hammon said there wasn’t any discussion about who would take the final shot. There was no need to overthink anything.

“You give the ball to A’ja and get out of the way,” Hammon said. “That’s all it really was.”

The Aces are one victory away from winning their third title in four seasons. Game 4 is Friday in Phoenix.

Las Vegas had what looked like a comfortable 76-59 lead entering the fourth quarter, but the Mercury closed the gap to 84-83 with 3:06 left on Kahleah Copper’s 3-pointer. DeWanna Bonner tied the game at 86-all on a 3-pointer with 1:33 left and made two free throws with 1:01 left to tie it at 88.

That set up Wilson’s heroics in the final seconds. She took an entry pass from Chelsea Gray and made her turnaround jumper over Alyssa Thomas and Bonner as the Mercury’s home crowd groaned.

“I feel like in that moment, if a coach has to tell you what to do, I’m not doing my job,” Wilson said. “(Hammon) just drew up a play - it wasn’t even really a play - it was



Las Vegas Aces center A’ja Wilson (22) gets fouled by Phoenix Mercury forward DeWanna Bonner during the first half of Game 3 of the WNBA basketball finals in Phoenix. (AP)

pretty much what you saw. I’m appreciative that Becky trusts me in those moments.

“That’s playoff basketball. Those are the moments that you root for.” Phoenix had one final try to get a

bucket, but Bonner’s quick jumper was no good.

The 6-foot-4 Wilson continued her dominant postseason run, making 11 of 20 shots from the field and adding four assists. She is averaging more than 26 points in 11 postseason games. Jackie Young added 21 points.

Wilson’s 291 total points over 11 games is a WNBA postseason record.

The Aces took a 2-0 lead by winning the first two games in Las Vegas, but the Mercury hoped for a boost from their boisterous home crowd in Game 3. Instead, Las Vegas thrived in the hostile atmosphere, showing the poise of a veteran team that’s been in high-pressure situations many times.

Bonner led the Mercury with 25 points while Satou Sabally had 24. Copper scored 11 of her 17 points in the fourth quarter. Thomas was one assist short of a triple-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Sabally left the game with 4:26 left in the fourth quarter when she got

tangled with Young and then fell into Kierstan Bell, hitting her head on the side of her leg. Sabally stayed on the ground for several minutes before being helped off the court.

Mercury coach Nate Tibbetts said he didn’t have an update on Sabally following the game.

Las Vegas used a 17-0 run midway through the first quarter to take an early 21-8 lead and never trailed again. Jewell Loyd came off the bench and made four 3-pointers in less than two minutes to lead the offensive onslaught.

Phoenix responded with its own 13-0 run to tie the game, but could never regain the advantage. The Mercury trailed 26-23 heading into the second quarter.

The Aces pulled away late in the second quarter to take a 55-43 lead into halftime. Las Vegas shot 9 of 16 (56.3%) from 3-point range, including a combined six from bench players Loyd and Dana Evans.

Mirassol rises to fourth in Brazil’s Serie A

LAFC overcomes Toronto for sixth consecutive win

LOS ANGELES, Oct 9, (Agencies): Jeremy Ebobisse scored in the 13th minute, substitute Frankie Amaya added a second-half goal, and LAFC beat Toronto 2-0 for its sixth straight victory.

LAFC (17-7-8) secured the club’s fourth six-game winning streak - with a chance to match its longest regular-season streak of seven on Sunday at Austin. LAFC moved within one point of San Diego and Vancouver for the top spot in the Western Conference.

Toronto (5-14-14) entered with eight consecutive draws in league play since Aug. 9 - the longest tie streak in MLS history.

Ebobisse took advantage of a Toronto turnover near midfield by racing the other way on a breakaway for a finish inside the far post.

After another Toronto turnover, Amaya was left wide open for a shot inside the near post in the 69th minute.

Hugo Lloris recorded his 11th clean sheet of the season. He is one of two goalkeepers with 10 or more clean sheets

in each of the last two MLS seasons.

Toronto goalkeeper Sean Johnson dove to his left to deny David Martínez’s penalty kick in the 60th.

□ □ □

Guilherme Pinto scored late as Mirassol moved to fourth in Brazil’s Serie A on Wednesday with a 2-1 home victory over Fluminense.

