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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during a meeting with Sultan Haitham bin Tareq of the Sultanate of Oman.

## Kuwait Amir, Oman's Sultan chart new path for a unified vision of development

MUSCAT, Oct 14, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived Tuesday in the Sultanate of Oman for a fraternal visit.

At the forefront of those receiving His Highness upon arrival were Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Deputy Prime Minister for Defense Affairs Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of the Royal Office Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Chief of the Special Office Dr. Hamad bin Said Al-Awfi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority Abdul Salam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Minister of Energy and Minerals Eng. Salem bin Nasser Al-Awfi, and Kuwait's Ambassador to the Sultanate Dr. Mohammad Al-Hajri.

His Highness the Amir was accompanied by Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Dr. Sheikh Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Chief of His Highness the Amir's Office Retired Lieutenant General Jamal Theyab, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, and Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Sheikh Saud Salem Abdulaziz Al-Sabah.

At Al-Baraka Palace in Muscat, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held talks with Sultan Haitham bin Tareq of the Sultanate of Oman.



Amiri Diwan photos  
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah being received by Sultan Haitham bin Tareq upon arrival in Muscat.

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# Mall brawls lead to deportations

Legal measures taken against individuals smoking in closed public places

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The General Department of Criminal Investigation and the Environmental Police Department at the Interior Ministry carried out an intensive field security campaign targeting shopping malls that recently witnessed re-**

**peated incidents of public brawls, some of which involved the use of knives, leading to the arrest of several individuals proven to have disrupted public order.**

In a press statement Tuesday, the ministry confirmed that the campaign is in line with the ongoing efforts of the Criminal Security Sector to maintain public order and combat negative behavior in public places, in cooperation with the Security Directorates Sector.

The ministry disclosed that the campaign resulted in the arrest of 20 individuals involved in instigating fights and causing chaos. The violating expatriates were deported immediately and legal action was taken against the citizens. Four individuals were also arrested for violating public morals.

It added that the environmental police officers arrested four individuals for smoking in closed public places (shopping malls), and the necessary legal measures were taken against them.

It affirmed that the relevant authorities will continue to in-

tensify field campaigns in shopping malls and public facilities to apprehend rioters and violators, stressing the need to take deterrent measures against anyone who disturbs public order or violates the laws and regulations.

In this context, a security source informed the newspaper that security personnel are monitoring all fights in shopping malls, as well as those filmed and circulated on social media. He indicated that these incidents are verified before arresting those involved and immediately deport expatriates who incite quarrels and chaos in the country, while legal action is taken against citizens.

## Summit in Egypt endorses Gaza ceasefire agreement

CAIRO, Oct 14, (Agencies): The Sharm El-Sheikh Peace Summit concluded Monday evening with the endorsement of the agreement to end the Gaza war, which was reached on October 9, through Egyptian, Qatari, Turkish, and American mediation.

In a statement the Egyptian presidency said that the summit, co-chaired by Egyptian President Abdelattah El-Sisi and US President Donald Trump, underlined the importance of international cooperation to provide all means to implement Gaza peace agreement's terms.

This includes a comprehensive cessation of the war in Gaza, the completion of the exchange of hostages and captives, the Israeli withdrawal, and the delivery of humanitarian and relief aid into the Gaza Strip, it added.

The summit witnessed the signing ceremony of a joint document by the leaders of the mediating countries in support of the peace agreement.

The conferees commended US President efforts to end the war through his proposed plan, as well as the pivotal role of Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye in mediating the deal.

The participating leaders valued Egypt's role in leading and coordinating humanitarian efforts since the outbreak of the crisis and its mediation role, leading up to the Sharm El-Sheikh agreement. They commended the Egyptian efforts in convening the Summit.

There was also a strong emphasis on the need to commence consultations on the means and mechanisms to implement the upcoming phases of President Trump's settlement plan, starting with issues related to governance and providing security, the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, and culminating in the political track for settlement.

In the statement, Egypt extended its appreciation to the leaders who participated in the summit and welcomes the high-level international participation, which clearly reflected global support for efforts to end the war.

Egypt vowed to continue cooperation with its regional and international partners to close this painful chapter in the history of the Middle East and the world, affirming that it would spare no effort to preserve the new prospect of peace.

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US President Donald Trump greets Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during the summit to support ending the more than two-year Israel-Hamas war in Gaza after a breakthrough ceasefire deal, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. (AP)



PM Diwan photo  
HH the PM, accompanied by ministers, inspect the new Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) in the Sabah Health Region on Tuesday.

Facility major boost to oncology care

## PM, ministers tour new KCCC project in Sabah Health Region

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, accompanied by ministers, inspected the new Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC) in the Sabah Health Region on Tuesday, on the sidelines of the weekly Cabinet meeting held at the site.

Speaking to KUNA, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said the project is a major step in regional oncology care and part of the ministry's plan to expand specialized services to international standards, reducing the need for treatment abroad.

The center will comprise two medical towers with 618 beds, a central services building, and parking for about 1,950 vehicles, he explained.

Facilities include modern operating rooms, intensive care units (ICUs), specialized oncology wards, radiotherapy units, and physiotherapy, with advanced equipment such as linear accelerators, computed tomography (CT) simulators, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), as well as diagnostic imaging, nuclear medicine, central laboratories, and a central pharmacy.

The project supports health infrastructure upgrades and capacity expansion in line with Kuwait Vision 2035, and will link medical, academic, and research work in oncology, Dr. Al-Awadhi added.

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## Digital link boosts radiation oversight

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Ministry of Health announced the activation of an electronic link system with the General Administration of Customs (GAC) to strengthen the monitoring and control of radioactive materials and devices, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This step aims to enhance radiation safety and improve the efficiency of control procedures at customs ports.

The ministry explained that the new system will help accelerate and simplify the control of devices and materials subject to radiation monitoring. It also enhances the efficiency of information exchange between relevant institutions,

reduces paper-based transactions, and ensures greater accuracy and speed in procedures.

The control covers ionizing radiation devices such as X-ray and radiotherapy equipment, as well as medical and industrial radioactive sources, in addition to non-ionizing devices like lasers, radar, and communication stations.

The ministry affirmed its ongoing commitment to expanding digital transformation and electronic integration within an integrated system that is in line with global safety standards, thereby promoting a healthy, safe, and sustainable work environment.

## Third runway, new watchtower milestone in airport innovation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): The opening of the third runway and the new airport watchtower on October 30 will help boost operational capacity, said an official at the Public Authority for Civil Aviation on Tuesday.

In an interview with KUNA, Deputy Director General for Planning Affairs and Projects at the Public Authority for Civil Aviation Engineer Saad Al-Otaibi affirmed that the two projects were part of the authority's plans to reinforce Kuwait's status as a regional hub for aviation and logistic services.

He indicated that Kuwait International Airport infrastructure was en-

tering a new phase of comprehensive development, boosting operational capacity, improving services for travelers, and increasing state income.

The Civil Aviation's four-point comprehensive development strategy focuses on improving infrastructure to better serve travelers, boosting the airport's operational capacity, increasing income via involving the private sector in administrative projects, and training cadres and staff to handle operations according to international standards.

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### Newswatch

**BEIRUT:** France announced on Tuesday that it will organize two conferences to support the Lebanese Army and the reconstruction of Lebanon.

This came in a statement by the Lebanese Presidency saying that President Joseph Aoun received a letter from his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron affirming his support for Lebanon before the end of the year. (KUNA)

**BEIRUT:** Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Monday called for renewed negotiations with Israel, emphasizing that a cessation of military operations is necessary before dialogue can begin.

"We hope to reach a time when Israel will stop its military actions against Lebanon so that the negotiation process can start," Aoun told the Association of Economic Journalists, according to a statement released by Lebanon's Presidency. (Xinhua)

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish and Spanish authorities seized 1.7 tons of cocaine concealed in fossil flour and detained three suspects, Türkiye's Trade Ministry announced Tuesday.

The ministry said the drugs were discovered in a container shipped from South America to Spain via Istanbul. Turkish customs inspection revealed cocaine soaked into fossil flour, and prosecutors opened an investigation. (Xinhua)



**2** Kuwait media open to various cultures, dialogue builds bridges: Al-Jarallah



**8** Kuwait Finance House issues 2024 Carbon Footprint Report



**12** Al Othman Mosque: Symbol of Kuwait's Islamic heritage



Prayer Timings			
Fajr .....	04:29	Asr .....	14:52
Sunrise ..	05:48	Maghrib ..	17:19
Zohr .....	11:34	Isha .....	18:36

# Local

Weather			
Expected weather for next 24 hrs:			
By Day: Hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-40 km/h..			
By Night: Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 12-35 km/h.			
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	
Kuwait City	37	25	
Kuwait Airport	37	21	
Abdaly Jahra	38	24	
Salmiyah	36	27	
Ahmadi	35	21	
Nuwaisib	35	22	
Wafra	37	21	
Salmly	36	18	



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah in talks with the Acting Ambassador of South Africa to Kuwait Busisiwe Mpungose.



Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Acting South Africa Ambassador Busisiwe Mpungose, Trade and Information Officer at the embassy Ayman Alakrass and Managing Editor of the Arab Times Marlon Aquino Malinao discussing ways to boost Kuwait, South Africa media ties.

## Kuwait media open to various cultures, dialogue builds bridges: Al-Jarallah

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Dean of Kuwaiti Journalism and Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah on Tuesday met with Head of Mission and acting Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the State of Kuwait Busisiwe Mpungose, who was accompanied by Trade and Information Officer at the embassy Ayman Alakrass.

The meeting focused on areas of cooperation between the two sides in media and cultural fields, and ways to enhance knowledge exchange between the Kuwaiti and South African media contributing to deepening bridges of communication between the two friendly peoples.

The two sides also discussed the global media landscape and the challenges that the media is facing in light of the digital revolution and the development of modern communication tools.

Al-Jarallah warmly welcomed the guests, affirming the commitment of the Kuwaiti media to remain open to various cultures and to build bridges of dialogue with media institutions around the world. He praised the role of South African diplomacy in supporting dialogue and understanding between peoples.

Meanwhile, Mpungose expressed her appreciation for the prestigious status that Kuwaiti journalism enjoys in the region, confirming that her country aspires for stronger cooperation in media and cultural fields, which would contribute to strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two countries and peoples.

Arab Times Managing Editor Marlon Aquino Malinao also attended the meeting



Participants of the discussion hosted by the Ministry of Information.

## Focus on media role in raising awareness on societal issues

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Ministry of Information organized a panel discussion titled, "Methodology for Impact-Making in Civic Engagement", on Monday with the participation of the representatives of civil society organizations.

The panel discussion was held at the Government Communication Center in the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers in Shaab. This discussion is part of a series of consultative meetings that the ministry is conducting to prepare the media strategy for the years 2026-2030.

Head of the Strategy Team at the ministry Dr. Saleh Al-Otaibi disclosed in a press statement "this panel discussion is part of the participatory approach adopted by the ministry in developing its media strategy, and its commitment to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, thereby, benefiting from their insights and observations in shaping the future of national media."

Al-Otaibi revealed the panel discussion tackled a number of vital topics through which the ministry intends to build an influential and effective media. He said the first topic is on raising public awareness about societal issues, with questions on the role of the media in supporting the efforts of civil society organizations and institutions in the environment, education and human rights fields. He also highlighted issues that do not receive sufficient media coverage and ways to cooperate to raise awareness about them.

He added that the second topic is on partnership as a tool for development, how the ministry can become an effective partner in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and practical mechanisms to ensure that the media contributes to enhancing citizen participation in community issues and transforming the ideas presented into joint media initiatives with a tangible impact.

He said the outcomes of this panel discussion will contribute to identifying social issues that require media support, as well as designing joint media initiatives to raise awareness in certain areas like the environment and education. He explained that the goal is to transform the media from a mere news outlet into an effective partner in social development.

He added the ministry continues to hold a series of discussion sessions with various sectors and institutions, in an effort to formulate a comprehensive national media strategy that keeps pace with rapid developments and supports the positive role of the media in serving Kuwaiti society.



Students at one of the stalls.

## KU faculty engineering fair pulls big crowd of students

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University marked the silver jubilee of its Engineering Admissions Fair during the launch of the "25th Engineering Admissions Fair", organized by the Office of the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the event is held every day from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm from October 12 to 16.

A total of 17 entities participated, including various academic departments within the college and institutions from both inside and outside Kuwait University.

A large number of students from public and private schools attended the fair, where they were introduced to the college's specializations, academic departments, and future career opportunities.

The fair was held under the patronage of the President of Kuwait University Professor Dina Musaied Al-Maillem, and was attended by her representative - Vice President for Planning Professor Osama Ali Al-Omair.

Also present were the Acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Dr. Adel Hussein Malallah, and the Acting Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Dr. Nawaf Faisal Al-Juwaihel.

In an official statement, Dr. Adel Malallah affirmed the college's keenness to organize the fair annually to help guide high school students toward engineering majors that suit their interests and capabilities.

He stressed that selecting the right major encourages creativity, academic achievement, and professional excellence, ultimately benefiting both the community and the nation.

In addition, the acting Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Dr. Nawaf Al-Juwaihel expressed his pleasure at the launch of the 25th edition of the fair.

## Media moguls to attend 'KUNA Dialogue' program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) will host a media dialogue on Wednesday titled "KUNA Dialogue" as part of the "Kuwait Capital of Arab Culture and Media 2025" activities.

The event brings together prominent figures in media and thought leadership from Kuwait and across the Arab world, reflecting the agency's commitment to its national role and strategic media integration.

KUNA said in a press release that this dialogue supports its expanded responsibilities beyond traditional news reporting to fostering Kuwait's comprehensive national media message.

The agency emphasized that Kuwait's selection as Capital of Arab Culture and Media 2025 highlights the country's pioneering cultural and media role in the region and its strong foundations in responsible freedom of expression.

This recognition also reflects the unwavering support of the wise leadership for culture, media, and the arts in Kuwait, promoting national identity and creative expression across platforms.

The dialogue will explore Kuwait's media journey amid current global challenges, particularly technological advances and artificial intelligence shaping modern content creation and journalism.

The first session, "Official Media: Past and Present," will discuss KUNA's role, Kuwait Radio's legacy, and the evolution of Kuwait TV in portraying the national narrative.

Speakers include former KUNA editorial sector head Saad Al-Ali, Al-Rai Editor-in-Chief Waleed Al-Jasem, radio official Dr. Yousef Al-Suraie, and TV executive Bader Al-Dai.

The second session, "Press and New Media," will address print media in the digital age, online platforms as news sources, and ethical challenges facing journalists today.

Participants include FANA Secretary-General Dr. Fareed Ayar, BNA Director-General Abdulla Bouhaji, Petra Chairman Nabil Ghishan, and former Petra Director Ramadan Al-Rawashdeh.

The third session, "Media Role Integration," will explore collaboration across KUNA, TV, radio, and newspapers in truth delivery and shaping Kuwait's media future towards 2030.

Speakers in the third session include Al-Qabas Editor-in-Chief Waleed Al-Nisf, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Dr. Ziad Al-Alyan, Kuwait Journalists Association Chairman Adnan Al-Rashed, and Al-Jarida Editor-in-Chief Nasser Al-Otaibi.

# 'Dormant disease major life threat'

## KHF event raises awareness

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Kuwait Heart Foundation (KHF) concluded its week-long World Heart Day activities at the Kuwait Market with a large public turnout and remarkable interaction among citizens and expatriates.**

The activities included free medical examinations and various programs aimed at raising awareness on the importance of heart health and prevention of heart diseases.

Secretary General of the Foundation Dr. Rashid Al-Awaish said this year's celebration, which falls on Sept 29 each year, is an extension of the efforts of the KHF to spread health awareness and promote early screening, indicating these efforts have been going on for more than 25 years now. He affirmed that the event witnessed a large turnout, with more than 1,100 people of various ages and backgrounds screened during the week.

Al-Awaish added the results of the initial tests showed that about 75 to 80 percent of the participants had normal results, while some were found to have high cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetes of varying degrees.

He stated that these results entail the importance of continuing awareness campaigns and regular screening to detect risk factors associated with heart disease. He disclosed that many cases are discovered by chance as there are no clear symptoms, highlighting the importance of regular follow up and early screening to protect the heart and prevent complications from chronic diseases.

He praised the support provided by the Patients Helping Fund Society, which contributed to the success of the event through its active partnership and cooperation with KHF, stressing that this cooperation embodies the spirit of solidarity and voluntary health work that characterize the State of Kuwait.

He said the World Heart Day activities included free medical consultations by cardiologists, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol measurements, and the distribution of awareness leaflets to educate the public about heart risk factors and ways to prevent them by adopting a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

## Other Voices

## What war has changed?

**By Ahmad alsarraf**

IN the final moments before Yahya Sinwar ordered his desperate suicide attack on Israel on the morning of October 7, 2023, he may have wondered whether it was worth sacrificing his life and those of his fellow fighters, and potentially causing the deaths of 100,000 or 200,000 Palestinians, including children and women, to create an opportunity for 9 million Palestinians to achieve their rights, regain their dignity, and live in an independent homeland.

Sinwar may have wondered whether it would be better to save all these lives, avoid the destruction that would follow, and accept living under occupation as tenth-class citizens or being displaced worldwide, forever forgetting their homeland.

The answer has become part of history, with all its good and bad. Sinwar knew that the homeland would not be restored through international resolutions, but through bloodshed and the sacrifice of lives.

Many things have changed in the Middle East since October 7. Both sides of the conflict have been deeply affected. For the Palestinians, the horrific catastrophe exceeded even the darkest imaginations, and it continues to unfold.

Israel's losses extend beyond the thousands of dead and wounded to the attack's destabilizing effect on its sense of security and the gradual loss of its chances for international acceptance. The once-assumed inevitability of Israel's existence as a state with a Jewish majority, invincible financial and military power, and unmatched technological expertise - assets many countries, especially in the West, rely on - has been challenged.

Foreign Policy magazine suggests it will take years to fully understand the depth of the October 7 attack's impact on Israel's very existence.

Roger Cohen, a Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times correspondent for over 30 years, wrote, "Two years after



alsarraf

Hamas's assault, Israel is in turmoil. The war in Gaza has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians but has not secured the release of all Hamas hostages. The shock remains. The settlement movement may have crushed Palestinian hopes for statehood, but it has also impacted Israel's plans and ambitions to expand beyond its current borders. The endless war has left Israel divided and more isolated than ever."

On his recent visit to Israel, he found a country steeped in uncertainty. This was before the latest negotiations to release hostages and possibly end the war began.

Since those talks started, tensions have risen within Israel. The country is at war not only with Hamas but also with itself. Israel's longest war has become a challenge to its image and self-understanding. The Israeli military has killed more than 67,000 Palestinians and caused such massive destruction in Gaza that many have described it as "genocide." This, in turn, has fueled anti-Semitic sentiment in many parts of the world.

Displacement and the search for a safe homeland have become integral to the intertwined destinies of Israelis and Palestinians. The Holocaust stands along with the Nakba of 1948, when around 750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes and lands during the war that "established" Israel. The October 7 attack and the retaliatory war in Gaza have only deepened the antagonism between the two sides.

Arab neighbors are now viewing Israel as a major threat following Netanyahu's actions against Hezbollah in Lebanon and strikes on Iran's nuclear program. Yet, in Israel, there is little sense of victory. Israel has realized that Hamas, though its weakest enemy, is also its most stubborn. Hamas represents an ideology rather than just a group of fighters, making it difficult for Israel to defeat, as defeating an ideology is no simple task.

After all this, someone known for extremely negative views on the tragedy described what happened in Gaza as "genocide," only to quickly retract the statement and claim that Israel's material losses from the war were merely "indicative."

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## Kuwait pledges to continue ICRC humanitarian support

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): The Minister of Amir Diwan Affairs, Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and the Head of His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan, Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, received at Bayan Palace Head of the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in Kuwait, Mamadou Sow.

During the meeting, they touched on some of the historic humanitarian work carried out by the ICRC. He also affirmed Kuwait's continued support for the Red Cross in its humanitarian duties around the world.

He highlighted the efforts being made to support and facilitate efforts to determine the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons, and to continue the search for and recovery of the well-being of the prisoners and their families.

He commended their role in supporting and continuing humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Sheikh Hamad and Sheikh Thamer also received the Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua to the country, Mohammad Al-Mukhtar Mohammed Abdulsalam Farara Lashar.

During the meeting, the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries were touched on.



## ‘Serious joint effort must to counter terror threat’

“THE Ministry of Interior has raised its terrorism alert level to ‘red’, as the Kuwaiti arena once again becomes a target for terrorism following the arrest of an Arab resident affiliated with a banned group who was planning to bomb several places of worship. This terrorist plot did not come as a surprise to security authorities, either now or in the past. There is a clear link between this plot and previous terrorist operations that have targeted schools, places of worship, and various state facilities,” columnist **Khaled Ahmed Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.



Al-Tarrah

“The incident has quickly reignited debate and concern across all social, religious, educational, and cultural spheres, as terrorist ideology often spreads through these channels. While the factors and elements may vary, the environment enabling terrorist activity remains the same. For years, there has been widespread debate, both before and after the events of September 11, 2001, and with the rise of groups like Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and Al-Nusra, along with some Kuwaiti citizens joining these organizations.

“The state has not abdicated its responsibility. It has implemented political and legal measures to deal with these intellectually and religiously deviant individuals. However, recent security efforts have shown greater vigilance, more precise information analysis, and improved follow-up. The ‘counseling’ program adopted by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs failed to alter the deeply rooted hostility toward the West, especially the United States, held by some young people. As a result, the program did not achieve its goals. This highlights the need for a thorough review from both security and cultural perspectives.

“The Ministry of Interior released the text of its letter to the Ministry of Education regarding the discovery of a cell composed of high school students affiliated with a banned group. The letter called for intensified educational oversight of schools and students, along with continued coordination with security agencies.

“Despite the intensity and effectiveness of preemptive security measures, ministries such as the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Information continue to follow modest and largely ineffective policies that fall far short of matching the level of security efforts in this area.

“Terrorism is not some mysterious or inexplicable force. It is not a ‘satanic plant’ with unknown roots, soil, or environment. Extremism is clearly linked to a deviant interpretation and rigid application of religion, often promoted under various banners and through complex networks, including digital platforms that are difficult to monitor. The real challenge in Kuwait is not a security failure, but rather a lack of cultural, social, religious, educational, and media vigilance. They fall short of becoming true political partners to the Ministry of Interior.

“Endless debate, inaction, and lack of planning are of no value. What is truly needed is strategic reassurance built on permanent, ongoing plans, not just responses triggered by emergencies. Every ministry and government agency shares responsibility in the fight against ideological terrorism and religious extremism. This calls for a comprehensive, coordinated national plan to confront these threats. It is equally important to involve civil society institutions and influential public figures in this effort to confront extremism and eradicate it at its roots.

“The responsibility must not be confined to religious clerics alone, as is currently the case with the ‘Center for Moderation,’ which has repeatedly failed.”

### Also:

“Eighty years have passed since the birth of the United Nations. It rose from the ashes of war and destruction with the noble promise of a world that is more secure, just, and respectful of human dignity,” sustainability expert **Dr. Sami Al-Adwani** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“As we mark the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, the ‘Better Together’ conference poses an important question - Are we truly better together? The very foundations of peace and security, which are the core principles upon which the organization was established, face greater threats than ever before.

“Amid prolonged wars and minor conflicts, Arab youth ask - Where have the treaties gone? Where is the credibility of international resolutions? Mere criticism is not enough. Belief in the possibility of peace makes all the difference. Peace is not a political luxury, but it is an essential prerequisite for the survival of nations and the preservation of human dignity. Justice and human rights are integral to the UN’s mission. Justice is not just about written laws, but it is measured by the ability to protect the vulnerable and hold aggressors accountable.

“In the Arab world, painful gaps persist between the promises of justice and the realities of bias and selectivity. Yet, these shortcomings teach us that the path to genuine rights depends on public awareness, the voice of civil society, and the resolve of young people who

refuse to be mere victims of injustice or statistics in conflict reports. Young people and future generations are the true hope. The United Nations, founded to protect humanity from the horrors of war, is now called upon to listen to their voices and empower their participation in decision-making. Our Arab youth possess immense potential and boundless aspirations, but they need safe spaces to unleash their abilities and regain faith that the world can still change.

“The critical question remains - Can the United Nations reform itself to meet the challenges of our time? Reform is no longer a choice, but it is an existential necessity. The world today is not the post-World War II world. It is one where technology intersects with climate, migration with the economy, and sovereignty with human values. Reforming the structure of the United Nations, including the Security Council and its accountability mechanisms, is essential to making the organization more just, effective, and transparent. This critique is not a call to abandon the UN, but rather to revitalize and strengthen it. Despite its shortcomings, we believe the United Nations remains the most inclusive platform for dialogue, cooperation, and finding common solutions.

“In the Arab world, we urgently need to embrace this UN framework, not just as a shield of protection, but as a platform for a new voice rising from the crucible of crises into a realm of hope. On its 80th anniversary, we have a vital opportunity to reconsider a fundamental human question - How can we build a safer, more just, and equitable world?”

“The answer will not come solely from conference halls, but from the faith of the people, the determination of the youth, and the United Nations’ ability to renew its mission. Founded under the motto ‘We the Peoples of the United Nations,’ perhaps the greatest tribute we can pay on its 80th anniversary is to reaffirm the true meaning of that phrase - that we, the peoples, not just governments, are the real partners in building a better future together.”

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“North Korea’s leader banned laughter among his people for 11 days starting December 17, 2021, to mark the 10th anniversary of his father’s death. In other words, no laughter or face severe punishment, possibly even death,” columnist **Ahmad Al-Dawas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“I have compiled a complete file on this country. This same leader reportedly executed his Minister of Defense simply for dozing off during a meeting. When the minister fell asleep, he was soon after executed. Other officials have also been executed for the most trivial reasons, in locations ranging from schools and markets to rivers, according to a ‘British Independent’ article published on June 12, 2019.

“As a result, many North Korean soldiers have fled to South Korea seeking asylum. American writer Doug Bandow wrote in ‘The Korea Times’ that ‘North Korea persecutes both Muslims and Christians.’

“Under Kim Jong-un, North Korea suffers from a lack of political and economic expertise. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and has suffered from famine in the past. Despite this, the leader continues to pour the country’s limited resources into military power, even if it means widespread poverty and hunger among its people. Thousands of political prisoners fill its prisons, while the regime frequently puts its military on display in shows of force.

“At one point, Kim reportedly ordered his starving citizens to kill dogs and eat their meat. And now, once again, he commands his people not to laugh. This leader also issued a ban on naming daughters after his own daughter ‘Ju Ae’. On January 7, 2025, he prohibited the consumption and sale of hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream, deeming them symbols of Western culture.

“He even went so far as to label the serving of a popular sausage-based dish an act of treason. Anyone caught selling sausages on the street or cooking them at home reportedly faces six months in a labor camp.

“We have said time and again that true power today lies not in military might, but in economic strength. The stark contrast between the progress of South Korea and the backwardness of North Korea is proof of this. This should serve as a clear lesson for Iran as well.

“On a different note, the British newspaper ‘Daily Mail’ published an article with photos titled ‘This is how Hamas billionaires live in marble-floored palaces and luxury hotels, while profiting from misery and terrorism in Gaza.’ The article included images of a private jet allegedly belonging to Hamas leaders and reported that some of them have a net worth estimated in the billions.

“Following the pause in hostilities with Israel, Hamas pledged to cleanse Gaza of ‘outlaws and collaborators with Israel’. It summoned around 7,000 fighters to reclaim areas of the Gaza Strip vacated by Israeli forces. Yesterday, militants re-entered parts of Gaza and carried out public executions, shooting several individuals.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

### Blogger acquitted

## Female doctor jailed 6 months for negligence

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Court of First Instance sentenced a doctor to six months in prison and ordered her to pay KD 100,000 in compensation to one of her patients, for failing to exercise due diligence in performing her professional duties, which caused significant harm to the patient.

The plaintiff counsel Lawyer Abdullah Al-Sanad proved that the convicted doctor committed negligence, made a wrong diagnosis, and failed to provide proper treatment to his client.

□ □ □

**Blogger acquitted:** The Criminal Court, headed by Counselor Nayef Al-Dahoum, acquitted Salem Al-Tawil of insulting Algeria on social media, in the complaint filed by the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with insulting a foreign country through electronic posts. However, the defense argued that there was no criminal intent and the charge should be dropped due to the lack of elements of the crime. The court accepted this argument and acquitted Al-Tawil.



KFF photo

Massive material losses incurred in warehouse blaze.

## Fire erupts in Sulaibiya chemicals ‘warehouse’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Fire broke out in a warehouse that contained flammable materials inside a farm in Sulaibiya Agricultural Area on Monday afternoon, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) explained that firefighters from Kabad, Istiqlal, Sulaibikhat, and Al-Isnad fire stations rushed to the location and brought the fire under control. No casualties were reported.

□ □ □

**4WD erupts in fire:** A four-wheel-drive vehicle was engulfed in flames on Mutlaa Road, and the fire was immediately extinguished by firefighters from Jahra Fire Station without causing injuries or loss of life, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the fire was most likely caused by an electrical short circuit or insufficient water in the radiator. He urged citizens and expatriates to carry out regular vehicle maintenance to prevent fire incidents.



Al-Anba photos

Top and above: Some of the Asians caught running liquor factories.

## Asian gang held in raid on two liquor factories

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Authorities have uncovered and shut down two illegal liquor manufacturing operations on rented farms in the Abdali area, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Anba daily.

The discovery came during routine inspections conducted by an inspector from the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources. While surveying one of the farms, the inspector noticed suspicious activity. Upon attempting to investigate further, a worker on the premises tried to flee but was quickly apprehended and taken into custody at Al-Qashaniyya Police Station.

Upon arrival at the farm, security forces from the Al-Qashaniyya Police Station, accompanied by the Authority’s inspector, discovered a room fully outfitted for alcohol production. Inside, they found plastic containers filled with locally brewed liquor, as well as various tools used for fermentation and bottling.

Further investigation revealed that the farm had been leased informally to a resident who had converted part of the property into a makeshift alcohol factory.

Through continued efforts, detectives from Al-Qashaniyya were able to identify and arrest the main suspect in the Al-Sabahiya area. The suspect confessed to operating the illegal facility and provided information about a second liquor factory also located in Abdali.

Authorities raided the second location, where they found additional alcohol production equipment and materials, along with a group of Asian workers involved in the operation. All individuals, including the primary tenant, were arrested and referred to the appropriate legal authorities for further action.



KUNA photo

Chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan receives Commander of French Forces in the Indian Ocean and French Forces in the UAE Rear Admiral Hugues Laine.

### Military ties discussed

Chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Shuraiaan met on Monday with Commander of French Forces in the Indian Ocean and French Forces in the UAE Rear Admiral Hugues Laine discussed

Monday mutual military matters.

French Embassy Military Attache in Kuwait Colonel Jerome Bugeaud was present at the meeting, the Army General Staff said in a press release. (KUNA)

# Zero tolerance for radicalism

‘Be good in schools’

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Eng. Hamad Al-Hamad, highlighted the ban on organizing any competitions, events, or activities in schools that promote religious or political fanaticism or incite sectarianism or partisanship, reports Al-Anba daily.**

In a circular sent to educational zones, religious and private education sectors, and the Special Education Department, Eng. Al-Hamad outlined guidelines for managing educational activities during the morning assembly, which is intended to promote discipline, a sense of belonging, mental and physical readiness for the school day, patriotism, social skills, communication, and knowledge among the students.

The circular instructed that all school administrations must adhere to the following:

- Cabinet Resolution No. 691/2024, which prohibits all entities, institutions, public bodies, and official delegations from raising any foreign flag or playing any foreign national anthem during official occasions inside or outside Kuwait.

- Ministerial Resolution No. 135/2025, which regulates the organization of celebrations inside schools.

- General Bulletin No. 17 for the three educational levels, which outlines the mechanism for implementing school activities, the objectives of such activities, and the criteria for proper planning of school programs.

The circular explained that the organiza-

tion of any competitions, events, or activities that promote religious or political fanaticism, or incite sectarianism or partisanship, is strictly prohibited. Activities and events should be organized to support the educational process and help develop students’ talents and abilities.

Also, all students, including latecomers, must attend the morning assembly to benefit fully from its activities and programs.

In addition, students’ self-confidence should be strengthened through active participation in activities and events that reinforce the educational process.

□ □ □

**‘No one above law’:** An employee of the Ministry of Interior has been arrested in possession of suspected narcotics, a firearm, and ammunition, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior explained on its official X account that security personnel from the Jahra Emergency Department responded to a report received via the emergency No. 112 regarding a collision and injury accident in Naem. Upon arriving at the scene, they noticed one of the individuals involved was behaving abnormally. He was identified as an employee of the Ministry of Interior. A precautionary search of his vehicle uncovered a quantity of suspected Lyrica pills, a piece of hashish, drug paraphernalia, a 9mm firearm, several bullets, and various types of ammunition.

The ministry confirmed that necessary legal measures were taken, and the individual and his vehicle were referred to the Naem Police Station, then to the Drug Control General Department.

The ministry emphasized that no one is above the law and that security personnel are committed to enforcing it firmly and fairly against everyone without exception.

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# Council pushes housing, moves to overhaul waste management

Municipality rejects Faiha site, Qibla parking requests

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, held its seventh regular session for the fourth term on Monday.**

The council approved the following:

- Request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to create an entrance from King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Road to serve South Sabah-hiya.
- Request of the Ministry of Public Works to allocate the site of the wastewater treatment plant for South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.
- Request of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to relocate the fuel filling station in the southeastern part of Sabah Al-Ahmad residential area.
- Request of the Ministry of Education to reorganize public schools in Block Four in Ahmadi.
- Request of KNPC to create a temporary road linking the intersection of Al-Liyah Road and the site of the new fuel depot project in Mutlaa.
- 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 Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable energy to allocate a secondary station site in Block Two, Rawda.

Council member Abdullah Al-Anzi praised the unanimous approval of the request of the Ministry of Public Works to allocate a site for a wastewater treatment plant in South Sabah Al-Ahmad



The Municipal Council, chaired by Abdullah Al-Mahri, in its regular session.

residential area measuring 640,000 square meters. He pointed out that the unanimous approval reflects the commitment of the council members to complete important projects, which are among the priorities in the implementation of housing projects.

Meanwhile, the council unanimously rejected the request of the Public Authority for Sports to use the old site in Block Four, Faiha as headquarters for the girls' branch of the Deaf Club.

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

It dismissed the complaint submitted by residents of Khaitan regarding the alleged violation of private housing laws by the Indian community in Blocks 5 and 10 in Khaitan.

It responded to the question of Abdul

Latif Al-Dai regarding the regulation of refrigerators spread in some areas.

Moreover, the council approved the following:

- Recommendations of Jahra Governorate Committee regarding the question of member Abdullah Al-Enezi about the locations of the tree belt planned for implementation in Mutlaa Residential City, such as the immediate removal of all obstacles, including rubble and waste that fall within the jurisdiction of the Municipality, to expedite the implementation of the project.
- Recommendations of the Environmental Affairs Committee regarding the immediate issuance of new cleaning contracts in accordance with the Municipal Waste Management and Public Hygiene Regulations. These recommendations include the executive body's efforts to raise awareness and management of solid municipal waste in Ahmadi Governorate and the south-

ern areas, in accordance with the waste specifications, both quantitatively and qualitatively, to guarantee the success of the treatment project in the future treatment site in Mina Abdullah. This is in addition to the preparation of an intensive and advanced awareness program for all governorates and regions within the scope of the future treatment sites.

- Recommendations regarding the Fourth Ring Road maintenance contract.
- Recommendations emanating from the minutes of the first workshop regarding the specifications and uses of recycled materials.

On the other hand, following are recommendations regarding cleaning work in cities and suburbs:

1. The Municipality should coordinate with governorate councils to lay down a plan to educate and raise awareness among waste sources about the correct procedures to be followed when disposing household waste.
2. Require contractors with valid contracts to maintain the cleanliness and maintenance of containers, keep them in good condition, and clean them throughout the contract term. They should also be washed every three days, disinfected, and sprayed with pesticides and disinfectants throughout the contract term, as stipulated in the contract.
3. Take the necessary measures, in accordance with Ministerial Resolution No. 354/2023 on the Municipal Waste Management and Public Hygiene Regulations, against non-compliant individuals.
4. Expedite the issuance of new cleaning contracts in accordance with the Municipal Waste Management and Public Hygiene Regulations.
5. Study the development of a new strategy for cleaners deployed in the areas or around cooperative societies.

## Authority lists required documents

### PAHW calls on Kuwaiti women to update rental housing data

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

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has invited Kuwaiti women with rental housing applications to update their information.

In an official statement, the authority explained that updates will be accepted based on the year the application was submitted. Applicants who submitted in 2015 or earlier may update their information from October 13 to 19, while those who applied in 2020 or earlier may do so from October 20 to 26. This includes Kuwaiti women with disabilities who have registered rental housing applications with PAHW.

The update process will take place at the Citizen Services Department in the main building during both morning and evening shifts. At external centers - Liberation Tower, Jahra, Qurain, and The Avenues- the service is available during morning hours only.

The required documents for updating rental housing applications include the following:

- A copy of the applicant's civil ID and citizenship certificate
- A copy of the marriage contract for married women
- A divorce certificate for divorced women
- Husband's death certificate for widows
- Academic certificates for the applicant's children for the last two academic years
- A certificate from the General Directorate of Ports covering the past three years (2023-2025)
- A certificate from the Real Estate Registration Department detailing any real estate ownership by the applicant, her husband, and children
- A certificate from the Commercial Registration Department for the applicant and her family members
- A certificate from the Public Authority for Disability Affairs if a family member has a moderate or severe disability
- A salary certificate
- A certificate from the Public Institution for Social Security or the Ministry of Social Affairs

## CSC structure approved, reduces assistant undersecretaries to two

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** The Civil Service Council has approved the revised organizational structure of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), reports Al-Anba daily.

CSC Chairman Dr. Essam Al-Rubaian is now waiting for the issuance of the organizational terms of reference that are necessary for the implementation of the new organizational structure.

According to information obtained by the daily, several departments will be merged and reduced under the new structure.

The revised framework includes the CSC chairman, assisted by an undersecretary who will oversee the administrative system at the top of the organizational hierarchy, along

with only two assistant undersecretaries and about two to six directors general.

One of the assistant undersecretaries will be responsible for supervising, planning and directing the departments involved in the core activities of the CSC, while the other will be in charge of planning and management of support departments, including the financial, administrative, technical and logistical branches.

Each assistant undersecretary will have several directors general under their supervision. These directors general will monitor and manage the operations of their respective departments, and report directly to the assistant undersecretaries.



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Kuwait University photo of Deans and assistant deans of the Medical Sciences Center's faculties with the delegation from the University of Otago, New Zealand.

### KU, University of Otago explore research ties

As part of efforts to strengthen international academic partnerships, Vice President for Medical Sciences at Kuwait University Prof. Noura Ahmad Al-Suwaih received a delegation from the University of Otago, New Zealand.

According to a press release issued by Kuwait University, the delegation included Director of the Medical Sciences Program Professor Fiona MacDonald, and Associate Dean for Research Pro-

fessor Alicia McGregor, along with the deans and assistant deans of the Medical Sciences Center's faculties.

The visit aimed to enhance the Medical Sciences Center's position at Kuwait University through cooperation and the exchange of expertise with prestigious international institutions.

Both parties discussed opportunities for scientific collaboration and coordination in various research fields.

### Registration open for teachers' AI course

## MoE approves staff assignments for adult education and literacy centers

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** The acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Eng. Mohammed Al-Khalidi has approved the assignment decisions for teaching and administrative staff to work in adult education and literacy centers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision follows the conclusion of the online registration period for interested applicants and is based on the newly approved regulations and guidelines.

In a press statement, Al-Khalidi confirmed that work at the new centers will resume as scheduled, in line with the directives approved by Minister of Education Dr. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei to regulate work in adult education and literacy centers.

He indicated that assignment notifications for the selected teaching and administrative staff will be issued through the Sahel app.

Al-Khalidi said, in line with the directives of the Minister of Education, the registration pe-



Al-Khalidi

riod for students wishing to enroll in the centers has been extended until Thursday, October 23, to provide additional time for those interested to complete their registration.

He also urged all previously registered students to present proof of enrollment when visiting the designated centers to resume classes.

Earlier, As part of its commitment to developing teaching staff and enhancing their skills to keep pace with digital advancements, the Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), announced the opening of registration for the advanced training program titled "Artificial Intelligence for Teachers - Advanced Professional Training".

Organized by KFAS in collaboration with Cambridge University, the program will be held from November 2025 to February 2026.

In a statement on its official X account, the ministry highlighted that this initiative, which is the first of its kind in Kuwait, is part of efforts to empower science, mathematics, and computer science teachers and supervisors to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies into the educational process.

## Pioneering Shuwaikh secondary school recommended for national historic site

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14:** Minister of Education Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei submitted a file to the Cabinet to register the Shuwaikh Secondary School building on the National Register of Historic Buildings, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources said the file contains the criteria that qualify the school as a historic building, indicating it has been an icon of modern education even before the independence. Sources disclosed it was the first independent secondary school and an unmatched educational institution in the entire region.

Sources stated that the file includes a detailed description of the school building,

its educational role, and the reasons for requesting its registration as a historic building, such as its historical significance, role in modern education, and its national role in achieving educational renaissance.

Sources revealed the building was established in 1953 as the headquarters of the school. Sources said it was the first autonomous secondary school in the country, in which students from all areas enrolled. Sources added the school continued to accept secondary school students until 1973, when it was taken over by Kuwait University and designated as the College of Law.















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In this aerial photo provided by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the city of Kotzebue, Alaska experiences flooding on Oct 8. (AP)

Rare October storm brings heavy rain, possible mudslides to S.Calif

Some homes were ordered evacuated in wildfire-scarred Los Angeles neighborhoods as Southern California was hit by a rare October storm that was expected to pummel the region with heavy rain, high winds and possible mudslides.

“We’re very concerned about the weather,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said during a news conference Monday night, explaining that strike teams, rescue teams and helicopters were all ready to respond.

The evacuations covered about 115 homes mostly in Pacific Palisades and Mandeville Canyon, both struck

by a massive inferno in January that killed more than 30 people in all and destroyed over 17,000 homes and buildings in Los Angeles County. Wildfires can leave hillsides without vegetation to hold soil in place, making it easier for the terrain to loosen during storms.

Bass and other officials warned residents across the region to remain alert and stay indoors. The worst was expected to begin early Tuesday and carry through the afternoon, and more than 16,000 had already lost power as of Monday night, according to PowerOutage.us. (AP)

Democrats refuse to relent on health care demands

Federal government shutdown could be longest ever, US House Speaker Johnson warns

WASHINGTON, Oct 14, (AP): Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson predicted Monday the federal government shutdown may become the longest in history, saying he “won’t negotiate” with Democrats until they hit pause on their health care demands and reopen.

Standing alone at the Capitol on the 13th day of the shutdown, the speaker said he was unaware of the details of the thousands of federal workers being fired by the Trump administration. It’s a highly unusual mass layoff widely seen as way to seize on the shutdown to reduce the scope of government. Vice President JD Vance has warned of “painful” cuts ahead, even as employee unions sue.

“We’re barreling toward one of the longest shutdowns in American history,” Johnson of Louisiana said.