Guilherme Marques opened the scoring in the 36th minute by firing into the top-left corner after Alesson Batista’s cross.

The visitors equalized just before the hour when Matheus Martinielli slotted home from 12 yards after a corner.

But Pinto restored his side’s lead four minutes from time by combining with Carlos Eduardo before sending a low left-footed shot past veteran goalkeeper Fabio.

The result leaves Mirassol with 46 points from 27 games, nine points behind leaders Palmeiras and eight points ahead of seventh-placed Fluminense.

Aussies bounce back from collapse

Australia thrashes Pakistan as Mooney shines in WC

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Oct 9, (AP): Beth Mooney hit one of the most memorable centuries in the history of women’s ODIs as defending champion Australia overcame a top-order collapse and thumped Pakistan by 107 runs at the Women’s Cricket World Cup.

Mooney made a masterful 109 off 114 balls to raise her first World Cup hundred after Australia had wobbled to 76-7 against Pakistan spin trio of Nashra Sandhu, Rameen Shamim, and Sadiq Iqbal.

No. 10 batter Alana King upped the scoring rate in the death overs with an unbeaten 51 off 49 balls as she raised the highest-ever ninth-wicket stand in women’s ODIs by putting on 106 runs with Mooney as Australia eventually finished at a challenging 221-9.

The fast bowling pair of Kim Garth (3-14) and Megan Schutt (2-25) snapped five wickets inside the power play before Pakistan got bowled out for 114 - its third straight loss.

Australia, which beat New Zealand before its game against Sri Lanka was washed out last Saturday in Colombo, leads the points table with five points after three matches.

Pakistan’s batting woes continued as its top-order struggled against pace and spin. Sidra Amin, who scored a half-century against archrival India, top-scored with 35 off 52 balls, but Australia kept striking through before bowling out Pakistan in 36.3 overs. Amin was the only Pakistani batter among the top six to reach double figures.

Earlier, Australia’s top-order capitulated against three Pakistan spinners, who picked up 6-98 off its combined 30 overs, after skipper Fatima Sana had won the toss and elected to field.

Left-arm spinner Iqbal found the turn from the word go once Sana introduced the spinners as early as the fifth over. Captain Alyssa Healy (20) struck three boundaries but flicked Iqbal straight to mid-wicket in spinner’s second over, and Sana followed it up by taking a well-judged catch of Phoebe Litchfield’s (10) expansive shot of her own bowling.

Sandhu struck with her fifth delivery when she deceived premier batter Ellyse Perry (5) and got her stumped, and then the spinner slipped one past between the bat and pad of Annabel Sutherland to hit the stumps as Australia slipped to 59-4 in the 15th over.

Off-spinner Shamim, who didn’t concede a boundary in her 10 overs, continued to squeeze Australia when centurion against New Zealand Ashleigh Gardner chipped an easy catch to mid-wicket and Diana Baig took a smart diving catch of Tahila McGrath to leave Australia in all sorts of trouble at 75-6.

Australia was 115-8 in the 34th over and was in danger of getting bowled out for its lowest ODI total against Pakistan, but Mooney and King stood tall and raised a masterful century stand.

Mooney, who hit 11 fours, and King rotated strike frequently and waited patiently to see off the threat



Australia’s Beth Mooney plays a shot during the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup match between Australia and Pakistan at Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. (AP)

of Pakistan spinners before cutting loose against the pace of Sana and Baig in the death overs as the final four overs of pace fetched Australia 53 runs.

Mooney successfully overturned the lbw decision against her off Iqbal when she was on 85 before completing his well-composed century off 110 balls with a single of Sana. King completed his half-century with two successive sixes against Sana’s in the last over, which went for 21 runs.

Change Name

The public is hereby notified that Myrna Alaman Knapczyk has filed with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, a Migrant Petition for Change of First Name of her son in the Report of Birth with the Embassy on 25 September 2025 under Registry No. ROB-KT-07-530-2022

The First Name of child should read as GIAN VINCENT instead of GIAN YASBIN.

Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition, file his written opposition with the Philippine Embassy within ten (10) working days.

Durant on Rockets debut: ‘It felt like I’ve been here for a while’

HOUSTON, Oct 9, (AP): Kevin Durant missed his first three shots Wednesday night in his first action with the Houston Rockets.

He didn’t miss after that.