With no endgame in sight, the shutdown is expected to roll on for the unforeseeable future. The closure has halted routine government operations, shuttered Smithsonian museums

and other landmark cultural institutions and left airports scrambling with flight disruptions, all injecting more uncertainty into an already precarious economy.

The House is out of legislative session, with Johnson refusing to recall lawmakers back to Washington, while the Senate, closed Monday for the federal holiday, will return to work Tuesday. But senators are stuck in a cul-de-sac of failed votes as Democrats refuse to relent on their health care demands.

Johnson thanked President Donald Trump for ensuring military personnel are paid this week, which removed one main pressure point that may have pushed the parties to the negotiating table. The Coast Guard is also receiving pay, a senior administration official confirmed Monday. The official insisted on anonymity to discuss plans that have yet to be formally rolled out.

At its core, the shutdown is a debate over health care policy - particularly the Affordable Care Act subsidies that are expiring for millions of Ameri-



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., holds a press conference as the government shutdown heads toward its third week, at the Capitol in Washington on Oct 13. (AP)

cans who rely on government aid to purchase their own health insurance policies on the Obamacare exchanges.

Trump to welcome Argentina President Milei as US extends \$20 billion lifeline

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 14, (AP): Argentina’s libertarian leader is lavishing praise on Donald Trump ahead of his first White House meeting with the US president on Tuesday. It’s a tactic that has helped transform President Javier Milei’s cash-strapped country into one of the Trump administration’s closest allies.

The effusive declarations are nothing new for Milei - whose dramatic cuts to state spending and attacks on “woke leftists” have won him a following among US conservatives.

“Your commitment to life, freedom and peace has restored hope to the world,” Milei wrote on social media Monday, congratulating the US president on securing a ceasefire deal in Gaza, where a truce is holding after a devastating, two-year Israel-Hamas war.

“It is an honor to consider you not only an ally in the defense of those values, but also a dear friend and an example of leadership that inspires all those who believe in freedom,” he said.

The Trump-Milei bromance has already paid off for Argentina - most recently, to the tune of a \$20 billion bailout.

Experts say Milei comes to the White House with two clear objectives. One is to negotiate U.S. tariff exemptions or reductions for Argentine



US President Donald Trump meets with Argentine President Javier Milei during the United Nations General Assembly on Sept 23, in New York. (AP)

products.

The other is to see how the United States will implement a \$20 billion currency swap line to prop up Argentina’s peso and replenish its depleted foreign currency reserves ahead of crucial midterm elections later this month.

The Trump administration made a highly unusual decision to intervene in Argentina’s currency market after Milei’s party suffered a landslide loss in a local election last month.

Along with setbacks in the opposition-dominated Congress, the party’s crushing defeat created a crisis of confidence as voters in Buenos Aires Province registered their frustration with rising unemployment, contracting economic activity and brewing corruption scandals.

Alarmed that this could herald the end of popular support for Milei’s free-market program, investors dumped Argentine bonds and sold off the peso.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said with Republicans having essentially shut down the chamber now for a fourth week, no real negotiations are underway. They’re “nowhere to be found,” he said on MSNBC.

With Congress and the White House stalemated, some are eyeing the end of the month as the next potential deadline to reopen government.

Open enrollment begins Nov. 1 for the health program at issue, and Americans will face the prospect of skyrocketing insurance premiums. The Kaiser Family Foundation has estimated that monthly costs would double if Congress fails to renew the subsidy payments that expire Dec. 31.

At the end of October, government workers on monthly pay schedules, including thousands of House aides, will go without paychecks.

The health care debate has dogged Congress ever since the Affordable Care Act became law under then-President Barack Obama in 2010.

The country went through a 16-

day government shutdown during the Obama presidency when Republicans tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act in 2013.

Trump tried to “repeal and replace” the law, commonly known as Obamacare, during his first term, in 2017, with a Republican majority in the House and Senate. That effort failed when then-Sen. John McCain memorably voted thumbs-down on the plan.

With 24 million now enrolled in Obamacare, a record, Johnson said Monday that Republicans are unlikely to go that route again, noting he still has “PTSD” from that botched moment.

“Can we completely repeal and replace Obamacare? Many of us are skeptical about that now because the roots are so deep,” Johnson said.

The Republican speaker insists his party has been willing to discuss the health care issue with Democrats this fall, before the subsidies expire at the end of the year. But first, he said, Democrats have to agree to reopen the government.

Europe

**Belgian police fire tear gas at protesters:** Belgian police fired tear gas in an attempt to disperse tens of thousands of people who flooded Brussels on Tuesday to protest Prime Minister Bart de Wever’s proposed austerity measures.

Minor scuffles broke out between police and protesters, some of whom played drums and horns and set off flares and smoke bombs, while chanting against cuts to social welfare programs. The protest crippled traffic in the heart of the Belgian capital, as well as major roads, choking off transportation hubs.

Belgium’s three major trade unions organized the protest and nationwide strikes against cuts to the pension and healthcare systems proposed by De Wever, who had vowed to slash spending to try and overcome the country’s economic challenges. (AP)



**Greece sees 2nd general strike this month:** Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of Athens Tuesday as Greece’s labor unions called the country’s second general strike this month to protest a new labor law.

The 24-hour strike disrupted ferry schedules to and from the Greek islands while public transport in the capital was running on a reduced schedule, snarling traffic. No trains were running for the duration of the strike.

Unions representing private sector workers and civil servants called the strike to protest a new labor law that will allow greater flexibility in working conditions, including allowing overtime to stretch occasional shifts to 13 hours. (AP)



Police use a water cannon against protesters during a demonstration and general strike in Brussels on Oct 14. (AP)

**5 dead in Norway head-on collision:** Five people were killed and one seriously injured in a two-car collision late Saturday night on the E8 highway south of Tromso, northern Norway, police confirmed on Monday.

Three of the victims were 18-year-old men from the village of Ramfjord, followed by two others: a man in his 60s and a woman in her 50s, who were residents of Kaldfjord. A woman in her mid-50s survived with serious but stable injuries.

Police said the accident occurred around 11:44 pm Saturday (2144 GMT), about 16 km south of Tromso. Preliminary findings suggest the cars collided head-on while traveling in opposite directions on an 80 kmh stretch of the highway. (Xinhua)

Sarkozy to begin prison term on Oct 21

French PM Lecornu suspends pension reform to avoid government collapse

PARIS, Oct 14, (Agencies): French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu said Tuesday he will propose suspending a controversial plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64, in a move aimed at preventing his fragile minority government from being toppled.

After a week of intense political turmoil, the newly reappointed Lecornu said Tuesday in a policy speech at the National Assembly that the law, a flagship policy of French President Emmanuel Macron, would be put on hold until after the next presidential election, to be held in 2027.

The Socialist Party, which is not part of the governing coalition, had demanded the law be repealed, and Lecornu’s offer to suspend it was seen as a prerequisite for the Socialists’ potential support.

On Thursday, Lecornu will face two no-confidence motions one from the hard-left France Unbowed and the other from the far-right National Rally. The two parties do not hold enough seats to topple Lecornu’s government on their own, but the prime minister could quickly be undone if the Socialists and others on the left join forces with them.

“I will propose to Parliament, starting this autumn, that we suspend the 2023 pension reform until the presidential election,” Lecornu said. “No



French Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu leaves the weekly cabinet meeting on Oct 14, at the Elysee Palace in Paris. (AP)

increase in the retirement age will take place from now until January 2028.”

Lecornu said the suspension would cost 400 million euros (\$463 million) in 2026, and 1.8 billion euros in 2027. He said it will benefit 3.5 million French citizens.

“It will therefore have to be financially compensated, including through cost-saving measures. It cannot be carried out at the expense of an increased deficit,” he said.

France’s deficit hit 5.8% of gross do-

mestic product last year, way above the official EU target of 3%. France is also facing a massive debt crisis. At the end of the first quarter of 2025, France’s public debt stood at 3,346 trillion euros, or 114% of GDP.

Earlier on Tuesday, Lecornu met with his cabinet to discuss the 2026 budget, which must be approved by year’s end. He said the main objective would be to bring the deficit below 5% of GDP to safeguard France’s sovereignty, stressing the need for fiscal discipline and structural savings.

Also:

**PARIS:** Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy has been informed that he will begin serving his prison sentence on Oct 21, following his conviction in the case concerning alleged Libyan financing of his 2007 presidential campaign, French media reported Monday.

Sarkozy was notified of the conditions of his incarceration at the request of the National Financial Prosecutor’s Office (PNF). For reasons of security and discretion, details regarding the arrangements will not be made public.

According to a source close to the case cited by BFMTV, Sarkozy is expected to serve his sentence at La Sante Prison in Paris. The interval before Oct 21 will allow him time to organize his personal and professional affairs.

Pope urges Italy to remain open to migrants

ROME, Oct 14, (AP): Pope Leo XIV thanked Italy on Tuesday for its efforts to combat human trafficking but urged the country to remain open to welcoming and integrating migrants as he took part in a pomp-filled meeting with the Italian president.

Leo completed the rite of passage for every new pope by travelling across Rome to the Quirinale Palace for a meeting with President Sergio Mattarella. Escorted by the presidential horse honor guard into the palace courtyard, Leo thanked Italy especially for its welcome of pilgrims during the 2025 Holy Year, which has seen millions of extra tourists pouring into the Eternal City.

Wearing his formal red cape and brocaded stole, Leo thanked Italy for its “generous assistance” to migrants and its efforts to combat human trafficking.

“I encourage you to keep alive your attitude of openness and solidarity,” he said. “At the same time, I wish to emphasize the importance of constructive integration of newcomers into the values and traditions of Italian society, so that the mutual gift realized in this encounter of peoples may truly enrich and benefit all.”



Italian President Sergio Mattarella, (center), sees off Pope Leo XIV as he leaves the Quirinale Presidential Palace in Rome on Oct 14. (AP)

It was a reference to Italy’s role at ground zero in Europe’s migration debate, given its proximity to North Africa - making it the preferred destination for smuggling operations setting off from Libya and Tunisia.

The right-wing government of Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni has made cracking down on illegal migration a

priority, including by sending migrants back home or to detention facilities in Albania and prosecuting alleged smugglers. Meloni and her hard-line minister Matteo Salvini were in the front row of the audience, held in a gilded reception room of the palace with extra-tall palace guards standing at attention.

Russia aerial attack hits Ukraine hospital, days before Zelenskyy meets Trump

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 14, (AP): Russian forces launched powerful glide bombs and drones against Ukraine’s second-largest city in overnight attacks, hitting a hospital and wounding seven people, an official said Tuesday, as European military aid for Kyiv dropped sharply and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to ask U.S. President Donald Trump for Tomahawk missiles.

The Russian attack on Kharkiv in Ukraine’s northeast hit the city’s main hospital, forcing the evacuation of 50 patients, regional head Oleh Syniehubov said. The attack’s main targets were energy facilities, Zelenskyy said, without providing details of what was hit.

“Every day, every night, Russia strikes power plants, power lines, and our (natural) gas facilities,” Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

Russian long-range strikes on its neighbor’s power grid are part of a campaign since Moscow launched a full-scale invasion in February 2022 to disable Ukraine’s power supply, denying civilians heat and running water during the bitter winter.

The Ukrainian leader urged foreign countries to help blunt Russia’s long-range attacks by providing more air defense systems for the country, which is almost the size of Texas and hard to defend from the air in its en-



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Services on Oct 14, rescue workers put out a fire of a hospital damaged by a Russian strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine. (AP)

tirety. “We are counting on the actions of the U.S. and Europe, the G7, all partners who have these systems and can provide them to protect our people,” Zelenskyy said. “The world must force Moscow to sit down at the table for real negotiations.”

But the latest data on foreign military aid to Ukraine showed a sharp drop-off in recent help.

Military aid in July and August

plunged by 43% compared to the first half of the year, Germany’s Kiel Institute, which tracks support to Ukraine, said Tuesday.

That fall occurred after the creation of a fund that pools contributions from NATO members, except the United States, to purchase American weapons, munitions and equipment for Ukraine. The financial arrangement is known as the Prioritized Ukraine Requirements List, or PURL.



Tensions remain high since truce

## US, Malaysia work to expand Thailand-Cambodia ceasefire in advance of ASEAN summit

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Oct 14, (Agencies): Malaysia and the US are facilitating efforts to secure an expanded ceasefire agreement between Thailand and Cambodia that they hope will be signed during a Southeast Asian summit later this month, Malaysia Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan said Tuesday.

Thailand and Cambodia engaged in five days of combat in late July that killed dozens of people and displaced more than 260,000. They agreed to a ceasefire only after mediation by Malaysia’s Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and pressure from US President Donald Trump, who threatened to withhold trade privileges unless they agreed on a truce.

Tensions have remained high since the truce, particularly after Thai soldiers were injured by land mines in August while patrolling a buffer zone between the countries. Thailand accused Cambodia of laying new mines in violation of the ceasefire, which the government in Phnom Penh has strongly denied.

Thailand Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has said Phnom Penh must accept four conditions. They include removal of heavy weapons from the border, land mine clearance, assistance to curb cross-border crime and management of sensitive border zones to avoid further conflicts.

Mohamad said ongoing negotiations aim to broaden the ceasefire to include land mine clearance and withdrawal of heavy weapons. He expressed optimism that an agreement could be signed during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit Oct 26-28, which is expected to draw some two dozen global leaders.

Trump is scheduled to attend the conference in Malaysia’s capital, Kuala Lumpur, on Oct.26 and hopes to witness the signing of the Kuala Lumpur Accord between Thailand and Cambodia, Mohamad said.

ASEAN includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore.

Also:

**BANGKOK:** Thailand’s King Maha Vajiralongkorn said that Thailand is willing to expand exchanges and cooperation with China to benefit the people of both



Malaysia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamad Hasan arrives for the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers’ meeting during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers’ meeting at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur on July 11. (AP)

countries and promote prosperity and development in the region and the world.

The king made the remarks when he received the credential presented by the new Chinese Ambassador to Thailand Zhang Jianwei in the Dusit Palace in Bangkok.

### Canadian FM to visit Beijing

## China’s Xi meets Sri Lankan premier

BEIJING, Oct 14, (Xinhua): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday met with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, who is in Beijing for the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women.

Noting that China and Sri Lanka boast a long traditional friendship, Xi said that China stands ready to work with Sri Lanka to carry forward this friendship, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, jointly build a China-Sri Lanka community with a shared future, and deliver more benefits to the two peoples.

China is willing to jointly promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with Sri Lanka, and expand cooperation in fields such as port economy, modern agriculture, digital economy, green economy, and tourism, Xi said.

The two countries should strengthen cooperation in law enforcement and security, and resolutely crack down on cross-border gambling, fraud and other criminal activities, he said.

Xi also called on the two countries to deepen coordination and cooperation under multilateral frameworks such as the United Nations, and firmly safeguard the common interests of the

Global South.

Sri Lanka actively supports and participates in the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, Amarasuriya said, adding that Sri Lanka is looking forward to deepening cooperation with China for fresh progress in its own development.

She said that the four global initiatives put forward by Xi are of great significance in the current turbulent international landscape, and Sri Lanka will implement the initiatives with China and jointly safeguard the common interests of the Global South.

Wang Yi attended the meeting.

Also:

**BEIJING:** Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on Tuesday met with Lao Vice President Pany Yathotou, who is in Beijing for the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women.

Han said that the Chinese side has always viewed the China-Laos relationship from a strategic and long-term perspective and is willing to work with Laos to implement the important consensus reached between the leaders of

the two parties and two countries.

Taking the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties next year as an opportunity, China is ready to advance the building of a China-Laos community with a shared future with Laos and bring more benefits to the two peoples, he said.

Pany said that Laos is willing to deepen all-round cooperation with China to achieve greater progress in building a Laos-China community with a shared future.

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**BEIJING:** Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand will visit China from Oct. 16 to 17 at the invitation of Wang Yi, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese Foreign Minister, a foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Sweden’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Maria Malmer Stenergard will pay an official visit to china from October 16 to 17, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Tuesday.



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, who is in Beijing for the Global Leaders’ Meeting on Women, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on Oct 14. (AP)

## Armed forces taking power in Madagascar, says CAPSAT military unit commander

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar, Oct 14, (AP): A colonel in an elite military unit in Madagascar said Tuesday the armed forces are taking power in the Indian Ocean nation.

His announcement came almost immediately after parliament voted to impeach President Andry Rajoelina, who has fled the country because of the rebellion by soldiers.

Col Michael Randrianirina said in front of reporters that the military would form a council composed of officers from the army and the gendarmerie law enforcement force. A prime minister would be appointed to “quickly” form a civilian government, he said.

It appeared to spell the end of Rajoelina’s seven years as leader of the country.

Earlier, Rajoelina announced that he had dissolved the lower house of parliament, apparently to avoid being impeached. It was unclear why that was not successful. A simmering rebellion that flared over the weekend led Rajoelina to flee the country and go into hiding.

Rajoelina’s whereabouts are unknown after an elite military unit joined youth-led anti-government protests and called for him to step down in a coup attempt. The 51-year-old president said in a speech broadcast on social media on Monday night that he left the country for a “safe place” in fear for his life. He didn’t say where he was.

Madagascar has been rocked by weeks of demonstrations led by Gen Z protesters.

The youth-led protests first erupted last month over electricity and water outages but have snowballed into larger



CAPSAT military unit commander Col Michael Randrianirina, (center), arrives at the Presidency to announce that the armed forces are taking control of the country in Antananarivo, Madagascar on Oct 14. (AP)

dissatisfaction with the government and the leadership of Rajoelina. Protesters have brought up a range of issues, including poverty and the cost of living, access to tertiary education, and alleged corruption by government officials and their families and associates.

Madagascar – a former French colony with a history of military-backed coups since independence in 1960 – is in the midst of its worst political crisis since 2009, when Rajoelina himself first came to power as the leader of a transitional government following a coup.

In that uprising, Rajoelina had led large anti-government protests that led to then-President Marc Ravalomanana losing power and going into exile.

Rajoelina has faced weeks of pres-

sure to resign from Gen Z protesters who first took to the streets on Sept. 25. The protesters have said they were inspired by other Gen Z-led movements of frustrated youth that toppled leaders in Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Thousands of young protesters continued their anti-government demonstrations in Madagascar on Tuesday by packing into a main square in the capital, Antananarivo, and repeating their calls for Rajoelina to resign.

Madagascar has deep problems with poverty, which affects around 75% of the population of 31 million people, according to the World Bank.

“We do not get a constant supply of electricity and water from the government,” said one protester, Soavololona Faraniaina.

Fire official Talha bin Jashim said Tuesday’s blaze happened in Dhaka’s Mirpur area and is believed to have started on the third floor of the seven-story garment building.

He said rescuers have recovered at least nine bodies and several other people have been injured. The number of casualties could increase, he said.

The fire was brought under control by the evening and the rescue operation is ongoing.

Bangladesh is the world’s second largest garment industry after China, and the sector has employed about 4 million workers, mostly women. (AP)

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**Pak-Afghan border closure extended:** The closure of border crossings for bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan entered a second day Monday after deadly weekend clashes between the countries spiked tensions and left hundreds of people stranded, officials said.

The fighting began Saturday night, when Afghan forces struck multiple Pakistani military posts. Afghanistan officials claimed to have killed 58 Pakistani soldiers in response to what they said were repeated violations of Afghan territory and airspace.

Pakistan’s military gave lower figures, saying it lost 23 soldiers and killed more than 200 “Taliban and affiliated terrorists” during retaliatory fire along the border. Foreign governments, including Saudi Arabia, urged restraint. A ceasefire appeared to be holding.

Pakistan’s Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif, the country’s powerful army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, and other officials attended a mass funeral for the killed soldiers in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on Monday, according to a military statement. (AP)

## Cameroon opp’n candidate Tchiroma claims victory in presidential election

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, Oct 14, (AP): Cameroon’s opposition candidate Issa Tchiroma Bakary claimed victory early Tuesday in the Oct 12 presidential election, urging President Paul Biya, who has been in power for over four decades, to concede.

“Our victory is clear, it must be respected,” Tchiroma said in a video statement on Facebook, calling on Biya to “accept the truth of the ballot box” or “plunge the country into turmoil.”

Elections Cameroon, the independent body in charge of overseeing the poll, and the constitutional court have not yet announced any results. Official results are expected at the latest by Oct. 26.

Biya’s Cameroon People’s Democratic Movement party rejected Tchiroma’s claim on Tuesday.

Gregoire Owona, the deputy secretary-general of the CPDM, said the opposition candidate did not win and does not have the results from the polling stations.

Tchiroma said he will share a detailed report of the votes by region in the coming days.

Minister of Territorial Administration Paul Atanga Nji warned last week that any unauthorized release of results would be deemed “high treason,” saying only the Constitutional Council can declare a winner.

The 76-year-old opposition candidate was a government spokesperson and minister of employment



Security forces take position during clashes with supporters of presidential candidate Issa Tchiroma in Garoua, Cameroon on Oct 12. (AP)

under Biya but quit the government last year to launch his presidential run. His campaign drew large crowds and backing from a coalition of opposition parties and civic groups.

Analysts have predicted a victory for Biya, 92, as the opposition remained divided and his strongest rival was barred from running in August. Eleven opposition candidates were on the ballot for the Oct. 12 election.

Biya is the world’s oldest president. He has been in power since 1982, nearly half his lifetime, making him Cameroon’s second

president since independence from France in 1960.

During Biya’s decades in power, the Central African nation of nearly 30 million people has struggled with challenges from a deadly secessionist movement in the west and chronic corruption that has stifled development despite rich natural resources like oil and minerals.

Around 8 million voters were eligible to vote in Cameroon’s election, which uses a single-round electoral system that awards the presidency to the candidate with the most votes.

## Venezuela mine collapse kills at least 14 people after torrential rains: authorities

CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct 14, (AP): At least 14 people died in a mine collapse in El Callao, Venezuela after torrential rains hit the southeast region, authorities said on Monday.

A command post was set up to “coordinate operations to recover the 14 deceased,” led by Brig. Gen. Gregory González Acevedo, head of the Operational Zones for Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis in Bolívar state.

The deaths occurred in three different shafts of the Cuatro Esquinas de Caratal mine, in the town of El Callao, about 850 kilometers (528 miles) southeast of Caracas, the agency reported on its Instagram account.

Search and rescue operations began with “the pumping out of all the shafts in the area to lower the water level, and then evaluating rescue efforts” for the people trapped inside the gold mine, the statement added, without providing further details.

The death toll is based on other miners’ testimony, firefighters in El Callao said on social media. Flooding caused the collapse of the vertical mines, known as ravines.

El Callao is a town where life depends on gold mining. Most of its 30,000 inhabitants participate directly or indirectly in mining.

Venezuela is full of copper, diamond and other precious metal mining, where unsafe working conditions are common in the poorly regulated industry.

Also:

**BOGOTA, Colombia:** A Venezuelan human rights activist



At least 14 people died in a mine flooding in El Callao, Venezuela after torrential rains hit the southeast region, authorities said on Oct 13. (AP)

and a political consultant living in Colombia’s capital for the past year were wounded by gunshots in an apparently targeted attack, Colombian authorities said Monday.

Colombian police said in a statement that just past noon, Yendri Omar Velásquez Rodríguez and Luis Alejandro Peché Arteaga exited a building on Bogotá’s north side and were shot by two unidentified people.

Both men were reported to be in stable condition at a hospital, police said.

Colombia President Gustavo Petro said on X that government security forces would expand their protection of human rights activists.

### Subcontinent

**‘Investigate Tamil Nadu stampede’:** India’s top court Monday ordered the country’s premier investigating agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to probe into last month’s stampede that claimed 41 lives and injured dozens of others during a political party rally of a popular film star in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, officials said.

The apex court said an independent investigation was necessary “to allay concerns and ensure impartiality.”

It also constituted a three-member monitoring committee, chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice Ajay Rastogi, to supervise the progress of the CBI probe.

The stampede broke out last month during a political rally of actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar in Karur district, about 387 km southwest of Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu. Vijay was campaigning for his Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam party ahead of local elections scheduled early next year. (Xinhua)

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**Bangladesh factory fire kills 9:** A fire at a garment factory and a chemical warehouse in Bangladesh’s capital has left at least nine people dead and several others injured.



Vijay



## Kuwaiti oil price falls to \$64.73

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Price of Kuwaiti oil barrel dropped by USD 1.38 to USD 64.73 per barrel on Monday compared to Friday’s USD 66.11 pb, according to Kuwait Petro-

leum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday. Globally, Brent crude increased 59 cents to USD 63.32 pb, as did West Texas Intermediate, which rose to USD 59.49 pb.

# Business

## Kuwait Finance House issues 2024 Carbon Footprint Report

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has released its 2024 Carbon Footprint Report, which highlights the Bank’s key environmental achievements and initiatives during the year. The report also provides a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impact of KFH’s operations, products, and services, while shedding light on the main sources of emissions with the aim of developing effective solutions to reduce them and support the KFH’s efforts in combating climate change and optimizing the use of resources.

Moreover, the report presents the Bank’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while reaffirming its commitment to launching financial products that support environmental initiatives and expanding its climate efforts in line with Kuwait’s national development goals and global climate objectives.

This report marks an important milestone in KFH’s journey to develop an integrated disclosure framework that enhances transparency and ensures alignment with international sustainability standards.

In his opening message, KFH Group Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen AlMarzouq, stated that releasing the Carbon Footprint Report reflects the bank’s unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and its dedication to integrated sustainable practices across its operations. He added that KFH’s proactive approach in adopting environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles represent a cornerstone of the Bank’s corporate strategy.

AlMarzouq emphasized that KFH has been lauded for its leadership in sustainability. The bank’s focus on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices led to an “A” rating from the MSCI ESG index, the top score among Kuwaiti banks for 2024. KFH was also named to the FTSE4Good Index and



Hamad AlMarzouq, Chairman

received several prestigious awards, including Kuwait’s Best Bank for Sustainable Finance from Global Finance magazine and Best Bank for ESG from Euromoney, all of which confirm the strength of its ESG strategy.

He noted that KFH’s acquisition of the formerly AUB-Bahrain Group strengthened the Bank’s position as the largest private sector company listed on both Boursa Kuwait and Bahrain Bourse, with a market capitalization exceeding KD 14 billion, and as the world’s second-largest Islamic bank. This initiative has established a prominent banking entity, boasting an expansive international footprint spanning 10 countries, including key markets such as Kuwait, Bahrain,

**AlMarzouq:** KFH’s outstanding sustainability achievements earn global recognition and international acclaim  
■ KFH continues to explore solutions and partnerships that support reaching carbon neutrality

Turkey, Egypt, Germany, and the United Kingdom. This global presence strengthened the Bank’s capability to support sustainable development in new markets.

AlMarzouq affirmed KFH’s commitment to supporting Shariah-compliant green finance. These efforts are demonstrated through energy-efficient home and vehicle financing to green Sukuk investment to fund renewable energy and efficiency projects. Additionally, KFH signed a unique MoU and co-launched a Global Takaful Alliance with the UNDP, promoting its role in implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning its operations with ESG standards.

As part of its environmental endeavors, KFH continued its eco-initiative. These included coral-reef restoration and island clean-ups in partnership with the Scientific Center and government agencies under its Keep it Greencampaign, which encompasses an array of innovative environmental projects.

KFH’s commitment to sustainability is evident in its recent accomplishments. The bank received a LEED Gold Level Certification for Operations and Maintenance for one of its branches, a significant milestone in its sustainability journey. This follows the GSAS Gold Level Certification awarded to the KFH Auto showroom, making it the first of its kind in Kuwait to achieve this distinction. This certifica-



tion highlights the showroom’s adherence to environmental sustainability standards.

AlMarzouq concluded that sustainability is an integral pillar of KFH’s strategy and affirmed that the Bank will remain steadfast in its commitment to continuously explore innovative solutions and partnerships that allow it to further reduce its carbon footprint and create a carbonneutral impact.

### All Share Index up 0.21%

## Boursa Kuwait ends higher

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday’s trading session on a positive note, with the All Share Index adding 18.54 points, or 0.21 percent, to finish at 8,858.82 points.

Trading activity was robust, as 769.6 million shares changed hands across 36,887 transactions with a total value of KD 158 million (USD 483 million).

The Main Market Index declined by 101.42 points, or 1.18 percent, ending at 8,478.29 points. It recorded a trading volume of 517.2 million shares through 24,954 transactions, valued at KD 78.6 million (USD 239.7 million).

In contrast, the Premier Market Index advanced by 49.39 points, or 0.53 percent, to close at 9,391.46 points. Trading in this segment saw 252.4 million shares exchanged in 11,933 transactions, worth KD 79.4 million (USD 242.17 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 Index edged down 13.60 points, or 0.15 percent, settling at 8,853.77 points, with 355.4 million shares traded through 15,966 transactions at a value of KD 56.4 million (about USD 172 million).

### Transactions jump 38%

## Kuwaiti real estate trading volume surges in early Oct

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The local real estate market witnessed a remarkable increase in trading volume in the first week of October, compared to the last week of September.

This means continuous activity in various real estate sectors, driven by the recovery in demand and improved liquidity in the market.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the weekly report on real estate trading activity issued by the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice, stating that the total real estate trading on Oct 1-9 reached 175 transactions worth KD127 million, compared to 127 transactions worth KD81.8 million in the last week of September – 55 percent increase in value and 38 percent in the number of transactions. This confirms that the market has entered an early seasonal wave of activity with the start of the last quarter of the year, indicating that 2025 is approaching the highest real estate trading volume ever.

The private sector accounted for the largest share of transactions, with 116 transactions worth KD45.7 million, compared to 83 transactions worth KD 33 million in the previous week – 38 percent increase in the number of transactions and 38.5 percent in value, reflecting the continuous demand for residential real estate, with the imminent implementation of the Vacant Land Monopoly Law.

The investment sector continued its progress, recording 51 transactions worth KD48.6 million, compared to 40 transactions worth KD29.8 million in the last week of September – 63 percent increase in value and 27.5 percent in number. It means the sector continues to attract investors and capital due to its high rental returns.

The commercial sector witnessed exceptional performance in the first week of October, with four transactions worth KD28.3 million, compared to only two transactions worth KD16.4 million in the previous week – a growth of 72 percent in value, indicating the expansion of commercial activity in the country and reflecting investor confidence in the sector as a “winning card.”

The market also witnessed the return of coastal deals after their absence in the previous week, with three transactions worth KD3.3 million recorded. This indicates limited activity, but reflects renewed interest in this type of high-value real estate in prime locations.

Industrial properties witnessed a slight decrease in value, with one transaction worth KD1.2 million, compared to one transaction last week worth KD1.6 million.

### Kuwaiti capital market ranks among top performers in Gulf region

## Boursa Kuwait hailed as Middle East’s best exchange for 2025 by Euromoney

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: In recognition of its leading role in enhancing liquidity and transparency, bolstering investor confidence and adopting the highest standards of governance and sustainability in the Kuwaiti capital market, Boursa Kuwait was crowned as the Middle East’s best stock exchange in 2025 at the inaugural Capital Markets Awards, organized by Euromoney in collaboration with the Arab Federation of Capital Markets (AFCM).



Bader Al-Kharafi, Chairman



Mohammad Al-Osaimi, CEO



The Capital Markets Awards extends the Awards for Excellence prestigious recognition to a new range of market participants, including securities exchanges and venues, brokerage houses and broker-dealers (both bank, independent and agency), and post-trade service providers.

Designed to recognize the best in breed across the key fields of market infrastructure and intermediary provision, its evaluation process is based on in-depth research that includes reviewing data submitted by participating institutions, conducting specialized interviews and performing secondary research, culminating in final decisions made by an internal Euromoney committee.

Being named the Middle East’s best exchange is a proud milestone for Boursa Kuwait and a global testament to the success of its strategy to develop the Kuwaiti capital market and reinforce its position as a leading regional hub capable of attracting investments from around the world. It also reflects the exchange’s firm commitment to enhancing market liquidity and transparency, strengthening investor confidence and trust and furthering the role of the capital market in supporting the long-term growth and diversification of the national economy.

**Exceptional performance despite challenges in 2024**

Boursa Kuwait was awarded the title of “Best Stock Exchange in the Middle East” in recognition of its outstanding achievements during 2024, the period on which the evaluation was based. A successfully privatized and self-listed exchange, the company delivered a strong financial performance that reflected its operational efficiency and institutional resilience, despite regional geopolitical tensions and rising global economic uncertainty.

The company continued to deliver

outstanding performances across various key indicators, including exceptional net profits, growth in operating revenues, and an increase in operating profit, reinforcing its position as a pioneering institution with a clear vision and robust governance framework, one that places sustainable growth at the core of its strategy to build a more prosperous future for the market and all its participants.

In addition, the Kuwaiti capital market distinguished itself as one of the top performers in the region, supported by robust trading activity and increasing market capitalization, with key indices posting impressive returns and securing Kuwait a leading position among Gulf Cooperation Council markets.

Its robust operating model enabled it to strike a strategic balance between

market liquidity depth and the diversification of investment opportunities, increasing the confidence of both institutional and retail investors in the strength of the Kuwaiti capital market.

**Continuous development of market infrastructure**

Boursa Kuwait continues to take a proactive approach to enhancing the Kuwaiti capital market. In collaboration with the Capital Markets Authority and other members of the capital market apparatus, the exchange launched the second part of Phase Three of its market development program (MD 3.2) in July.

MD 3.2 was focused on enhancing operational and regulatory infrastructure and included the implementation of the Central Counterparty (CCP) clearing and settlement framework, the completion of

cash settlements through local banks and the Central Bank of Kuwait’s “KASSIP” system, and the upgrade of brokerage firms’ operating model to that of “Qualified Broker”.

In addition, the capital market apparatus is preparing to enable the listing and trading of fixed-income instruments, such as sukuk and bonds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) later this year, following the completion of all necessary technical preparations and infrastructure readiness.

Boursa Kuwait also announced a series of market mechanism enhancements, including the extension of trading hours, the adjustment of the closing auction mechanism, and the reduction of the random closing period. These changes are designed to align the Kuwaiti capital market with international standards as well as boost market efficiency and liquidity.

**Leadership in governance and sustainability**

Boursa Kuwait continues to embed the principles of good governance, sustainability and financial literacy at the core of its operations, fostering transparency and ensuring that investors have access to essential information.

In 2021, the exchange issued its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Reporting Guide. Additionally, its in-house sustainability report was awarded the Best Sustainability and ESG Report award by the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) in 2023, recognizing the company’s leadership in governance and sustainability disclosures.

The exchange continues to support community and environmental initiatives, promote financial awareness and enhance education, underpinned by its institutional sustainability and corporate social responsibility strategies, which are aligned with many United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implemented through strategic partnerships with both local and international organizations to sponsor impactful programs and initiatives.

Through these efforts, Boursa Kuwait has strengthened its position as a responsible corporate citizen, a model issuer in the Kuwaiti capital market and a vital contributor to the national vision that aims to transform Kuwait into a leading regional financial and investment hub.

### Second edition of Academy X successfully concluded in partnership with CODED

## Zain digitally empowers more than 500 girls and young women



Zain’s team honoring a group of outstanding students.



Zain’s team and partners with CODED officials.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Zain announced the successful conclusion of the second edition of the Academy X program in strategic partnership with CODED Academy, which delivered an intensive training experience for female school and university students in technology and innovation. The program extends Zain’s efforts to empower girls and women digitally and connect national talent with opportunities in the knowledge economy.

This year’s edition trained more than 500 students, bringing the total number of participants since the program’s launch to over 800 across two years. The curriculum covered foundational and advanced tracks in programming, web and app development, cybersecurity, introductions to artificial intelligence and data analysis, in addition to design, user experience, presentation skills, and teamwork. The program adopted a project-based learning approach under the supervision of

specialized trainers.

Participants delivered more than 100 projects this year, and 79 projects took part in the closing ceremony, which featured jury evaluations and strong community engagement, with more than 9,000 votes cast to select the stand-out projects. This contributed to deepening participants’ hands-on experience and showcasing tech solutions with community impact in education, health, sustainability, and services.

The program strengthened the partnership ecosystem between Zain and CODED through integrated pathways to build and refine digital skills, starting with workshops and bootcamps and extending to business incubators and final competitions. This helped prepare students for the job market and boost their confidence in turning ideas into viable prototypes, while providing

valuable mentoring and networking opportunities with industry experts and emerging tech companies.

Zain affirms its continued investment in high-quality programs that hone digital capabilities among youth, especially girls and women, and its expansion of collaboration with public and private partners to launch new editions and programs that reinforce Kuwait’s position as a hub for tech talent.

Zain also recently concluded the fourth season of the Kuwait Codes program in strategic partnership with CODED. The program graduated more than 1,000 students this year, bringing the total number of graduates to 4,500 since its launch, an achievement that reflects the strength of the partnership and the joint effort to empower Kuwaiti youth and build their skills for an economy based on digital innovation.



Dr. Galal El-Badri named among the most influential legal leaders in Kuwait 2025

## NBK recognized by the Legal 500 as one of Kuwait’s top legal teams

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Legal 500 has recognized Dr. Galal Wafaa El-Badri, General Counsel and Head of the Legal Affairs Group at National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), among the most distinguished and influential legal leaders in major financial institutions for 2025. The recognition was announced during an exclusive event hosted by the organization at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in The Avenues Mall, under the sponsorship of ASAR – Al Ruwayeh & Partners, which celebrated Kuwait’s most accomplished and high-performing in-house legal departments.

The Legal 500 issues this annual ranking through rigorous research and analysis, drawing from submissions by legal departments and law firms, interviews with clients and peers, and assessments of capabilities across multiple jurisdictions. Dr. El-Badri has been named in the 2025 list on the strength of his deep expertise in commercial and financial law. He holds a Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree from the United States and serves as Professor of Commercial Law at the Faculty of Law, Alexandria University.

Commenting on the recognition, Dr. El-Badri stated: “This honor reaffirms NBK’s position as a leading financial institution that places legal governance and compliance at the very core of its operations. It underscores our commitment to cultivating highly skilled legal teams capable of addressing complex challenges, generating

strategic value, and upholding the highest standards of legal excellence. Our Legal Affairs Group remains instrumental in drafting the Bank’s contracts and providing expert legal guidance to all business units and senior management.”

Dr. El-Badri also highlighted that this achievement further reflects the vital role of NBK’s Legal Affairs Group, demonstrated through its proactive management of legal risks, its tangible contributions to supporting business objectives, and its capacity to provide practical, timely advice that ensures compliance, safeguards the Bank’s interests, and simultaneously enables informed operational decision-making.

NBK’s Legal Affairs Group implements an integrated strategy that begins with anticipating potential scenarios, assessing contracts and operational frameworks, and delivering adaptable legal solutions that respond to evolving regulatory and economic landscapes. It also focuses on developing forward-looking business models to prepare the Bank for the future.

The Group is equally committed to strengthening collaboration and coordination across the Bank’s departments, particularly Risk, Compliance, IT, and Procurement, allowing it to deliver real-time legal guidance and provide senior management with a clear, strategic legal perspective that underpins informed decision-making.



Dr. Galal El-Badri after receiving the certificate of honor.

**El-Badri:**  
■ This recognition reaffirms NBK’s position as a leading financial institution that places legal governance and compliance at the core of its operations.  
■ An achievement that underscores the efforts of the Bank’s Legal Affairs Group in providing a clear strategic vision that supports sound and informed decision-making across all operations.

Flexible control via mobile app

## KIB introduces Visa ‘Click to Pay’ for seamless & secure check out

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the launch of Click to Pay (CTP), a cutting-edge digital solution designed to enhance the online shopping experience for its retail banking customers. This new service by Visa provides a fast, convenient, and secure way to complete online transactions without the need to manually enter card details for every purchase. This comes as part of KIB’s constant efforts to enhance its digital services and solutions, keeping them aligned with technological advancements.

Commenting on the launch, **Deema AlMulaifi**, Assistant General Manager – Operations Department at KIB, stated: “At KIB, we are committed to providing innovative financial solutions that align with our customers’ evolving digital lifestyles. With Visa Click to Pay, we are introducing a smarter, more efficient way to pay online, eliminating unnecessary steps while ensuring top-tier security. With this seamless checkout experience, our customers can enjoy faster transactions while benefiting from Visa’s robust security features.”

AlMulaifi pointed out that the new

service caters to Visa cardholders, and is particularly beneficial for customers who frequently shop online and seek a secure and hassle-free payment experience.

**Mohamed Reyad**, Visa’s Country Manager for Kuwait, said: “Visa’s recent Checkout Friction report shows that 52% of Kuwaiti consumers have abandoned an online purchase because the checkout process was too long or complicated. Click to Pay directly addresses this challenge by streamlining the experience, removing the need to manually enter card details for every transaction while ensuring the highest level of security through Visa’s trusted technology. Together with KIB, we are helping to make digital commerce in Kuwait simpler, safer, and more seamless for everyone.”

Recognized across a wide array of merchants globally, Visa CTP streamlines the checkout process by allowing the customer to store their Visa card details in a secure digital environment. With this new service, KIB customers can enjoy a simplified and intuitive checkout experience across multiple devices, where they can either enable or disable CTP at their convenience through the KIB Mobile App, giving them full flexibility and control over this new convenient feature.

It is worth noting that KIB continues to strengthen its digital banking ecosystem by integrating advanced financial solutions that combine convenience with reliability, delivering an innovative banking experience tailored to modern lifestyles. With a focus on security, speed, and ease of use, the Bank is once again reinforcing its position as a ‘Bank for Life’, empowering customers with smarter financial tools.



Deema AlMulaifi



Mohamed Reyad



Committed to empowering national youth and driving development

## NBK sponsors ‘Watheefti’ exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: In line with its strong commitment to empowering national youth and driving the country’s development, National Bank of Kuwait sponsored “Watheefti” Exhibition, the largest recruitment forum organized by Kuwait’s private sector.

NBK’s participation in this exhibition serves its bigger strategy that aims to support national professionals and attract the best competencies and talents to qualify them for the job market, which also aligns with Kuwait Vision 2035 that calls for increasing national professional participation in the private sector.

The exhibition was held for three days, from 16 to 18 October, to bridge communications between the large private sector firms and national youth who are job hunting. In addition to the professional mentoring in future decision-making, the exhibition offers an ideal platform for fresh graduates and job hunters to get a closer look and explore the available training and job opportunities.

As for the bank’s role in this exhibition, the support it offers to the youth goes beyond direct recruitment and extends to providing comprehensive training and development programs aimed at preparing them for future leadership positions. These initiatives include specialized programs that equip new graduates



■ The exhibition is an ideal platform for fresh graduates to explore available job and training opportunities.  
■ NBK’s strategy places national youth empowerment at the top of its priorities.  
■ The bank is dedicated to supporting Kuwait’s strategic agenda and increasing national participation in the private sector.

with the practical skills needed for the current job market. Moreover, NBK’s participation

in “Watheefti” is not merely an annual event, but an embodiment of its strategy that places youth em-

powerment at the top of its priorities and effectively contributes to building an aware generation capable of spearheading Kuwait’s financial sector.

Additionally, NBK’s participation in similar events reflects its strong commitment to social responsibility and echoes its belief that investing in youth is an investment in Kuwait’s future. As one of Kuwait’s largest financial institutions, the bank does not simply offer the youth job opportunities; rather, it helps them build a successful career path and professional future.