Durant scored 20 points in 23 minutes to lead the Rockets to a 140-127 preseason win over the Utah Jazz after sitting out of Houston’s preseason opener on Monday night.

“I’ve felt right at home since I came here three or four weeks ago, so I felt normal,” he said. “It felt like I’ve been here for a while. The guys are welcoming pretty smoothly, the coaching staff, so it just felt normal. It ain’t feel any different.” Durant joined the Rockets in July in a blockbuster trade

that sent Jalen Green and Dillon Brooks to Phoenix. The 15-time All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist joins a young team that aims to take another step this season after finishing second in the Western Conference in the regular season before losing in the first round of the playoffs.

“Just took what the game gave him, wasn’t forcing anything, trying to get guys involved, took the shots that were there,” coach Ime Udoka said. “Ended up 7 for 10 and missed the three that he probably will make usually and so did what he does.

“Just getting his rhythm going, so it’s good to see him out there.”

The 6-foot-11 Durant was part of a starting lineup Wednes-

day night that included fellow 6-11 player Alperen Sengun and 6-10 Jabari Smith Jr. He loved the defensive looks they got when Sengun was handling the ball on the perimeter.

“When you’ve got your 5 man that can handle at the top of the key the spacing just opens the floor up so much for us and then makes us unpredictable because he can iso up there, he can go set the screen, dribble hand off, we can screen for him,” Durant said. “So, it throws the defense off when he has the ball up there and we trust he’s gonna make the right play every time.”

Sengun had 13 points and 13 assists in 27 minutes as the Rockets look for different facilitators in their offense with point guard Fred VanVleet out for the season after tearing his ACL.



# Winners crowned as Zain Edition padel league wraps up



Waleed Al-Khashti honoring the Men's champions.



Honoring the Women's champions.



The league featured a high-energy atmosphere over ten days.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Zain Kuwait announced the successful conclusion of the Zain Edition padel league, part of The Padel League series, following ten days of high-energy competition that featured strong participation from more than 250 players from Kuwait and across the GCC.

The closing ceremony honored the champions and runners-up in the Under-16's, Women's, and Men's categories at El Padel courts at The Regency Hotel. The event was attended by Waleed Al-Khashti, Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer, and Abdulrahman Al-Musbahi, Director General of Tour Events, the tournament organizer.

The championship drew more than 250 male and female players from Kuwait and the GCC, with matches held across three main categories: Under-16's, Men's, and Women's. The event delivered a professional organizational experience that elevated participation, competition levels, and sportsmanship, reinforcing padel's status as one of the fastest-growing sports in Kuwait and the region.

Zain affirmed that its support for this championship aligns with its continuous efforts to empower athletes and back emerging sports. The company aims to provide competitive platforms that help develop local talent and open doors for regional and international participation.

This championship served as the first stop in The Padel League series, which offers a comprehensive tournament calendar that sustains competition and raises technical standards throughout the season.

Zain extended its appreciation to all partners, supporters, organizers, and media representatives. The company congratulated the champions, honorees, and participants for their outstanding performances, and confirmed its commitment to continue supporting quality platforms that enhance Kuwait's sports presence and increase the private sector's contribution to youth and community development.

This step continues Zain's sustained support for padel, which has become one of the most popular sports among youth in Kuwait and the region. Over the past years, the company has supported major local and regional championships and organized internal activities for its employees to promote an active lifestyle and a healthy culture.

## Under the patronage of Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah: A remarkable success for ADCC Kuwait Open 2025



KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The ADCC Kuwait Open 2025 was held at Al Arabi Sports Club on 3rd & 4th October 2025, under the generous patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Platinum Sponsor of the tournament, and in the presence of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Mahmoud Al-Dossari.

The tournament welcomed more than 1,000 contestants from over 50 countries, alongside the participation of 27 international champions from among the sport's elite. This made it one of the most prominent events in the region in terms of scale and organizational excellence.

The Open Category results were as follows: 1st Place: Ruslan Abdullah — Russia; 2nd Place: Cartiel Rodriguez — Brazil; 3rd Place: Matius Philippi — Brazil

During the closing ceremony, His Excellency Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah presented the awards and medals to the winners, in a distinguished atmosphere that reflected the high spirit of competition and professionalism that characterized the tournament.