It is worth noting that NBK’s unique professional environment provides its employees with advanced facilities, including a gym and an in-house medical clinic. It also organizes events and activities aimed at promoting mental and physical health, believing that a healthy and productive employee is the cornerstone of any institution’s success.

The bank’s efforts to attract national talent are well-aligned with its development and training plans, which seek to invest in national talent and prepare a promising banking generation. The bank is also committed to offering a wide range of professional training courses and academic programs, as one of the leading banking institutions in Kuwait that has adopted youth training programs.

30 participants selected from over 160 applicants, majority women

## KIPCO launches 3rd cohort of ENBAT program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – has launched the third cohort of “ENBAT” with the participation of 30 fresh university graduates. The program offers participants a platform to develop skills they may not have been exposed to during their education, yet are considered essential by employers for new hires to possess.

ENBAT, first launched in January 2024, is being hosted by the American University of Kuwait. More than 160 young people from 18 countries applied for the third edition of ENBAT, with 70% of those accepted into the program being women. The participants hold degrees in health and sciences, arts and media, humanities and engineering, among others.

The program offers an inclusive learning environment for young graduates to share ideas and collaborate, allowing them to practice skills that build resilience, adaptability and originality in problem-solving, along with improved communication, all of which are key qualities for success in professional settings.

The nine-week program is designed in collaboration with en.v,



Group photo during the 3rd cohort of ENBAT program.

which has worked on a number of successful programs, all of which focus on bringing together people representing different parts of the community and facilitating the process of building bridges, collaboration and connections.

On this occasion, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, Group Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications and Investor Relations at KIPCO, said: “In its third edition, ENBAT con-

tinues to draw increasing numbers of applicants each year, highlighting the program’s success and the positive impact it has on our participants. KIPCO is dedicated to actively supporting the growth of Kuwait’s future leaders. Our annual program provides young participants with essential skills to excel in their chosen careers. ENBAT focuses on holistic development, fostering both emotional and intellectual resilience to prepare participants for success in any work environment,

whether in the public or private sector.”

ENBAT is being facilitated by seven trainers, all of whom have private sector experience and have been trained by en.v to help the participants build the core skills needed to become effective leaders and collaborators. The program includes four modules: Self, Systems, and Critical Thinking; Cross Cultural Communication; Design Thinking; and Work Culture & Applying Skills.

## IMF upgrades US growth outlook as Trump’s tariffs cause less disruption, for now

WASHINGTON, Oct 14, (AP): The U.S. and global economies will grow a bit more this year than previously forecast as the Trump administration’s tariffs have so far proved less disruptive than expected, the International Monetary Fund said Tuesday, though the agency also said the extensive duties still pose risks.

The United States’ economy will expand 2% in 2025, the IMF projected in its influential semi-annual forecast, the World Economic Outlook. That is slightly higher than the 1.9% forecast in the IMF’s last update in July and 1.8% in April. The U.S. should grow 2.1% next year, also just one-tenth of a percent faster than its previous projection, the IMF said.

The global economy, meanwhile, will grow 3.2% this year, up from a 3% estimate in July, the IMF forecast, and 3.1% in 2026, the same as its previous estimate.

The figures represent a bit of a round-trip for the IMF: In January, before President Donald Trump began imposing tariffs, it had forecast global growth of 3.3%, only slightly higher than its newest estimate. While the U.S. and world economies have fared better than expected, it’s too soon to say they are fully in the clear, the IMF said, as Trump has continued to make tariff threats and it can take time for changes in international trade patterns to play out.

On Friday, for example, Trump threatened to slap 100% duties on all imports from China, which caused a sharp fall in the stock market.

IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said at a news conference that the import taxes and ongoing threats to impose more duties have created ongoing uncertainty for many businesses and it’s weighing on the world economy.

“The tariff shock is here, and it is further dimming already weak growth prospects,” he said.

Gourinchas also said that a burst of investment in artificial intelligence, in the form of huge data centers and extensive computing power, has helped offset the

drag from trade and boosting the U.S. economy. Yet if a financial market bubble formed and then burst, it could sharply slow business investment and consumer spending, he said.

“There are echoes in the current tech investment surge of the dot-com boom of the late 1990s,” he said. “It was the Internet then, it is AI now.”

Shares of two companies active in the AI sector, AMD and Oracle, which announced an expanding partnership Tuesday, have seen their shares rise 80% this year.

Gains in AI-related stock values have lifted Americans’ wealth and fueled consumer spending, Gourinchas said, just as companies are ramping up their investments in advanced computer chips and building data centers. Hotter spending and investment could push central banks to raise interest rates over time, he said.

Gourinchas also offered several reasons the U.S. and global economies have remained resilient after the widespread imposition of tariffs earlier this year.

“First and foremost, the tariff shock itself is smaller than initially feared, with many trade deals and exemptions,” he said. “Most countries also refrained from retaliation, keeping the trading system open. And the private sector also proved agile, front-loading imports and re-routing supply chains.”

By front-loading imports, many U.S. companies were able to stock up on goods before the duties took effect, enabling them to avoid or delay price increases.

Yet many of those factors only reflect “temporary relief, rather than underlying strength in economic fundamentals,” the IMF’s report said.

The IMF also said that import price data in the U.S. shows that so far importers and retailers are paying most of the tariffs, not overseas companies, as many Trump administration officials have predicted. Over time, those firms are likely to pass on more of the price hikes to consumers, the report said.

There are signs that some downsides of the higher tariffs are starting to emerge, the IMF outlook said. Core inflation, which excludes the volatile food and energy categories, has ticked up to 2.9%, according to the Federal Reserve’s preferred measure, up from 2.7% a year ago. Hiring has ground to nearly a halt, which could partly reflect a more cautious approach by many firms in the wake of the uncertainty created by the higher tariffs.

The IMF’s forecasts are modestly more optimistic than many private-sector economists’ expectations. The National Association for Business Economics, a group of academic and business economists, on Monday forecast that the U.S. would grow just 1.8% this year and 1.7% in 2026.

Nearly two-thirds of the economists surveyed by the NABE said they think the administration’s duties are nevertheless slowing growth, by up to a half-percentage point.

China, meanwhile, has weathered the hit from U.S. tariffs by sending more of its goods to Europe and Asia, rather than the United States, the IMF said. Its currency has depreciated, which has made its exports cheaper. The IMF is forecasting that China’s economy will expand 4.8% this year and 4.2% in 2026, the same as in July.

Gourinchas said that China’s economy has grown increasingly dependent on exports, while its real estate sector continues to struggle under heavy debt loads. “It is increasingly hard to see how this could be sustained,” he added.

In Europe, Germany is bolstering growth by increasing government spending to build up its military, Gourinchas said. The IMF now expects the 20 countries that use the euro to grow 1.2% this year, up from a 1% forecast in July, and 1.1% next year, the same as three months ago.

The IMF is a 191-nation lending organization that works to promote economic growth and financial stability and to reduce global poverty.



# What's On

## SPOTLIGHT

Got a birthday or event?



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

Experts discuss AI-driven smarter hiring, training, and workforce analytics

## AmCham Kuwait hosts 4th Future of AI Forum on HR & accessibility

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The American Chamber of Commerce in Kuwait (AmCham Kuwait) successfully hosted the 4th edition of its Future of AI Forum under the theme, "Transforming HR & Accessibility." The half-day event, held at Crowne Plaza Kuwait, brought together business leaders, policymakers, technology experts, and accessibility advocates to explore how artificial intelligence can reshape human resources practices and enhance inclusivity for people with disabilities in the workplace.

Generously supported by Kuwait Resources House (Platinum Sponsor), Elevatus (Silver Sponsor), and SAP (Silver Sponsor), The Economic (Media Partner), and The Business Year (Strategic Partner). The forum offered a platform to align practical AI applications with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the upcoming National AI Strategy.

In his opening remarks, Pete Swift, Chair of AmCham Kuwait, emphasized the forum's role in driving dialogue around AI adoption:

"AI is not just about technology, it is about creating workplaces that are more efficient, equitable, and accessible. Today's discussions highlight how Kuwait can leverage AI to both enhance productivity and broaden accessibility opportunities."

AI in Human Resources: Smarter Hiring, Training & Workforce Analytics

The first panel, "AI & the Future of HR in Kuwait," explored AI-driven recruitment tools, personalized employee training, workforce analytics, and strategies to reduce hiring bias while addressing Kuwaitisation objectives.

Moderated by Maite Elizalde, Country Editor at The Business Year Kuwait, the panel featured:

■ Mohammed Zaki, Group HR Director, Beyout Holding



Photo during the event.

■ Dima Baqaen, Director of Growth & Operations, Elevatus

■ Dr. Arezou Harraf, Vice Chair ABCK-AmCham Kuwait, Head of Business Studies at Box Hill College Kuwait

■ Tanja Dedovic, Regional Thematic Specialist on Labor Mobility & Social Inclusion, MENA International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Panelists shared insights on AI applications in hiring,

workforce planning, and employee upskilling, while emphasizing ethical considerations, privacy safeguards, and inclusive workforce development.

AI in Accessibility: Enabling Inclusive Workplaces

The second panel, "Inclusive Intelligence – AI & Accessibility," focused on AI solutions that foster inclusive work environments, especially for people with disabilities.

Moderated by Ebrahim Alkandari, Dotslink Consultant

and Chairman of Harek Association for Independent Living, the panel featured:

■ Mayzad Gharzeddine, SAP Regional/Territory Lead, SAP Success Factors, Bahrain, Kuwait and Iraq

■ Naem Mirza, AI Doctrine, Vice President of Sales

■ Waad Al-Azmi, Zain Group, Inclusion & Accessibility Advocate

■ Zainab AlMeraj, Tech Connect Co., Managing Director and Kuwait University Associate Professor

Panelists highlighted assistive technologies, AI-powered learning platforms, and frameworks that support full workforce integration for people with disabilities, sharing practical examples and policy recommendations.

A Collaborative Step Toward Responsible AI

Interactive Q&A sessions enabled attendees to explore ethical considerations, accessibility standards, and the practical implementation of AI across sectors.

The forum concluded with an appreciation ceremony for sponsors, panelists, and contributors, followed by networking opportunities. AmCham Kuwait reaffirmed its dedication to fostering cross-sector collaboration, responsible AI adoption, and initiatives that advance Kuwait's innovation and inclusion goals.

About ABCK-AmCham Kuwait

A non-profit organization operating since 1985, composed of Fortune 500 corporations, small and medium-sized companies, and prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs, both American and Kuwaiti. ABCK-AmCham Kuwait has acted as an advocate for American interests in Kuwait. For more information, please visit [www.amchamkuwait.org](http://www.amchamkuwait.org) or follow @abck1985 on social media.

## New routes include Madrid and Colombo, reflecting strategic growth

## Kuwait Airways launches its winter campaign, 'Summer may be over, but travel never ends'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: As part of its ongoing commitment to diversifying its route network and introducing new destinations, Kuwait Airways has announced the launch of its winter travel campaign under the slogan, "Summer may be over, but travel never ends". Set to begin on 26 October 2025, the campaign aligns with KAC's annual strategy to provide a variety of seasonal travel options tailored to meet the evolving needs and aspirations of its diverse customer base.

Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Abdulmohsen Salem Al-Fagaan, stated that the launch of the campaign reflects the company's commitment to offering the best and most sought-after destinations during the winter season. He emphasized that the company continues to expand its network of regional and international routes in line with travelers' interests, seasonal trends, and evolving needs, particularly in response to the increasing demand for travel during the winter holidays.

Al-Fagaan stated that through these seasonal campaigns, Kuwait Airways aims to strengthen its role as a key contributor to promoting tourism and travel to and from the State of Kuwait. The company seeks to offer a diverse range of travel options that cater to all segments of society, whether for tourism, business, or family visits.

Al-Fagaan noted that Kuwait Airways recently announced the launch of several new destinations, selected following thorough studies to evaluate operational and economic feasibility, as well as assess expected passenger demand. He mentioned that



among the most prominent of these destinations are Madrid, Spain, and Colombo, Sri Lanka, which align with the national carrier of the State of Kuwait's strategic plans to offer its customers with new tourism and cultural options.

Al-Fagaan pointed out that Kuwait Airways continues to launch new destinations in response to the evolving aspirations of travelers. He affirmed the company's commitment to maintaining its leadership among regional carriers in terms of flexibility in des-

tination choices, quality of service, and overall travel experience of customers.

He emphasized the company's aspirations for significant future achievements, while reaffirming its ongoing focus on developing the entire operational system to achieve the highest levels of service quality in the coming phase.

He highlighted Kuwait Airways' commitment to meeting the desires of its valued customers by introducing a variety of destinations around the world, providing customers with new and diverse options that cater to their requirements to travel to their destinations with their preferred carrier, Kuwait Airways.

It is worth noting that Kuwait Airways established in 1954, operates a modern and diverse fleet comprising the latest type of aircraft from the world's leading manufacturers namely Airbus and Boeing. The fleet is equipped with cutting-edge technology and advanced features that align with the best international aviation standards, including state-of-the-art inflight entertainment systems and designed seating specifications to suit the needs of the national carrier's customers. Kuwait Airways takes pride in employing some of the region's most skilled and experienced professionals across various technical specializations, reflecting the airline's commitment to operational excellence. In addition, Kuwait Airways strives to attain the highest levels of quality in customer service and to develop the company's operational system in line with the latest developments in the commercial air transport sector.



Jazeera Airways

Two direct flights a week

## Jazeera Airways opens winter gateway to Sochi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's leading low-cost carrier, today announced the return of its direct flights to Sochi, reintroducing seamless connectivity between Kuwait and one of Russia's most enchanting year-round destinations. Following a highly successful summer season, the airline will resume services to Sochi for the winter schedule, unlocking new opportunities for Gulf travelers seeking winter escapes, wellness retreats, and alpine adventures by the Black Sea.

As the first and only Kuwaiti airline to operate direct flights to Sochi, Jazeera Airways continues to strengthen cultural and tourism ties between the Gulf and Russia. The resumed service offers travelers from Kuwait and the wider Middle East region direct access to Sochi's renowned winter charm – from snow-covered peaks in Krasnaya Polyana and world-class ski resorts, to rejuvenating spas, thermal springs, and vibrant cultural experiences.

A Destination for All Seasons – Now a Winter Favorite

Sochi, long celebrated for its summer coastline, has rapidly emerged as a premier winter resort since hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics. Visitors can enjoy a host of winter sports like skiing and snowboarding in the Caucasus

Mountains at Rosa Khutor, Gazprom and Gorky Gorod. They can also experience wellness and nature retreats with panoramic snowy vistas or just enjoy Russian cuisine while discovering the local markets and historic promenades along the Black Sea.

Commenting on the resumption, Barathan Pasupathi, CEO of Jazeera Airways, said: "Sochi has proven to be more than a seasonal success – it's a destination that captivates year-round. We are excited to return this winter, offering our passengers access to Russia's premier ski and wellness capital. By resuming flights, we continue to connect Kuwaiti and GCC travelers to new experiences, while also welcoming Russian visitors through Kuwait to our extended network of more than 60 destinations."

The Sochi route offers smooth onward connections through Jazeera Terminal 5 in Kuwait, enabling travelers from Russia to access cities such as Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, Istanbul, Delhi, and Mumbai.

Flight Schedule

Flights to Sochi will operate twice weekly for the winter season. To book your flights visit the Jazeera Airways website – [www.jazeeraairways.com](http://www.jazeeraairways.com) or mobile app, or contact their call center at 177.

## Walk & Talk with Toastmasters

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Desert Pioneers Toastmasters Club organised a "Walk and Talk with Toastmasters" event on Friday morning, the 10th of October 2025 at the Marina Crescent which was a tremendous success, thanks to the enthusiasm and participation of everyone involved with their families. The weather was perfect for a walk, and the energy from our group made the experience all the more enjoyable and memorable.

It was wonderful to see how everyone connected and shared great conversations with fellow Toastmasters in a relaxed, scenic outdoor setting. The conversations flowed naturally as we strolled together, sharing stories, laughter, and insights. Participants enjoyed a leisurely walk while engaging in lively discussions, sharing personal stories, exchanging ideas and building bonds beyond the club setting.

The event not only fostered stronger relationships within our Toastmasters community but also provided a platform to come together, have fun and share a hearty breakfast together at the

end of the walk where members shared their joy and appreciation for such a refreshing initiative. Many commented on how comfortable and energized they felt, and several expressed interest in organizing similar gatherings in the future.

Sincere gratitude to Toastmasters Vishal Edward Khan, Mohamed Hussein, and Dr. Sahar Helmi for their dedicated efforts in coordinating the creative fun and games session, which added an extra layer of enjoyment to the event. Special thanks are also goes to TM Dinesh Kumar Pal for providing all the essential safety advice that ensured a safe and smooth experience for everyone. We appreciate the invaluable support extended by TM Abdullah Al-gouz.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to every participant, representing seven Toastmasters clubs and approximately eight nationalities. Your positive spirit, willingness to connect with one another, and unwavering support made this event truly special. We look forward to seeing the same enthusiasm and camaraderie at future outdoor events.



Photo during the event.

## TEF Kuwait hosts 16th TICE & 9th EEA: Engineering Sustainability and Innovation for a Greener Future

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The Tamilnadu Engineers Forum (TEF), Kuwait, hosted a landmark event - the 16th Technological Innovations Conference and Exposition (TICE) and the 9th Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) on 9th October 2025 - at Hotel Crowne Plaza. With over 1,000 attendees, the event brought together thought leaders, industry experts, engineers, and innovators. Themed "The Rise of Green Engineering: Advancing Sustainability Through Technology," this year's conference underscored the vital role of sustainable innovation in shaping the future of engineering.

This year also marked TEF's 26th anniversary, celebrating over two decades of contribution to professional development, technical knowledge sharing, and the empowerment of Indian engineers in Kuwait.

Inaugural Ceremony Graced by Industry Titans

The event opened with the arrival of esteemed guests, followed by a ceremonial cake cutting and ribbon cutting. Dignitaries were then taken on an exhibition tour showcasing cutting-edge engineering innovations. The event officially opened with the Kuwait and Indian national anthems, followed by a safety moment.

TEF's General Secretary, Eng. Balasubramanian, delivered the Welcome Address. In his speech, he extended heartfelt thanks to all sponsors, exhibitors, delegates, and participants for their unwavering support and enthusiasm.

In his presidential address, the TEF President Eng. Raja reflected on the organization's journey, celebrating 26 years of service to the engineering community in Kuwait. He emphasized that it is the collective effort of the engineering community and the generous contributions of stakeholders that make TEF's events a consistent success year after year. A commemorative video capturing TEF's evolution and contributions was played, setting the tone for the day's celebrations.

The audience then heard impactful speeches from distinguished Chief Guests: Mr. Hamza Abdullah Bakhsh, Chairman, Kuwait National



Photos during the event.

Petroleum Company (KNPC) and Mr. Hamad Rashid Al-Zuwayer, Deputy CEO (North & West Kuwait), Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

Chief Guest Mr. Hamza Abdullah Bakhsh emphasized the vital importance of green energy and sustainability in Kuwait's long-term national development. He praised the role of Indian engineers in Kuwait's infrastructure and industrial growth, acknowledging their contributions to the country's nation-building efforts.

Special Guest Mr. Hamad Rashid Al-Zuwayer highlighted KOC's remarkable achievement in environmental performance – reducing gas flaring from 16% to just 0.5% as part of their Zero Flaring Policy. He reiterated KOC's commitment to sustainability and applauded engineers for driving this transformation.

Keynote & Special Addresses: A

Global Call to Sustainability

In his keynote address, Dr. Fahad Al-Ghanem, Manager, Operations Support Group (Gas), KOC spoke about the growing significance of green energy in global and regional energy strategies. He stressed the urgent need for sustainable engineering practices, particularly in the oil and gas sector, to ensure a greener, more resilient future.

Dr. Igazeuma Okoroba, Head of Sustainability, Dangote Cement, Nigeria, delivered a special address on the global rise of green engineering. She emphasized how advanced sustainability technologies are transforming industries and urged the engineering community to lead with innovation, inclusion, and responsibility.

Representing the Embassy of India, Kuwait, Dr. Harit Ketan Shelat, Second Secretary appreciated TEF's



## Swift announces new ‘Eras Tour’ docuseries and concert film

## Swift’s ‘Showgirl’ breaks records with 4 million sales in first week

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (AP): That’s show business for you! Taylor Swift’s 12th studio album, “The Life of a Showgirl,” has officially sold 4.002 million equivalent album units - which includes album sales and streaming activity - in its first week in the US. That is the biggest first week in modern music history; at least, according to Luminate, the industry data and analytics company that began tracking sales in 1991.

Swift broke the record set by Adele’s “25,” which sold 3.378 million copies in its first week in 2015 in the US.

“The Life of a Showgirl” was released Oct. 3. In its first week, pure album sales totaled 3,479,500 copies.

She’s also become the solo artist with the most No. 1 albums on the Billboard 200, with 15. She was previously tied with Drake and Jay-Z, who each have 14.

Swift is now just behind The Beatles, who boast of 19 No. 1 albums.

She is no stranger to breaking records, and when it comes to “The Life of a Showgirl,” the history-making

started immediately. In its first day of release, the album sold 2.7 million copies in traditional album sales, breaking her record for most first week sales... in one day.

Her last album, 2024’s “The Tortured Poets Department,” amassed 2.61 million equivalent album units in the US in its first week.

Also, according to Luminate, “The Life of a Showgirl” broke the record for the most copies of a vinyl album sold in a single week in the US, with 1.2 million copies in its first day.

The previous record holder was “The Tortured Poets Department,” which sold 859,000 copies on vinyl in its first week.

One of the reasons Swift has seen so much success is that she released her record in several different variants. Those include multiple editions specific to Target - three CDs titled “It’s Frightening,” “It’s Rapturous” and “It’s Beautiful,” as well as an exclusive vinyl release, “The Crowd Is Your King.”