The event featured two main categories of competition: the Youth Category, held on October 3rd, which included participants aged 6 to 17, and



Top and above: photos from the event

the Open Category, held on October 4th, for competitors aged 18 and above. Both divisions showcased remarkable talent, discipline, and sportsmanship, reflecting the growing passion for the sport across all age groups.

The organizing committee is pleased to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah for his generous Platinum sponsorship and his presence, which honored the tournament. We also extend our thanks to all participants, organizers, and sponsors for their great efforts that contributed to the success of this distinguished sporting event.

## Chelsea held by Twente as Madrid hits six

AMSTERDAM, Oct 9, (AP): Chelsea's mission to finally win a Women's Champions League title after three straight semifinal exits had a tough start Wednesday in a 1-1 draw at Dutch club Twente.

Germany great Alexandra Popp was key for two-time champion Wolfsburg in a 4-0 win against Paris Saint-Germain, which wasted a series of good scoring chances in the second half.

Both Madrid clubs scored six in big wins to cap the opening week of games in the new and expanded league-phase format with 18 teams.

Real Madrid brushed aside Roma 6-2 at home and Atletico Madrid raced to a three-goal lead by the 22nd minute at St. Polten in a 6-0 win.

Manchester United beat Valerenga 1-0 at home - on captain Maya Le Tissier's penalty kick in the 31st - where last Friday it was the first team to take points off Chelsea in the English league this season.

Chelsea coach Sonia Bompastor made eight changes to her starting



lineup Wednesday, and the six-time defending English champion trailed to a stunning goal against the Dutch league leader.

Twente captain Danique Van Ginkel struck in the 63rd minute with a curling shot from the edge of the penalty area after an attack down

the left side by Jill Roord. The shot was beyond the dive of Switzerland goalkeeper Livia Peng, who started in place of England standout Hannah Hampton.

Chelsea leveled in the 71st when France winger Sandy Baltimore scored with a penalty kick awarded for a clear foul.

Bompastor then sent on star forward Sam Kerr and 16-year-old defender Chloe Sarwie to help search for a second goal. Sarwie went close with a rising shot.

Chelsea has yet to be European champion and has lost to Barcelona in three semifinals seasons in the semifinals to Barcelona. Chelsea also lost the 2021 final to Barcelona.

At 34, Alexandra Popp is still a force at Wolfsburg, who she helped win back-to-back Champions League titles in 2013 and '14.

Wolfsburg led in the seventh against PSG when Popp's pressure on defender Jackie Groenen at a corner helped force the ball into the net for an own goal.

### 'Team is capable of achieving goals'

## Handball leagues pause as Kuwait gears up for Games

By Khaled Al-Enezi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Kuwaiti Premier and First Division Handball Leagues have been temporarily suspended following the first round of the Premier League. The break allows the national team to focus on preparations for the Islamic Solidarity Games, which will take place in Saudi Arabia starting November 3, and for Al-Azraq to gear up for the Asian tournament – 2027 World Cup qualifiers, set to be hosted in Kuwait next January.

The national team will kick off its preparations with a local training camp beginning next Sunday, followed by the announcement of international training plans.

Shebib Al-Hajri, Vice President of the Kuwaiti Handball Federation, praised Saudi Arabia's significant role in developing Gulf and Arab sports, particularly in handball, which has experienced remarkable growth in the Kingdom.

Al-Hajri added: "We are preparing our national teams through local training and overseas camps, including matches against top-level teams, to provide players—especially young talent—with critical field experience. These young players form a large part of the national team and are the future of Kuwaiti handball."

He emphasized: "Our national team is capable of achieving ambitious goals and raising Kuwaiti handball to new heights. However, it is crucial not to place undue psychological or mental pressure on the



Players scramble to defend as opponents attempt a shot on goal during a handball game.

players. Their role is to perform on and off the court, and we aim to showcase Kuwaiti handball proudly on the international stage."

In the first round of the second phase of the Premier League, Kazma defeated Al-Arabi 33-28, while Al-Sulaibkhat overcame Al-Salmiya 36-34. With the win, Kazma secured second place with 11 points, Al-Arabi remains sixth with six points, Al-Salibkhat moves up to fifth with seven points, and Al-Salmiya drops to seventh with six points.

### 'Amorim needs time to prove himself'

LONDON, Oct. 9, (Xinhua): Manchester United co-owner Jim Ratcliffe said manager Ruben Amorim should be given up to three years to prove himself at Old Trafford.

Amorim, who joined from Sporting Lisbon last November, has endured a difficult start to life in England. Manchester United finished 15th in the Premier League last season - its worst result in over 50 years - and has already lost three league games this term, along with a shock EFL Cup defeat to fourth-tier Grimsby Town.

Despite spending more than 200 million pounds (268 million U.S. dollars) in the summer, Manchester United's struggles have led to speculation over Amorim's future.

But speaking on The Times' Business podcast, Ratcliffe said the Portuguese coach was never under threat before last weekend's 2-0 win over Sunderland.

"He has not had the best of seasons," Ratcliffe said. "Ruben needs to demonstrate he is a great coach over three years. That's where I would be."

Ratcliffe dismissed criticism of Amorim's tactics, saying too many expect "overnight success." "You can't run a club like Manchester United on knee-jerk reactions to some journalist who goes off on one every week," he said.

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Saudi Arabia's Feras Albrikan, left, celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal during the World Cup 2026 Asian qualifier fourth-round Group B soccer match between Saudi Arabia and Indonesia at Alinma Bank Stadium in King Abdullah Sports City, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

# Sports

## Saudi Arabia edges closer to World Cup qualification

Qatar held to 0-0 draw by Oman

**JEDDAH, Oct 9, (AP):** Saudi Arabia beat Indonesia 3-2, moving within 90 minutes of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

A victory against Iraq next Tuesday, also in Jeddah, would guarantee Saudi Arabia first place in Group B and a seventh World Cup appearance.

In the fourth round of Asian qualifying, only the winners of the two groups of three earn automatic berths to the tournament. The runners-up advance to a fifth round.

Indonesia, coached by former Netherlands and Barcelona striker Patrick Kluivert, struck first when Kevin Diks converted a penalty in the 11th minute. Six minutes later, Saleh Abu Al-Shamat equalized, and Firas Al-Buraikan's penalty in the 37th minute put Saudi Arabia ahead.

Al-Buraikan scored again just after the hour mark, but Diks converted a second penalty in the 89th. Saudi Arabia's Mohamed Kanno was sent off in stoppage time, but the hosts held on for the win.

"One more step to go. God willing, we'll make it happen," Al-Buraikan said in comments posted on X by the Asian Football Confederation.

Indonesia's chance of returning to the World Cup for the first time since 1938 will be over if it loses to Iraq on Saturday.

Earlier in Group A, Qatar was held to a 0-0 draw by Oman in Al-Rayyan.

"We performed well throughout the match against a stubborn team that defended well and closed down spaces," Qatar coach Julien Lopetegui said. "Despite that, we created several opportunities but couldn't convert them into goals."

Oman, the only team in the fourth round that has never appeared at the World Cup, plays the United Arab Emirates on Saturday.

"A draw is the best result for both teams today. A loss would have hurt our chances of World Cup qualification," Oman coach Carlos Queiroz said. "We don't have much time before facing the UAE, but we'll prepare well to keep our World Cup dream alive."

Asia has eight automatic places, and Japan, South Korea, Australia, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Jordan have already qualified from the third round, which ended in June.



Saudi Arabia's Nawaf Bu Washl, top, heads the ball past Indonesia's Beckham Putra Nugraha during the World Cup 2026 Asian qualifier fourth-round Group B soccer match between Saudi Arabia and Indonesia at Alinma Bank Stadium in King Abdullah Sports City, in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. (AP)

**'We need win after win'**

## Crunch time looms for Germany in qualifying



Germany national soccer team players practice during a training in Herzogenaurach, Germany. (AP)

**MUNICH, Oct 9, (AP):** A World Cup without Germany used to be unthinkable. Now the four-time champion needs to turn things around to ensure a spot at next year's tournament.

A shock 2-0 loss to Slovakia in World Cup qualifying means Julian Nagelsmann's team may need a perfect record in the rest of its qualifiers, starting with wins over Luxembourg on Friday and Northern Ireland on Monday.

"Everyone expects of us that we'll beat every opponent 5-0, 6-0 but that's no longer possible," midfielder Nadiem Amiri said in comments reported by German agency dpa. "The times have simply changed. Everyone's good, everyone can hold their own. For us it's just important to win. We need win after win."