There are a number of other vinyl variants as well:



Taylor Swift arrives at the 67th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, in Los Angeles. (AP)

“The Tiny Bubble in Champagne Collection,” “The Baby That’s Show Business Collection,” “The Shiny

Bug Collection,” and the standard LP and cassette, in “sweat and vanilla perfume Portofino orange vinyl.”

The news of Swift’s record-breaking sales arrived just after “Good Morning America” revealed Monday that she’ll have two new projects at Disney+. That’s a six-episode, behind-the-scenes docuseries about her landmark “Eras Tour” titled “Taylor Swift ‘ The Eras Tour ‘ The End of an Era.”

The first two episodes of her docuseries will premiere Dec. 12.

And that is not to be confused with the second, titled “Taylor Swift ‘ The Eras Tour ‘ The Final Show,” a concert film now with the inclusion of “The Tortured Poets Department” section. The 2024 album was incorporated into her three-and-a-half-hour performance following its release. It was filmed in Vancouver.

That differs from 2023’s “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” film, which was compiled from several Swift shows at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, a suburb of Los Angeles and arrived ahead of “The Tortured Poets Department.”

## Leading patron

## Toby Talbot, icon of art house film, dies

NEW YORK, Oct 14, (AP): Toby Talbot, a great patron of art house cinema who with her husband, Dan, helped introduce movie lovers to celebrated works from Jean-Luc Godard, Pedro Almodóvar and hundreds of other international filmmakers and to American favorites old and new, has died at age 96.

Talbot died Sept. 15 at her home in Manhattan, The New York Times reported Monday. The cause was complications from Guillain-Barré syndrome, an autoimmune disease.

The Talbots, through their distribution company, New Yorker Films, and such prominent Manhattan theaters as The New Yorker and Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, were a prolific force behind the transformation of movies in the 1960s and ‘70s from popular entertainment to an art form regarded with the seriousness of literature or painting. Martin Scorsese, Pauline Kael, Wim Wenders and Susan Sontag were among their many friends and customers, turning up for the latest Godard release, a documentary about Sen. Joseph McCarthy or a double feature of Cary Grant movies.

“The New Yorker was a very special place. It was a place of communion, where the customers, the owners, the programmers, and the filmmakers seemed to be part of the same family,” Scorsese wrote in the foreword to Toby Talbot’s memoir, “The New Yorker Theater,” which came out in 2009. “Dan and Toby were right there on the front lines, showing films ... distributing films, sticking their neck out on pictures by Godard and Bertolucci and Fassbinder and Straub and Huillet and Oshima and Sembene.”

## Classic scene

The New Yorker theater had a special role in movie history, as the setting for a classic scene from Woody Allen’s “Annie Hall”: While Allen and Diane Keaton wait on line in the lobby, they overhear a fellow moviegoer’s pedantic thoughts on the Canadian philosopher-media theorist Marshall McLuhan, who turns up in a cameo to rebuke the man.

For foreign language directors or for such contemporary American filmmakers as Allen or Jim Jarmusch who depended on the art house market, support from the Talbots was essential. The feature releases they championed were a template for cinephiles: Satyajit Ray’s “Pathar Panchali” and Jarmusch’s “Stranger Than Paradise,” Yasujiro Ozu’s “Late Spring” and Werner Herzog’s “Aguirre, the Wrath of God.” The Talbots also helped inspire a reevaluation of Hollywood’s past, with retrospectives of Preston Sturges, Humphrey Bogart and Buster Keaton among others.

Toby Talbot was born Toby Tolpen, a native New Yorker who met her future husband in 1949, went to the movies with him on dates and married him the following year. (They had three children). In the 1950s, Dan Talbot worked as an editor at Gold Medal Books among other jobs and Toby Talbot was an editor and translator.

Their art house years began spontaneously, on a road trip. The Talbots had been thinking about opening a book store in New Hampshire, but while driving north to look for possible locations they found themselves talking about the movies they loved.

Soon after, Toby Talbot’s sister and brother-in-law mentioned that their accountant wanted to buy a theater on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. The Talbots convinced him to let them run it, on the condition that after a year they would have turned a profit.

The New Yorker Theater opened in March 1960, starting with Laurence Olivier’s “Henry V” and the French release “The Red Balloon.” The theater was a hit with critics and the general public, who loved not just the blend of foreign and American movies, but the New Yorker’s decorative touches, whether the mural designed by Jules Feiffer or the wall of black and white photos of Greta Garbo, Gloria Swanson and other stars. One summer night, Swanson herself emerged from a white limousine and headed inside for a showing of her most famous movie, “Sunset Boulevard,” while pausing first to look at the gallery of pictures.

## Film



This image released by A24 shows Rose Byrne in a scene from ‘If I Had Legs I’d Kick You’. (AP)

‘If I Had Legs’ is a raw portrait of maternal burnout

## Byrne shines as a mother on the brink

LOS ANGELES, Oct 14, (AP): How DO you juggle it all? Mothers tend to get asked that question - often in a chipper tone, expecting a chipper response. Rarely do those asking stick around to hear that perhaps those juggling balls are hovering precariously, about to crash to the ground.

One senses that Linda, the overburdened mom embodied by a brave and committed Rose Byrne in Mary Bronstein’s “If I Had Legs I’d Kick You,” would freely expand on that - if anyone cared. But Linda is nobody’s priority.

She’s certainly not her husband’s priority; a cruise captain, he phones in from afar, checking that she’s properly caring for their ill child and freely admonishing her when she’s not. A working therapist, she’s certainly not the priority of her patients in various stages of crisis.

She’s also not the priority of doctors supervising her daughter’s illness - an eating disorder so severe that the child needs a feeding tube. Even the contractor who’s allegedly fixing that hole in Linda’s ceiling puts her at the bottom of the list.

Grasping all this in the early scenes, we suddenly understand two bold creative decisions Bronstein makes, in only her second feature as director. The first: Her camera rests close - excruciatingly close - on Byrne’s face throughout. It’s as if to say, nobody else is paying attention to her, but we sure will.

Second, and most radically: We hear Linda’s child but do not see her. At first this feels uncomfortable, even frustrating. But Bronstein has explained it simply: The moment you see a child’s face, that’s where your empathy goes (especially a

sick one). In fact, this child, played by a sweet-voiced Delaney Quinn, is not even named. This movie’s about Linda, remember?

Thus, it is Linda’s face alone - in such severe close-up that we could be inside her very pores - that we first see. She’s in a tense meeting with her child and their doctor (played by a stern Bronstein herself.) Linda desperately wants the feeding tube removed. The doctor says the girl must reach a target weight first.

The tube will become, of course, both a physical and emotional tether - and a symbol of the guilt Linda feels at being unable to solve this crisis.

Heck, she can’t even handle arranging repairs to the gaping abyss at home. Her bedroom’s ceiling has collapsed just before the opening credits, forcing mother and daughter into a crummy beachside motel. (The location is in the Hamptons on Long Island, not all corners of which are glamorous.) This ugly hole will serve, just like the feeding tube, as a portal to something much bigger and even fantastical.

Arguing with the repair guy, Linda screams into a pillow in despair. One would think such things as damaged property - or a nasty parking attendant, who also drives Linda mad - would be minuscule compared to the agony of a sick child. But for Linda, the big and the small conflate. There’s no longer any perspective of scale.

Perhaps this is why, barely able to focus on herself, Linda also badly mismanages one of her patients - a new mother (Danielle Macdonald, excellent) in full-on, scary postpartum depression.

The only person Linda can vent to is her own therapist, played by, yes, Conan O’Brien, in his dramatic acting debut. For once, and on purpose, O’Brien is the farthest thing from funny - a sour man unable to help Linda out of her spiraling mess. (Speaking of a spiraling mess, there are definite echoes of “Uncut Gems” - that film’s co-director, Josh Safdie, is a producer here - and its propulsive journey into madness.)

Perhaps the only clearly thinking person in the whole film is James, the motel handyman, who actually likes Linda and tries to help. ASAP Rocky has an easy charisma in the role, but Linda is incapable of focusing on him, or anyone else.

And that includes her child. Even though her days are devoted to the girl, shuttling her to appointments and filling that infuriating tube, we sense that Linda, amid the chaos, has forgotten what her offspring looks like. It’s surely another fundamental reason that Bronstein chooses not to show the child’s face.

Byrne’s face, though, it is hard to forget, as it registers fatigue, frustration, fury and everything in between. The film is a wonderful collaboration between her and writer-director Bronstein, who drew inspiration from her own experiences with motherhood.

It also has given Byrne, an actor of effortless appeal in lighter films, a chance to display versatility and grit in surely the toughest dramatic role of her career.

“If I Had Legs I’d Kick You,” an A24 release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association “for language, some drug use and bloody images.” Running time: 113 minutes. Three stars out of four.

## A voice that broke down barriers

## Crowds fill Sarajevo to mourn folk singer Halid Beslic

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Oct 14, (AP): Tens of thousands of people from across the Balkans poured into the streets of Sarajevo on Monday to bid farewell to Halid Beslic, a Bosnian folk singer whose music and humanitarian work broke down barriers in a region riven by ethnic animosity.

In his native Bosnia, he was highly respected for organizing concerts during the 1992-95 war to raise money for displaced Bosnians. He also won hearts across the region with his refusal to embrace hatred at a time of bloody conflict. His songs about life and love, delivered in his distinctive clear voice, captured a deep sense of longing.

Mourners filled the streets in a funeral procession, many crying as they made their way in silence toward Sarajevo’s main cemetery. Beslic died last week at the age of 71 from cancer.

Muhamed Velic, the Muslim cleric who led the funeral service, recalled that Beslic’s voice “reached people’s hearts and his goodness broke barriers and crossed various borders.” “An army of people knocked on his doors, asked for help and he opened to everyone,” he said.

Beslic enjoyed a career dating back to the former Yugoslavia, a multiethnic federation that broke up in a series of ethnic conflicts in the 1990s. Decades later, many in the region still revere Beslic as one of the symbols of the peaceful prewar era. Tens of thousands of people also gathered over the weekend in dozens of cities in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and Montenegro, singing Beslic’s songs together.

Videos posted on social networks also showed people gathering in cities in Western Europe, Australia, Canada and the United States, which all have big immigrant communities from the former Yugoslavia.

Bosnian actor Emir Hadzihafizbegovic, a friend of Beslic’s, described the late singer as the “personification of Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia.”

He “taught me how to live without prejudice,” he said. Beslic was revered in Bosnia for holding hundreds of humanitarian concerts abroad during the war to raise money for war victims. During the war he lived in besieged Sarajevo, which was exposed to daily sniper fire and shelling by Bosnian Serb forces.

The war in Bosnia started when Bosnian Serb nationalists rebelled against the country’s independence from the former Yugoslavia, taking up arms to carve out a Serb state and unite with neighboring Serbia. The war killed more than 100,000 and left millions displaced.

Bosnia today remains ethnically split and impoverished nearly 30 years after the war ended.



A popular Bosnian folk singer Halid Beslic who also was also widely known for his humanitarian work during and after the country’s bloody 1992-95 war performs during a concert, in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Nov. 11, 2023. (AP)





Two women talk at the Riyadh International Book Fair 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Oct. 2. (Xinhua)

Over 1,000 Chinese titles attract Arab readers

China-Arab cultural dialogue thrives at Riyadh Book Fair

RIYADH, Oct. 14, (Xinhua): This year's Riyadh International Book Fair, held from Oct. 2 to 11, highlighted the growing cultural and literary exchanges between Chinese and Arab writers, translators, and readers.

More than 10 Chinese publishers joined the event, presenting over 1,000 titles that drew strong interest from local readers.

A major highlight was the Arabic debut of Chinese novelist Mai Jia's *Rensheng Haihai* (Life Is Ocean-Wide), translated by Egyptian translator Yahya Mokhtar and published by Kuwait's Kalamat Publishing House.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the China Pavilion of the fair, Mai said, "the protagonist of '*Rensheng Haihai*', the Colonel, was born and raised in China. Yet I believe his story resonates equally well in the Arab world,

because the Chinese and Arabs share a spirit of resilience -- an ability to smile in the face of hardship and confront life with courage and humor."

Mai expressed his excitement at seeing his novel reach Arabic readers. He hopes that the Arabic edition will allow more readers across the Arab world to connect with Chinese literature, transcending language and geographic barriers, and fostering reflection on the shared human destiny.

A series of cultural exchange activities was also held, including the Saudi-China Dialogue and Exchange on Modernization and Saudi-China Literary Salon.

Guan Hong, deputy general manager of China Intercontinental Press, told Xinhua, "through these diverse cultural displays and exchanges of ideas, we hope Arab readers can gain a

deeper appreciation of China's cultural heritage and literary charm, and a more comprehensive understanding of the historical process and spiritual essence of Chinese modernization."

Arab publishers are also actively bringing in Chinese books. From classical masterpieces to contemporary literature, from history and philosophy to children's books, publishing houses from Arab countries, including Lebanon, Egypt and Kuwait, have brought a wide range of Arabic editions of Chinese works to this year's Riyadh fair.

Digital Future, a Lebanese publishing house, set up a special section dedicated to Chinese culture and literature in its exhibition area, showcasing the works it introduced from China and translated into Arabic.

Mohamad El Khatib, CEO of Digital Future, said that its cooperation with

Chinese publishers began in 2009. "We have introduced Chinese works covering a wide range of fields, including culture, children's literature, language learning, and academic research."

El Khatib added that his publishing house participates every year in international book fairs held in Cairo, Abu Dhabi, Rabat and other cities, where it showcases and promotes Chinese books.

"In recent years, Arab readers have shown growing interest in Chinese books," he said. "They are curious about Chinese culture, history, science and technology, and social development. Meanwhile, an increasing number of universities and cultural institutions in the region are offering Chinese language and China studies courses, driving sustained demand for Chinese-language learning materials and publications on Chinese culture," he added.

Heritage

Kuwait's first domed mosque gets a new life

Al Othman Mosque: Symbol of Kuwait's Islamic heritage



Photo courtesy of Al Othman archives  
The beautiful entrance of the Al Othman mosque

By Chaitali B. Roy  
Special to the Arab Times

Drawing a sketch of 'the historic Kuwaiti mosque' is not easy. The reason for this is the lack of documentation and available information. What is surprising is that, despite the very young age of mosques in Kuwait (the oldest of these historic mosques dates back no more than two centuries), there is hardly any information available. Much older mosques and buildings in other parts of the world are far better documented.

The Al Othman Mosque in Hawally, located on Al Othman Street, was built in 1958 by Abdullah Abdul Latif Al Othman (1897-1965), a pioneering Kuwaiti businessman and philanthropist. Al Othman, who also founded the Al Othman School, one of Kuwait's earliest modern private schools, played a key role in shaping the country's educational and cultural landscape. The mosque itself is among Kuwait's first modern grand mosques, serving as a landmark of faith and community life.

Today, a partnership between the Abdullah Al Othman estate and Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) is working to revitalise both the Bait Al Othman Museum and the Al Othman Mosque, with the goal of enhancing their roles as vibrant centres of religious, cultural and creative engagement.

I recently visited the Al Othman Mosque, where I met Zahra Ali Baba, a cultural heritage specialist with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the Co-founder of Heritage Workers, a non-profit organisation dedicated to heritage advocacy and conservation. The meeting was facilitated by Ksenia Graovac, a culturalologist and manager of the Promenade Culture Centre. Deeply involved in community building through art and culture, Ksenia is also one of the driving forces behind the restoration of the Al Othman Mosque.

Our discussion centred on the restoration and historical features of the Al Othman Mosque in Kuwait. We discussed the use of mosaic, concrete, and terrazzo, as well as the discovery of a large mural that had been painted white and later uncovered. Restoration efforts involve preserving original elements, such as columns and tiles, and removing modern additions, including false ceilings and Moroccan features. Notably, the Al Othman Mosque holds the distinction of being the first domed mosque in Kuwait and one of the earliest to incorporate modernist design elements in its doors and windows.

The restoration aims to showcase the mosque's diverse architectural influences. "There were a couple of restora-



Photo by Krishnaveer Roy  
Al Othman Mosque's restoration is removing modern features to reveal the mosque's original form.



Photo courtesy of Al Othman archives  
The Al Othman mosque -- one of the most colourful mosques ever built in Kuwait.

tion attempts in the past, if you can call them that," shares Ksenia. "During one such attempt, it changed colour from green to white. We discovered incredible colours, beautiful murals under the white paint, and we are trying to honour as many heritage features as possible."

What makes the Al Othman Mosque architecturally unique is that it is built and decorated in a variety of Islamic styles. What is also interesting is the time at which it was built. The 1950s and 1960s were a time of growth and urban renaissance in Kuwait, during which most of the country's first modern buildings were constructed. Apart from serving as a community hub for religious and cultural values, the mosque, which features an eclectic mix

of styles including Islamic, Tuscan, Victorian, modern, and Art Deco, is a notable example of this renaissance and a stellar modern Kuwaiti building.

Speaking of the importance of the building, Zahra Ali Baba notes, "It tells you about a very special moment in time in the evolution of mosque architecture. This is considered one of the earliest mosques to be built outside the third wall -- the Othman Mosque and the one in Ahmadi - and they represent completely different approaches to conceptualising a modern mosque."

Explaining the contrast between the two contemporary mosques in Hawalli and Ahmadi, Zahra noted, "The Ahmadi Mosque was designed by Wilson Mason architects, who were active across the Northern Gulf, in Basra,

Khoramshahr, and Abadan-building for the oil industry. At the time, with the Ottomans being pushed out, there was resistance to the British presence. To ease tensions, the architects cleverly used local materials and incorporated regional shapes and features, ensuring the buildings felt familiar and rooted in the local environment. It was their way of showing that these structures were built for the people, not as symbols of colonial occupation."

What makes the Al Othman Mosque singularly interesting is that it is one of the first mosques in Kuwait to have a dome. Previous mosque constructions in Kuwait featured a flat roof, in keeping with the traditional Arabian Gulf architectural vocabulary. "The dome is a Christian feature," explained Zahra. "The Prophet's mosque (PBUH) did not have a dome. Additionally, the construction technique was not in place."

Mosques are among the most important Islamic buildings, characterised by unique features. Functionally, it is a place of worship, socially, it is a place of gathering and discussion, aesthetically, it is an architectural object that possesses beauty and inspires creativity. "The most important feature of a mosque in this region is a courtyard where people congregate. It is pluralistic and a common simple feature of Gulf architecture," says Zahra. When asked about minarets, she says, "The minarets were traditionally very short; they did not have the structural capacities to build taller structures. In the early 1930s and late 40s, when construction workers migrated from Iran, they introduced taller minarets with elaborate decorations."

From an Islamic point of view, Muslims believe that building, caring for and maintaining mosques is the best act of worship. In 1904, there were between twenty and thirty mosques within the walls of Kuwait, four of which a number were major congregational mosques (holding Friday prayers). The rest were smaller mosques in the different neighbourhoods. It is worth noting that the great majority of mosques were built by wealthy individuals, whose families, in many cases, took pride in maintaining them. Abdullah Abdul Latif Al Othman, who had already embraced philanthropy as his life's calling, built several mosques in Kuwait and Lebanon. Al Othman had an interesting life. He transitioned from a student to a teacher, then a pearl diver, merchant, and eventually into a landlord. He built numerous mosques in Syria and Lebanon and supported various philanthropic causes worldwide. Despite facing bankruptcy, he rebounded by entering real estate, creating a market that reduced buyers' risk. His generosity and vision for Kuwait's development are exemplary, including his efforts to preserve historical buildings and his contributions to the community. "Hewas one of the kindest men," recalls Adnan Al Othman, Abdullah Al Othman's son and the force behind the strengthening of the Al Oth-

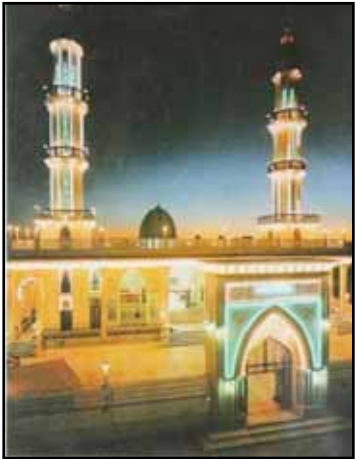


Photo courtesy of Al Othman archives  
The only Grand mosque in Kuwait which was totally lit up when it was built in 1958.



Photo by Krishnaveer Roy  
Al Othman Mosque was the first domed mosque in Kuwait with modernist design elements.



Photo by Krishnaveer Roy  
Al Othman Mosque's restoration is underway, led by Kuwait's NCCAL and the Al Othman estate.

man legacy. "He did not care about how much he spent. He never cared about how much wealth he had. And he was so very generous. He donated around the world, in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and as far away as Argentina. We are just trying to save some of that legacy for the future." When asked how he navigates the very difficult landscape of bureaucracy in Kuwait, which sometimes can become an impediment in such projects, he smiles, "I know it takes time. I have my own way. I know how to negotiate. I knock the doors the right way, the legal way, the polite way."

"We are constantly discovering the beautiful colours and the patterns on the mosque," observes Ksenia as we make our way through the restoration efforts gingerly. "This mural was completely covered," she said, pointing out to beautiful patterns emerging on one of the walls. "We have uncovered it all. I recall receiving a small block that the engineer sent over to me. I cried a little. Imagine what it must have looked like in its original form! We literally found it by chance, and we are being very careful with what's behind the white paint."

Restoring a historic building involves striking a balance between preserving its cultural authenticity and incorporating modern functionality, prioritising repair over replacement, and adhering to strict building codes and regulations. The overall goal is to preserve the build-

ing's character and history while adapting it to meet contemporary needs. The team supervising the restoration of the Al Othman mosque is doing just that. "There was a false ceiling here," said Ksenia, pointing out as we stood in the prayer hall. "We needed to be very careful with bringing back the original proportions of the mosque, the slender columns, the materials underneath. We have also restored some of the old tiles that we could, and some are new." The presence of meticulously maintained records and videos from the opening ceremony has provided the team with guidance on how the restoration will be carried out.

In the 2000s, Moroccan decorative elements in mosques in Kuwait became popular, and the Al Othman mosque was no exception. "This restoration is also important because it highlights the variety of attitudes prevalent at a time," observes Ksenia.

The Al Othman Mosque was a modern mosque when it was built. In a way, it symbolised a modern and more developed Kuwait. "In this mosque, there was freedom to be more creative," says Zahra. The result is a very eclectic mix of influences, including Hellenistic elements, modern abstract art, metalwork, and the use of colour. "The use of colours in this mosque is extraordinary," observes Zahra. "Earlier, everything was sand washed, it was as if Kuwait was colourblind. To build a religious building that is so colourful is interesting."

Cherished and controversial Miami Seaquarium closes its doors

MIAMI, Oct 14, (AP): The Miami Seaquarium, an old-Florida style tourist attraction that gained international attention as the filming location for the 1960s television series "Flipper" and thrilled generations of tourists with trained dolphin and orca shows, has closed its doors.

Sunday's closure of the park that opened in 1955 was celebrated by animal rights activists who had lobbied for decades to free the marine mammals inside. Located across a causeway from downtown Miami and overlooking Biscayne Bay, the park was beloved by those who grew up visit-

ing the landmark, but plagued by persistent animal welfare complaints.

Last year, the aquarium's parent company received an eviction notice for the waterfront property it leases from Miami-Dade County. Local cited a "long and troubling history of violations." The action followed a series of federal inspections that found multiple problems, including unsafe and structurally deficient buildings.

For years, families hoping to make cherished memories at the attraction have had to weave around the animal rights protestors stationed on

the sidewalk outside, equipped with signs, bullhorns, rosary beads and incense.

In recent years, activists focused on the fate of Lolita, an orca whale held captive in a shallow pool for more than a half-century. She died just as caregivers were preparing to move her to a natural sea pen in the Pacific Northwest.

Efforts to redevelop the Seaquarium site are already in the works, with plans for a new "accredited aquarium" with no marine mammals, as well as a research center, shops, restaurants and a publicly accessible baywalk.



In this photo taken Aug. 6, 2014, manatees swim at the Miami Seaquarium in Key Biscayne, Fla. (AP)



Research aims to reduce Alzheimer’s risk in diabetics

DDI, UK university unite to tackle diabetes-related dementia

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI) — established by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and The University of Southampton (UK) — are pleased to announce a new tripartite research partnership aimed at advancing the understanding of the association between diabetes and Alzheimer’s disease.

This initiative builds upon growing evidence that individuals with type 2 diabetes are at increased risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease, vascular dementia, and other forms of dementia. The joint project focuses on developing innovative



Dasman Diabetes Institute

therapeutic approaches to restore the brain’s vital clearance system, which is known to deteriorate with age and Alzheimer’s progression.

This partnership brings together leading expertise in neuroscience and translational research, led by Professor Roxana Carare, Professor of Clinical Neuroanatomy and Head of the School of Clinical & Experimental Sciences at the University of Southampton, in collaboration with Dr. Mohammed Abdulla Al-Onaizi, Principal Investigator at Dasman Diabetes Institute and Associate Professor at Abdullah Al Salem University. Their research will investigate how stimulating specific nerve pathways can enhance the brain’s natural waste clearance mechanisms —

offering a promising new therapeutic direction for Alzheimer’s disease.

This collaboration is jointly funded by the Dasman Diabetes Institute and the University of Southampton through the Dr. Wael Al Mahmeed and Dr. Laila Abdel Wareth Medical Innovation Fund. The funding supports the appointment of Dr. Kawthar Braysh as a Postdoctoral Researcher, who will be dedicated to advancing this project in Kuwait over the next few years. This initiative reflects the growing importance of regional and international collaborative ef-

forts, particularly across the Gulf region, to enhance scientific innovation and address pressing global health challenges.

“This partnership reflects our shared commitment to addressing the global burden of neurodegenerative diseases as a potential complication of diabetes through collaborative and translational research,” said Dr. Faisal Hamed Al Refaei, Acting Director-General of DDI. “It also reinforces the strong scientific cooperation between Kuwait and the United Kingdom, paving the way for innovation and excellence in health research.”

1 in 6 infections now antibiotic-resistant

WHO warns of rising antibiotic resistance

GENEVA, Oct 14, (Xinhua): Increasing resistance to essential antibiotics poses a growing threat to global health, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned with the release of its “Global antibiotic resistance surveillance report 2025” on Monday.

One in six laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections causing common infections in people worldwide in 2023 were resistant to antibiotic treatments, according to the new WHO report.

Between 2018 and 2023, antibiotic resistance rose in over 40 percent of the pathogen-antibiotic combinations monitored, with an average annual increase of 5-15 percent.

The report draws on data reported to the WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS) from over 100 countries, and presents, for the first time, resistance prevalence estimates across 22 antibiotics used to treat infections of the urinary and gastrointestinal tracts, the bloodstream and those used to treat gonorrhoea.

The new report notes that drug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria are becoming more dangerous worldwide, with the greatest burden falling on countries least equipped to respond.

Meanwhile, the 78th session of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Regional Committee for South-East Asia began in Colombo on Monday, with Sri Lanka’s Minister of Health Nalinda Jayatissa elected as chairman for a one-year term.

In a press release, Jayatissa said the three-day session, which will conclude on Oct. 15, marks a significant milestone for Sri Lanka as the host nation.

The event is attended by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Katerina Böhm, health ministers from eight member states, ambassadors from two nations, and other WHO experts, the press release said.

The meeting will focus on shaping the region’s health agenda for the upcoming year. Delegates are expected to consider new proposals to address key public health challenges, assess progress on previous resolutions, and renew their commitment to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of people across the region, the ministry said.

Revitalizing efforts to achieve health-related sustainable development goals will also be among the main priorities discussed during the session, the ministry said.



The medical team after the landmark remote robotic cancer surgery.

Kuwait localizes smart surgical tech

Kuwait makes history with first remote robotic surgery in gynecologic oncology

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: In an unprecedented medical achievement that consolidates the position of Kuwait in the field of healthcare innovation, the Ministry of Health announced the successful performance of the world’s first remote robotic surgery in the field of gynecologic oncology.

This was accomplished through the collaboration of Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital and Jahra Hospital.

In a press statement, the ministry disclosed this achievement is the first of its kind globally and it was carried out by Kuwaiti experts using an integrated national infrastructure, marking a historic step towards localizing smart surgical technologies in the country.

The ministry said the operations were performed by the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, led by Drs. Wafaa Al-Duwaisan and Dalal Al-Shamaa, in coordination with the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Jahra Hospital.

It confirmed that three delicate and complex surgeries were performed on Kuwaiti patients with uterine cancer, using remote robotic surgical ligation technology -- a qualitative leap in the field of modern surgery.

It added that this success is a manifestation of an advanced model of integra-



Kuwaiti doctors performing the world’s first remote robotic surgery in gynecologic oncology.

tion between national health institutions and a new beginning for the localization of advanced medical technology, thereby, improving the regional and global standing of Kuwait in the field of digital medicine and robotic surgery.

It indicated that this achievement will contribute to the qualification and

training of a new generation of Kuwaiti surgeons in the latest robotic surgery techniques and support the building of collaborative networks between surgeons in various specializations and hospitals, in line with its vision to develop the healthcare system in order to meet future requirements.

WHO flags risks in Indian drug regulations

India orders shutdown of drugmaker responsible for deadly cough syrup

NEW DELHI, Oct. 14, (Agencies): The local government in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu Monday announced the complete revocation of the manufacturing license of a pharmaceutical company responsible for producing the cough syrup that was linked to the recent child deaths in two states.

The government also ordered the company to shut down.

According to an official statement, the manufacturing license of Sresan Pharmaceuticals, which produced the adulterated cough syrup Coldfri, has been canceled.

“Orders have been given to conduct a detailed inspection of other drug manufacturing companies located in Tamil Nadu,” the statement added.

The cough syrup has been found adulterated with over 45 percent of diethylene glycol, a toxic industrial solvent.

While 24 deaths related to the cough syrup have been confirmed in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, three have been reported in the western state of Rajasthan.

The children, mostly under the age of five, have died in the past month due to suspected renal failure after developing complications following the consumption of cough syrup.

Police last week arrested 75-year-old Govindan Ranganathan, the owner of Sresan Pharmaceuticals, from his Chennai residence, along with his two employees.

Ranganathan faces charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, drug adulteration and violations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The World Health Organization also voiced deep concern over gaps in India’s drug safety regulations, warning that such medicines could reach other countries through unregulated distribution channels.

In another development, suspected militants shot and killed a police officer guarding a team of polio workers in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, the latest in a series of attacks on vaccine teams in the country.

The attack took place in the Matta area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, once a stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban, a day after Pakistan launched a weeklong nationwide vaccination campaign to immunize 45 million children.

Local police official Javed Khan said a team of female polio workers was administering drops to children in a house when “terrorists riding on a motorcycle opened fire” and killed the officer. He said that a search operation was underway to locate and apprehend the assailants.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the assault in a statement and vowed stern action against those responsible.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion is likely to fall on militants who frequently target health workers and the police officers assigned to protect them.

More than 200 polio workers and police officers protecting them have been killed in Pakistan since the 1990s, according to health and security officials. Militants often falsely claim the vaccination campaigns are part of a Western plot to sterilize Muslim children.

Since January, Pakistan has reported 29 polio cases. During the ongoing campaign, more than 400,000 trained workers are going door-to-door to vaccinate children.

Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan are the only two countries where transmission of the wild poliovirus has never been stopped, according to the World Health Organization.

DNA testing offers early diagnosis

Baby genome tests save lives: study

MELBOURNE, Oct 14, (Xinhua): Researchers in Australia say adding genomic sequencing to standard newborn blood screening would identify hundreds more treatable childhood conditions, enabling lifesaving early diagnoses.

A baby’s genome, which stays with them for life, could also be re-examined if a health issue arises during their lifetime, according to a statement released Friday by Australia’s Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI).

Published in Nature Medicine, the study found that genomic screening, a test that reveals a person’s entire genetic makeup, could be integrated into the national newborn heel-prick screening and deliver results for hundreds of treatable conditions within 14 days, it said, adding the current standard heel-prick test, offered to all Australian newborns, covers 32 conditions.

The BabyScreen+ study, led by MCRI and the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services, screened 1,000 newborns in the Australian state of Victoria for 605 genes linked to early-onset, severe, treatable conditions using genome sequencing.

Sixteen babies showed a heightened risk of genetic condition, only one of which was detected by the standard newborn screening, researchers said, citing one baby diagnosed with rare and severe immunodeficiency and successfully treated with a bone marrow transplant after early detection.

“Newborn screening for rare conditions is one of the most

effective public health interventions,” said MCRI Professor Zornitza Stark.

Researchers said more widespread use of genomic screening could rapidly diagnose and treat rare diseases, including childhood cancers, as well as cardiac and neurological disorders.

However, MCRI Associate Professor Sebastian Lunke cautioned that practical and ethical concerns with newborn genomic sequencing, and issues including cost, equity, data storage, access and maintaining ongoing consent as a child becomes an adult would need to be addressed.

Meanwhile, Namibia has launched a new five-year national strategy to accelerate progress in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health, aiming to end preventable deaths and strengthen healthcare systems across the country.

Speaking at the launch on Thursday in Windhoek, Namibia’s capital, Minister of Health and Social Services Espérance Luvindao said the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent Health, and Nutrition Strategy (20252026-20292030) marks a renewed commitment to improving the quality and equity of health services for women, children, and adolescents.

“Too many women, children, and adolescents still face barriers that prevent them from accessing quality healthcare and economic opportunities,” Luvindao said, adding that the strategy is not merely a policy, but a promise to safeguard the rights and dignity of all.

Researchers discover way to speed up diabetic wound healing

LISBON, Oct 14, (Xinhua): Researchers at the University of Coimbra in northern Portugal have demonstrated that blocking two microRNA molecules can substantially accelerate wound healing in people with diabetes.

The study, recently published in the Portuguese journal Diabetologia, showed near-complete wound closure within ten days by simultaneously inhibiting miR-146a-5p and miR-29a-3p, the university said on Tuesday.

“These molecular therapy targets may have significant potential to improve patient recovery, shorten hospital stays, reduce amputation risk, and ease the economic and social burden associated with diabetes,” said Ermelindo Leal and Eugenia Carvalho, investigators from the University of

Coimbra’s Obesity, Diabetes and Complications group.

The study noted that these small molecules, which regulate gene expression, are elevated in the skin of diabetic patients. The research also involved scientists from Roskilde University in Denmark.

In diabetes patients, wound healing is often delayed and complex, increasing the risk of hard-to-treat ulcers. The researchers tested the inhibition of the two microRNAs using specially designed molecules in both human cells and type-1 diabetic mice.

In the mouse studies, the therapeutic approach significantly reduced wound size within ten days, producing skin that was more resilient and

structurally organized.

According to the university, the findings open new possibilities for developing therapies that target key processes involved in wound healing, including inflammation, oxidative stress, blood vessel formation, and extracellular matrix remodeling.

Diabetes affects millions of people worldwide, causing pain, recurrent infections, frequent hospitalizations, and amputations - with cases continuing to rise. The identified microRNA targets could also enhance therapeutic strategies for other conditions characterized by impaired healing or chronic inflammation.



De Klerk completes thrilling chase

# South Africa beats Bangladesh in final-over thriller

VISAKHAPATNAM, India, Oct 14, (AP): Nadine de Klerk completed a thrilling chase by South Africa to beat Bangladesh in the final over at the Women's Cricket World Cup on Monday.

Needing eight runs off the last six balls, de Klerk smacked a four and a six to finish the chase with three deliveries remaining. She scored 37 not out off 29 balls, taking South Africa to victory by three wickets at 235-7.

Bangladesh made a competitive

232-6 after opting to bat first.

The Proteas were a precarious 78-5 before Chloe Tryon scored 62 off 69 balls and Marizanne Kapp 56 off 71 in a momentum-changing sixth-wicket partnership of 85 off 109.

Tryon was named the player of the match.

"I wanted to take the game as deep as possible, knowing Nadine was there at the back end to do what she does best," Tryon said. "We stayed calm and waited for the bad balls. I am hap-

py that we got over the line."

It was a third successive win for South Africa in four games, and it leapfrogged co-host India to go to third in the table. The Proteas travel to Colombo next to play Sri Lanka on Friday.

Bangladesh stayed sixth. It next plays Australia on Thursday, at the same venue.

Bangladesh started off slowly. Openers Fargana Hoque (30) and Rubya Haider (25) used up 128 deliveries.

Sharmin Akhter scored 50 off 77 before she was run out. She put on 77 runs with Nigar Sultana (32) for the third wicket.

Bangladesh was 164-4 in the 43rd over then Shorna Akter's blitz turned the momentum from South Africa. She hit three sixes, and three fours to score 50 off 34 balls as Bangladesh crossed 200 and put up a par score on a slow surface.

Left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba took 2-42.

Bangladesh's own left-arm spinner, Nahida Akter, hit South Africa's top order hard - in-form Tazmin Brits was dismissed for a duck. Wrist spinner Rabeya Khan bowled Annerie Derksen for 2.

Skipper Laura Wolvaardt was run out for 31 off 56 balls. Anneke Bosch added 28 but South Africa slipped to 78-5 when Sinalo Jafta was bowled for 4.

Tryon and Kapp absorbed the pressure and took time to get going, then

upped the ante. Both batters scored their first half-centuries of the World Cup.

Kapp was caught at long-off in the 41st over. Tryon and de Klerk quickly added 35 off 27 balls to propel the chase before Tryon was run out in the 45th still 35 runs from victory.

De Klerk was dropped in the penultimate over; Shorna Akter spilled the catch at long-off.

De Klerk pressed on and finished off the game four balls later.

'Already adapting well'

## Lakers' offense clicks as Reaves & Ayton sync up

LOS ANGELES, Oct 14, (AP): For all the focus on what adding a center could do for Luka Doncic, Austin Reaves looks as though he will be just as big a beneficiary of the Lakers' improved pick-and-roll game with new Los Angeles big man Deandre Ayton.

Reaves has shown a strong rapport with Ayton through two preseason games, turning in an efficient 21-point outing against Golden State on Sunday.

"I think that those things just grow throughout reps, and that's kind of what we're trying to do in preseason, is get those reps," Reaves said. "I'm not really sitting there thinking about it in the moment. If I go by my guy, I'm gonna go by them. If I need a screen, then I'll have him come screen. It's been fun getting to play alongside him in that pick-and-roll."

Ayton, who signed a two-year contract with the Lakers in July as they sought more consistent offensive production from the center position, agreed the live exhibition work alongside Reaves has been helpful in allowing him to understand the 6-foot-5 Oklahoma product's free-flowing approach to offense with the ball in his hands.

"He's super crafty," Ayton said. "I like to get lost in his little freedom 'cause he has a lot of wiggle to his game, and I don't want to be in his way at all, so I let him do his thing."

Coach JJ Redick used the same word, "crafty," to describe Reaves, who enters his fifth season in the NBA in better shape after the Lakers revamped their sports medicine staff. Those improvements are allowing Reaves to draw more free throws, which led Redick to an interesting player comparison.

"The ability to draw fouls, you put

your hand there, and he's able to rise to up. I played with a guy, Jamal Crawford, who was so good at that," Redick said. "So he's just picking up little tricks here and there to get to the free throw line. He's always been good at that, but you see that continue to develop."

Reaves enjoyed the association with Crawford, a three-time Sixth Man of the Year award winner.

"I like that one, too, Jamal Crawford was cold," Reaves said. "I think where he's coming from is kind of the creativity offensively. I don't want to speak for him, but I'm not someone that sits there and plays what I'm about to do. Everything just kind of happens naturally, happens in the flow of the game. So I haven't heard that one, but I like JJ a little more now."

The Lakers will need Reaves at his best when the regular season starts next week with LeBron James out because of sciatica that will be re-evaluated in three to four weeks. Reaves, who averaged 20.2 points, 5.8 assists and 4.5 rebounds last season, cautioned it will take a team effort to replace James' production.

"I can't go LeBron, I wish I could, but I think you got to do it as a collective group, and that's what we'll do," Reaves said.

Ayton will play a key part in that assignment in the two-man offensive game, be it with Reaves or Doncic. The 27-year-old Ayton has never averaged more than 1.9 assists in his seven seasons with Phoenix and Portland, but the Lakers believe they can unlock more of his playmaking on and off the ball.

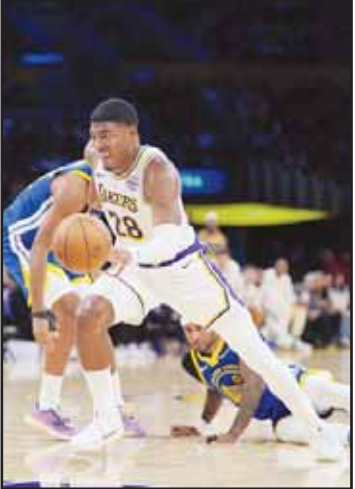
Redick said Ayton is already adapting well in his ability to create space for Reaves.

"I think DA is really good in terms of reading what the ball-handler's defender is doing," Redick said. "Him in the pocket has been really good, but he's made a concerted effort to get Austin open, like create advantages for Austin using his screening, which I think is only gonna benefit everyone down the line."

The first look at how Ayton meshes with Doncic should come at the Suns on Tuesday, which will likely be the first of two preseason games for the superstar guard following his summer run with Slovenia at the EuroBasket tournament.

If Ayton can show an on-court partnership with Doncic comparable to the early showings with Reaves, it will bode well for the Lakers' chances of starting strong, even without James.

"He's going to have a lot of responsibility this year for things that we want to do if we want to be as good as we think could be," Reaves said of Ayton. "We need him to be at his best self and whatever that looks like."



Los Angeles Lakers' Rui Hachimura (28) dribbles the ball past Golden State Warriors' Gary Payton II (0) during the second half of a preseason NBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)



South Africa's Tony dy Zorzi, front, plays a shot, as Pakistan Mohammad Rizwan, left, and Salman Ali Agha watch during the third day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa, in Lahore, Pakistan. (AP)

## South Africa 51-2 in pursuit of record chase

**LAHORE, Pakistan, Oct 14, (AP):** South Africa was a nervy 51-2 in pursuit of a record 277 runs to beat Pakistan after day three of the first test at Gaddafi Stadium on Tuesday.

Ryan Rickelton and Tony de Zorzi, South Africa's highest scorers from the first innings, were on 29 and 16 respectively at stumps.

The highest successful run chase in Lahore was 208 in 1961 by England.

On Tuesday, 16 wickets fell as the spinners continued to prosper on the dry pitch with variable bounce.

Pakistan bowled out South Africa for 269 in the first hour to grab a 109-run lead on the first innings, but then the home side was all out for 167 in 46.1 overs just after tea.

That still set a daunting target of 277, and Pakistan's strike spinner, the 39-year-old Noman Ali, took out Proteas captain Aiden Markram and Wiaan

Mulder cheaply for the second time in the match.

Rickelton, who survived a dropped catch, and de Zorzi handled the 15 overs to stumps, lifting South Africa from 18-2 to 51-2 at a little more than two runs per over.

De Zorzi started the day at the crease, resuming on 81 overnight. He entered into the 90s with a reverse swept boundary and lofted Noman over wide long-off for a six. De Zorzi reached his chanceless century which featured 10 fours and two sixes when he reverse swept Noman for a single. He raised his arms to celebrate his second test hundred.