The qualifying format - a four-team group where only the winner qualifies automatically - means Germany must win each of its remaining games unless Slovakia slips up, and get ahead of Slovakia on goal difference too. Second place would put Germany into a bracket of four teams competing for one spot early next year.

If Germany did fail to make it to the expanded, 48-team World Cup, it would be a historic shock.

Until its loss in Slovakia last month, Germany had never lost a World Cup qualifying game away from home. The only times it's missed the men's World Cup were the inaugural 13-team 1930 event, which it skipped along with most of Europe, and 1950, when it was excluded following World War II.

Of course, even when it has qualified, Germany hasn't always produced the goods.

Group-stage exits in 2018 and 2022 were huge disappointments for a team which had top-class individual players but didn't seem to gel as a team. A goose-themed motivational talk by then-coach Hansi Flick at the 2022 World Cup left flat and seemed to typify the lack of enthusiasm.

That all means Germany hasn't played a World Cup knockout game since winning the 2014 final.

Germany's qualification fight has been made harder by injuries.

Barcelona's Marc-André ter Stegen would be first-choice goalkeeper if fit but hasn't played all year, while Real Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger is out with a muscle injury and Bayern Munich's attacking midfield star Jamal Musiala likely won't return until the new year.

Nagelsmann seems intent on forging a partnership between Florian Wirtz and Newcastle's Nick Woltemade, but Wirtz has yet to find his best form since his Liverpool move and Woltemade has had a flu-like illness this week. That meant the tall striker was training separately Wednesday.

There's extra attention on new player Nathaniel Brown, a left back from Eintracht Frankfurt who would also be eligible for the United States. Brown faces the challenge of doing better than his Frankfurt teammate Nnamdi Collins, who was dropped after costly errors on debut in the Slovakia loss.

### Best of the Rest

**Boca Juniors coach dies aged 69:** Boca Juniors head coach Miguel Angel Russo died at the age of 69 after a long battle with illness.

Russo, who coached clubs in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Spain and Colombia over a career spanning 36 years, died at his home in Buenos Aires where he had been receiving palliative care.

"Club Atletico Boca Juniors announces the passing of Miguel Angel Russo with profound sadness," the club said on social media. "Miguel leaves an indelible mark on our institution and will always be an example of joy, warmth, and dedication. We are with his family and loved ones in this time of grief. Farewell, dear Miguel!" Russo, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2017, took charge of Boca for a third time in June.

He guided the club to its sixth and most recent Copa Libertadores title during his first spell in charge in 2007 and was also in charge from 2020 to 2021, winning three domestic titles.

Russo's deteriorating health meant he was unable to take charge of Boca's last two games and he was replaced by assistant Claudio Ubeda. Despite being hospitalized several times in the past three months, he continued working closely with his staff. (Xinhua)

Ghana on verge of booking spot

## Sisi congratulates Egypt on qualifying for World Cup

**CAIRO, Oct 9, (Agencies):** Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi extended his congratulations to the national football team, "The Pharaohs", following their qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Posting on his official Facebook account, Sisi said:

"I sincerely congratulate the heroes of our national team on their well-deserved qualification for the 2026 World Cup. You have brought pride and joy to all Egyptians, demonstrating that determination and perseverance lead to achievement."

He added:

"This success reflects the dedication of the players, coaching staff, and administrative team, and it deserves the highest appreciation. I encourage the team to continue giving their best at the World Cup, showcasing Egypt's football legacy and representing our nation with honor on the global stage."

Egypt secured World Cup qualification for the fourth time in history after a decisive 3-0 win over Djibouti in the ninth round of Group A in the African qualifiers. With the victory, Egypt now leads the group with 23 points, five ahead of Burkina Faso, with one match remaining.



Mohamed Salah celebrates with his teammates after scoring against Djibouti.

The triumph also saw Mohamed Salah continue his record-breaking run, becoming the all-time top scorer in African World Cup qualifiers. Salah now has 19 goals in World Cup qualifying matches, achieving the milestone in fewer games than any previous record-holder.

Burkina Faso second behind Egypt in Group A after its 1-0 win at Sierra Leone, while Ethiopia beat Guinea Bissau 1-0.

Meanwhile, Ghana moved one step closer to qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup after defeating the Central African Republic (CAR) 5-0 in their qualifier in Morocco.

Ghana broke the deadlock after 20 minutes when defender Mohammed Salisu rose highest to head home Mohammed Kudus's corner, with the scoreline 1-0 at halftime.

After the break, Ghana continued their dominance and scored four

more times through Thomas Partey in the 52nd minute, Alexander Djiku in the 69th minute, and captain Jordan Ayew and substitute Kamaldeen Sulemana in the 71st and 87th minutes, respectively.

The win leaves Ghana top of Group I with 22 points and a goal difference of 16 after nine matches, with Madagascar occupying second position with 19 points and a goal difference of eight.

Mali, Comoros and the CAR follow with 15, 15, and five points, respectively, while Chad sits bottom of the group with one point.

Ghana will play its final qualifier against Comoros at the Accra Sports Stadium on Sunday, where a draw will confirm the Black Stars' place at the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Cape Verde fought back from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 against Libya to edge closer to what would be its first-ever World Cup qualification.

Cape Verde leads Group D by two points over Cameroon, which beat Mauritius 2-0 - Nicolas Ngamaleu and Bryan Mbeumo both scored.

In another Group D clash, Angola drew 2-2 at home against Eswatini.

Pegula advances; Vacherot stuns Rune in Shanghai

## Djokovic books semi clash with Vacherot as Sabalenka Wuhan winning streak reaches 19

**SHANGHAI, Oct 9, (AP):** Novak Djokovic had a relatively straightforward victory at the Shanghai Masters for a change as he beat unseeded Zizou Bergs 6-3, 7-5 Thursday to reach the semifinals, where he will face No. 204-ranked qualifier Valentin Vacherot from Monaco.

The 38-year-old Djokovic has struggled in the hot and humid conditions in Shanghai, vomiting during previous matches and needing medical attention when he slumped to the ground in exhaustion after being taken to a third set by Jaume Munar in the previous round.

The only major blip against Bergs was being broken when he led 5-4 in the second set, before finally converting his third match point.

"I should have closed out the match at 5-4," Djokovic said. "Very challenging conditions these days for all the players, and I was just trying to stay alive on the court. I'm glad to overcome this hurdle."

It was the first meeting between Djokovic and Bergs.

"Man, I've got to stop idolizing you," Bergs said with a smile before the 26-year-old Belgian hugged Djokovic at the net.

Vacherot stunned 10th-seeded Holger Rune 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 to become the second lowest-ranked semifinalist in Masters 1000 events in the past 35 years, according to the

ATP.

"This is just unbelievable," Vacherot said in an on-court interview. "I didn't come as a qualifier, I came as an alternate. I wasn't even sure I was going to play qualifying."

Vacherot clinched the win when Rune netted a return of serve, then fell to his knees on the baseline with

both hands to his face against the court surface. Rune had struggled with mobility because of leg cramps in the third set.

Meanwhile, U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka's winning streak at the Wuhan Open rolled on to 19 matches when she beat Liudmila Samsonova 6-3, 6-2 Thursday to



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a backhand shot from Zizou Bergs of Belgium during the men's singles quarterfinal match of the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center, in Shanghai, China. (AP)

advance to the quarterfinals of the WTA 1000-level tournament.

Top-ranked Sabalenka's streak includes winning titles at Wuhan in 2018, 2019 and 2024.

Earlier, Jessica Pegula recovered from an early service break in the third set to beat Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-5, 3-6, 6-3 and also advance to the final eight. Sixth-seeded Pegula, who lost in the China Open semifinals last week, leveled the deciding set at 2-2, then won four of the last five games for victory.

The win over No. 9 Alexandrova came a day after Pegula needed seven match points to beat fellow American Hailey Baptiste in the second round.

It was Pegula's sixth straight three-set match, and for the fifth time, she won.

"I can't remember the last time I played two sets," Pegula said. "But I've been competing really hard and I've been playing a lot of really good players. It was different conditions today with the roof closed and I think it took us a little while to get adjusted."

In night matches, No. 2 Iga Swiatek was scheduled to play Belinda Bencic and No. 3 Coco Gauff, coming off a semifinal loss to eventual champion Amanda Anisimova at the China Open last week, was due to face Zhang Shuai.