De Zorzi was finally out for 104 from 171 balls when Shaheen Shah Afridi held a well-judged low catch diving forward at long-on. That gave Noman his ninth five-wicket haul in 20 test matches - the most by any Pakistan left-arm test spinner.

Noman and Sajid Khan both bowled unchanged from the start of play and South Africa added only 53 to its overnight 216-6.

Noman grabbed 6-112 and Khan took 3-98.

Pakistan was 36-2 by lunch then scored close to four runs an over in the second session.

Babar Azam top-scored with 42 and added 55 runs with Saud Shakeel (38). Babar, who has been struggling for runs in test matches, survived an lbw review against Kagiso Rabada late in the first session before he scored but he gained confidence against Senuran Muthusamy when he hit the spinner for four boundaries, including three off successive balls.

Babar was out lbw to a Rabada nip-backer but Pakistan added 114 runs in the second session and extended the lead to 259.

Then Muthusamy lured Shakeel to go for a big shot at the stroke of tea and Pakistan lost its last six wickets for 17 runs in a dramatic collapse.

Muthusamy took 5-57 for a match haul of 11-174, the fourth best match figures by a South Africa spinner in test cricket.

Simon Harmer complemented him with 4-51.

## 'We need to change the mentality' Espanyol eyes revival under new owner

BARCELONA, Spain, Oct 14, (AP): Espanyol, Barcelona's other club, is perpetually in the shadow of the almighty Barca.

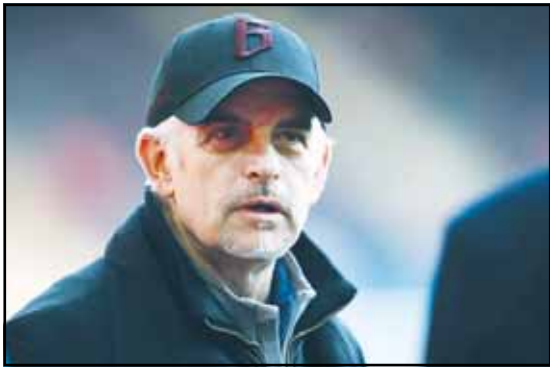
Its new American owner wants to change that by slowly yet surely working to create a winning mentality.

"That's the ambition that we have: To change the mentality that we are always, always deserving to win," Alan Pace said on Tuesday.

It was his first press conference at the team's stadium since buying Espanyol this summer and becoming its new chairman.

The move came five years after Pace made his first major venture into European soccer when he bought English club Burnley through Velocity Sports Partners, the sports arm of his ALK Capital investment firm.

"I would love for this club as well as any club that I'm



associated with to have the ambition to win the Champions League, but that's an ambition and it may happen well after I'm dead," Pace said about Espanyol. "But we better put the things in place that make that possible. We need to change the mentality to say that is what we want."

In the short-term, he said success for Espanyol would be to become one of the "top six" clubs in Spain, which would most likely put it in European competitions.

The club has struggled in recent seasons, battling back from two relegations and barely avoiding going down a third time last season. It has made a good start to this season, sitting ninth in La Liga after just two losses in eight games.

GUANGZHOU, Oct. 14, (Xinhua): Two-time Olympic champion Sheng Lihao finally added a long-awaited National Games gold to his glittering resume on Tuesday, winning the men's 10m air rifle final with 254.6 points at China's 15th National Games.

The 20-year-old from Jiangsu, who already owns two Olympic gold medals and a world title, led from start to finish in a star-studded final that included 50m rifle 3 positions Olympic champions Liu Yukun of Shaanxi and Zhang Changhong of Shandong.

The match offered little suspense. Sheng built a two-point cushion heading into the final two shots and maintained control to clinch his first National Games crown. Wang Yutong of Jilin took silver, while Liu claimed bronze.

"Honestly, I didn't expect to shoot this well," said Sheng. "I think I managed to stay in good form throughout, and maybe luck was on my side too."

An eight-time World Cup winner, Sheng made his National Games debut four years ago, earning a bronze in the mixed team event.

"In my first National Games, I was quite nervous," he recalled. "This time, with more experience, I was able to adjust better and show a stronger side of myself."

In the women's 10m air rifle team event, Zhejiang, featuring Olympic champion Huang Yuting, 2023 world champion Han Jiayu, and world record holder Wang Zifei, lived up to expectations. The trio had surpassed the previous world record in qualification with 1,903.6 points before Han captured individual gold in dramatic fashion on Monday.

Facing a resilient Hunan team led by 16-year-old World Cup champion Peng Xinlu, Zhejiang saw the score tied six times up to 12-12 before winning four consecutive points to seal a 16-12 victory.

Henan defeated Hubei 17-5 to take the bronze.

Earlier on Tuesday, in the inaugural men's 25m rapid fire pistol team final, Shandong came from 6-8 down to edge Shaanxi 10-8 in a thrilling finish. Veteran Olympic champion Li Yuehong praised his young teammates Liu Shuai and Ni Zhixin, who are coached by one of his former teammates.

"Our team worked really well together. Everyone gave their best," Li said. "This achievement owes a lot to our coach and my teammates. Without them, I wouldn't be standing here today."

Reflecting on his future, the 36-year-old added: "I'll keep working in the field I love and do my best to help more people understand and get involved in shooting. Whether I continue competing or move into coaching depends on where I'm needed most."

Jiangxi defeated host Guangdong 9-7 to take the bronze.

Competition continues Wednesday with the men's 10m air rifle team final, along with the women's 25m pistol and men's 10m air pistol gold-medal events.



Sheng Lihao



संघीय लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र भारत  
भारत का राजदूत  
कुवैत  
EMBASSY OF INDIA  
KUWAIT

NOTICE

October 12, 2025

Mr. Bharath Rangichetty, son of Mr. Balasubramanyam Rangichetty, Indian national, resident of 19-12-20/A Kesavayana Gunta, Tirupathi, Tirupati, Pin: 517501, Andhra Pradesh, India, and Ms. Divine Grace Salcedo Salvana, daughter of Mr. Joseph T. Salvana, Philippine national, resident of Montantta, Malabuyoc, Cebu (6029), Philippines, presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, they may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by email (cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22550171, 00965 - 22533125).



(Harit Shelat)  
Second Secretary (Community Affairs)  
and Marriage Officer,  
Embassy of India, Kuwait,  
Email: cw2.kuwait@mea.gov.in

مطلوب لشركة صناعية

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Best of the Rest

**Coote pleads guilty:** Former Premier League referee David Coote has pleaded guilty to making an indecent image of a child.

The 43-year-old Coote made the plea at Nottingham Crown Court on Tuesday after previously denying the charge. He appeared in court in connection with an allegation relating to a category A video, the most serious kind, which police said was recovered in February.(AP)

**Lewandowski sidelined:** Barcelona forward Robert Lewandowski is returning from the international break with a left hamstring injury that could keep him from playing the Spanish league clasico against Real Madrid next week. (AP)

Change Name

I, Moiz holder of Indian passport No U3073 047 Issued at Bhopal on 27-05-2020 And permanent Resident of 31 laxmi Bai marg near bohra masjid Thandla Distt: Jhabua PIN-457777 MADHYA PRADESH

Do hearby change my name from Moiz to MOIZ BOMBAYWALA with immediate effect



# France’s perfect run ends in Iceland draw

Germany stays top of Group A

**REYKJAVIK, Oct 14, (AP): France missed a chance to secure a spot at the 2026 World Cup after being held to 2-2 by Iceland.**

The result in Reykjavik halted France’s perfect start in European qualifying after three straight victories. The two-time world champion could have sealed qualification if it had beaten Iceland and Ukraine had failed to defeat Azerbaijan. Ukraine won 2-1.

Runner-up at the 2022 World Cup, France still leads Group D with 10 points, three more than Ukraine.

France was without captain Kylian Mbappé, who scored in the team’s 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan on Friday but limped off the field with a right ankle injury.

Iceland took the lead with a goal by Victor Pálsson in the 39th minute, but the visitors rallied with Christopher Nkunku scoring in the 63rd minute and Jean-Philippe Mateta in the 68th. Iceland evened the match with Kristian Hlynsson a couple of minutes later.

Iceland stayed with four points after four matches, three more than Azerbaijan. Switzerland also had a chance to secure a World Cup spot, but it couldn’t manage more than 0-0 against Slovenia.

Switzerland would have qualified if it had beaten Slovenia, and Kosovo failed to defeat Sweden. Kosovo won 1-0 to reach seven points in Group B, three fewer than Switzerland. Slovenia has three points, and Sweden, also winless like Slovenia, has one.

Liverpool’s Alexander Isak spurned three dangerous chances for host Sweden against Kosovo.

The 12 group winners qualify automatically, with the 12 runner-ups entering a playoff along with the four best-ranked group winners of the 2024-25 Nations League.

The 16 teams will be drawn into four playoff paths, with four teams in each, to determine the four remaining European qualifiers. Playoff matches will be played in single-leg semifinals followed by single-leg finals within the same international window in March 2026.

Germany beat Northern Ireland 1-0 in Belfast with a first-half goal by Nick Woltemade, staying even with Slovakia with nine points each atop Group A. Slovakia beat Luxembourg 2-0.

In other results, North Macedonia drew with Kazakhstan 1-1, while Belgium came from behind to win at Wales 4-2 with a pair of penalty kicks converted by Kevin de Bruyne.

Play was briefly delayed after a rat entered the field as Belgium led 2-1 in the second half. The rat was spotted outside the area of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. The Belgian tried to pick up the rat, but it escaped. Wales forward Brennan Johnson ended up chasing it away through the sidelines as the crowd cheered.

Belgium leads Group J with 14 points, one more than North Macedonia and



Slovenia’s Zan Karnicnik pulls Switzerland’s Dan Ndoye during a World Cup 2026 Group B qualifying soccer match between Slovenia and Switzerland at Stozice stadium in Ljubljana, Slovenia. (AP)

three more than Wales.

“I’m proud of the boys,” said Wales captain Ben Davies, who made his 100th senior international appearance. “We got Belgium to show us a lot of respect and to sit back and play on the counterattack against us, and that doesn’t happen too

often. Their game plan worked tonight, and it’s another big learning curve for a young group.”

The 2026 World Cup will be in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It is the first with an expanded field of 48 teams, up from 32.

## Kuwait hosts draw for 22nd Asian Handball Champ’ship



Players battling for the ball.

**By Khaled Al-Enezi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The draw ceremony for the 22nd Asian Men’s Handball Championship — a qualifying event for the 2027 World Championship in Germany — will be held at 6:30 p.m. today at the Safir Fintas Hotel, with the attendance of representatives from the participating Asian national teams.

The continental tournament, regarded as the biggest handball event in Asia, will take place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex from January 15 to 26, 2026.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the competition will secure direct qualification to the 2027 World Cup.

The Asian Handball Federation has confirmed the participation of 15

national teams: Kuwait (host), Qatar, Japan, Bahrain, South Korea, Iran, the UAE, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, China, Oman, Hong Kong, India, Jordan, and Australia.

Meanwhile, Kuwait’s national men’s handball team has begun its domestic training in preparation for the championship, which will run until October 20. The team will then head to Tunisia for an external training camp from October 21 to November 7, where it will participate in an international friendly tournament featuring Tunisia, Guinea, and Iran.

Following the camp, Kuwait will take part in the Islamic Solidarity Games, hosted in Riyadh from November 7 to 21.

The team’s preparation program is being overseen by Icelandic head coach Aron Kristjansson and his technical staff.

## Al-Qadsia edges Kuwait Club to avenge last season loss



Qadsia player spikes the ball as Kuwait Club players defend.

**By Khaled Al-Enezi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Al-Qadsia claimed a dramatic victory in the 11th round of the Federation Championship at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. The team defeated Kuwait Club 3-1 in sets (20-25, 25-22, 25-21, 25-21), achieving two key objectives: avenging last season’s Federation Cup final loss to Kuwait Club and climbing the league standings from fourth to third place with 11 points, just behind second-placed Kuwait Club and ahead of Al-Shabab in fourth on set difference.

In the same round, Kazma defeated Al-Shabab 3-0 in sets (25-23, 29-27, 25-22), taking the top spot in the Federation Championship standings with 14 points after previously holding second place.

Round 12 saw Al-Yarmouk face Burgan, while Al-Sulaibikhat played Al-Arabi.

Six rounds remain in the championship. At the end of the preliminary stage, the first-place team will face the fourth-placed team in the semifinals, and the second-placed team will play the third. The winners of these semifinals will advance to the final, scheduled for October 30.

Notably, Kazma are the defending champions, having defeated Kuwait Club in last season’s Federation Championship final.

## Kuwait Club and Al-Qadsia ready for Super Cup battle

**By Hassan Mosa**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The “Super Basketball” Cup final kicks off tonight at 7:00 PM, featuring Kuwait Club and Al-Qadsia at the Basketball Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Complex. Earlier at 5:00 PM, Kazma and Al-Qurain will clash to decide third and fourth place.

Kuwait Club, the reigning Arab champion and defending Super Cup winner, secured their spot in the final with a commanding 111-88 semifinal victory over Al-Qurain. Al-Qadsia, on the other hand, needed extra time to edge past Kazma 94-93 to reach tonight’s showdown against Kuwait.

This season, the Basketball Federation introduced a new format for the Super Cup, featuring the top four clubs from last season’s league, replacing the previous system that only included the league and cup champions.

On paper, Kuwait Club is the clear favorite to continue its dominance and claim a 10th Super Cup title. The team boasts a talented roster and high morale after last week’s Arab Cham-



Kuwait player defends as Qadsia player goes for a basket.

pionship triumph over Lebanon’s Al-Hekmeh in Dubai.

Al-Qadsia, guided by new Turkish coach Andiyak Baysir, faces a tough challenge. While they performed well against Kazma, recurring mistakes could make tonight’s task even more difficult

### Best of the Rest

**Uganda’s Kiplimo quits track races:** Uganda’s star runner Jacob Kiplimo has said to quit the track and field races.

Fresh from winning the 2025 Bank of America Chicago Marathon, Kiplimo told Xinhua in an interview Tuesday that he ran the track and field races for a long time, and it is now time to concentrate on Marathon. (Xinhua)

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**IOC announces awards winners:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Monday that two individuals and one federation have received the Paris 2024 Fair Play Awards for gestures of friendship, sportsmanship and solidarity. Norway’s decathlete Sander Skotheim, Spain’s Antonio Rojas, and the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), received the awards at the Olympic Museum on Sunday. (Xinhua)

### Japan beats Brazil for the first time in Tokyo comeback

## Honduras moves closer to World Cup berth

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, Oct 14, (AP): With three first-half goals in a 23-minute span, Honduras beat Haiti 3-0 on Monday to remain undefeated and moved closer to qualifying for its first World Cup since Brazil in 2014.

Rigoberto Rivas in the 18th minute, Anthony Lozano in the 28th and Rommel Quioto in the 40th scored for the “Catrachos”.

Honduras has eight points to lead Group B from Costa Rica, which has six points and remains in contention after beating Nicaragua 4-1.

Alonso Martinez scored in the 12th and 28th minutes, Manfred Ugalde added a goal in the 49th and Francisco Calvo finished off the scoring in the 90th for the Costa Ricans, who are aiming for their seventh World Cup.

The Haitians, who had their first loss of the final round of regional qualifying, are in third place in the group with five points.

The Hondurans control their destiny and can qualify for their fourth World Cup if they beat Nicaragua next month.

“Now we’re talking about the important game that’s going to be there in Managua; today it was important to get the win to give back to the fans who trusted in our work,” Honduras coach Reinaldo Rueda said.

Twelve teams from Central America and the Caribbean, divided



Japan’s Henry Hiroki Mochizuki, left, against Brazil’s Joelinton during the friendly soccer match between Japan and Brazil in Tokyo. (AP)

into three groups, are vying for three direct spots from CONCACAF qualifying for next year’s World Cup. The United States, Canada and Mexico have qualified automatically as World Cup co-hosts.

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Japan beat Brazil for the first time on Tuesday, fighting from two goals down to win the friendly 3-2 in Ajinomoto Stadium.

Ayase Ueda grabbed the winning goal with a header in the 71st minute, sending the sell-out crowd into celebration.

It was Japan’s historic first win over the South American powerhouse at its 14th attempt.

Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti made several changes to the team that won 5-0 in South Korea four days ago, but the five-time world champion continued its strong form from Seoul with a dominant first half in the Japanese capital.

Goals from Paulo Henrique and Gabriel Martinelli put the visitors seemingly in control at halftime, and a 12th win over Japan appeared likely. Seven minutes after the restart, however, Takumi Minamino

capitalized on a mistake by Fabricio Bruno to score from inside the area. Just after the hour, Keito Nakamura’s shot deflected off Bruno to bring Japan level.

Both teams have already qualified for the 2026 World Cup which will be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

□ □ □

Atlanta United goalkeeper Brad Guzan will retire after the 2025 MLS season, the former U.S. national team player said Tuesday.

In a 21-year career that also included nine seasons in the Premier League with Aston Villa, Hull and Middlesbrough, Guzan made 551 appearances with Atlanta and helped the team win the 2018 MLS Cup and the 2019 U.S. Open Cup.

Guzan played 64 games with the U.S. national team, winning three Gold Cups and making the American roster for the 2010 and 2014 World Cups. He was also the starting keeper for the United States team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The 2005 No. 2 overall draft pick after playing in college at South Carolina, Guzan played four seasons with Chivas USA and was the MLS Goalkeeper of the Year in 2007. He made 201 Premier League appearances in England from 2008-17.

Guzan will retire as Atlanta’s all-time leader in appearances, wins, saves and shutouts.

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Paraguay's Juan Caceres makes an attempt to score during the international friendly soccer match between South Korea and Paraguay at Seoul World Cup Stadium in Seoul, South Korea. (AP)

# Sports

## Historic moment as Cape Verde qualifies for World Cup

Cameroon misses out on automatic spot

**PRAIA, Cape Verde, Oct 14, (AP):** Cape Verde will play in the World Cup for the first time after beating Eswatini 3-0 to win its group in African qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

The archipelago of volcanic islands off the western coast of Africa secured one of the nine automatic spots for the continent. It will be the second smallest country by population to feature in the tournament after Iceland in 2018.

Dailon Livramento scored in the 48th minute, Willy Semedo in the 54th, and Stopira in stoppage time to secure the home victory and first place in Group D. At the final whistle, fans chanted in the stands while players celebrated on the field.

"What a historic moment," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a video message. "Congratulations to everyone in Cape Verde for making the FIFA World Cup for the first time. Your flag will fly and your anthem will be heard at the greatest FIFA World Cup ever."

"Your work on football development in recent years has been incredible, and this is a moment where your stars will become global and power a new generation of football lovers across Cape Verde."

The Blue Sharks finished with four more points than Cameroon, which couldn't manage more than 0-0 against Angola at home.

Cape Verde, a nation of about 525,000 people, arrived needing a victory, and could have qualified even with a loss as long as Cameroon didn't defeat Angola.

The nine group winners automatically qualify for the World Cup. The four best runners-up play in a mini tournament of two semifinals and a final in November. Cameroon can still advance as a runner-up.

The repechage winner advances to FIFA's playoff tournament against opponents from Asia, CONCACAF, South America, and Oceania. Tickets for the Cape Verde match were sold in record time, according to FIFA, and the government declared a half-day holiday across the country so people could watch the game.

The 2026 World Cup is the first with an expanded field of 48 teams, up from 32. In the other Group D match, Mauritius and Libya drew 0-0.

In Group C, Lesotho defeated Zimbabwe 1-0 at home.

With its spot in the World Cup already secured, Tunisia closed its African qualifying run with a comfortable 3-0 home win over Namibia.

Ali Abdi converted a 28th-minute penalty kick, and Hannibal Mej bri and Fer-jani Sassi added second-half goals to secure Tunisia the best record in African



Fans celebrate in the stands after Cape Verde defeated Eswatini in a World Cup qualifying soccer match at Estádio Nacional in Praia, Cape Verde, to clinch their qualification for the 2026 World Cup. (AP)

qualifying. Tunisia won Group H with 28 points from 10 matches, outscoring opponents 22-0. It dropped two points and finished 13 points ahead of second-placed Namibia.

Also in Group H, Equatorial Guinea drew with Liberia 1-1 at home, while last-placed Sao Tome and Principe beat Malawi 1-0 for its first win in the group - and

first victory in the World Cup preliminaries in 10 years.

In Group B, South Sudan drew with visiting Togo 0-0.

On Sunday, 2010 quarterfinalist Ghana became the fifth African nation to qualify, joining Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, and Morocco at next year's tournament in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

## Rahul scores unbeaten 58 as India routs West Indies to sweep series



Indian players celebrate with the trophy after winning the India and West Indies test match series at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi, India. (AP)

NEW DELHI, Oct 14, (AP): K.L. Rahul scored an unbeaten 58 to pace India to a seven-wicket win over West Indies on Tuesday and complete a sweep of the two-test cricket series.

India resumed Day 5 on the over-night total of 63-1, needing just 58 further runs to clinch the second test after winning the first test at Ahmedabad by an innings and 40 runs.

Rahul's half-century set up India's win as it easily reached 124-3 in 35.2 overs. Dhruv Jurel was unbeaten on six runs. Sai Sudharsan (39) and Shubman Gill (13) were the only wickets to fall on the last day, both caught from the bowling of Roston Chase (2-36).

It was Gill's first test series victory as India captain, a position he said he's

still getting used to.

The West Indies had been forced to follow on after being dismissed for 248 in reply to India's first-innings total of 518-5 declared, a 270-run deficit.

Shai Hope struck his first test century in eight years and John Campbell posted 115, his first test century, to help West Indies reach 390 in the second and ensure India had to bat twice to win the match.

"Campbell and Hope played very well for us. They fought for us, we batted 100 overs after a long time - taking the game to the fifth day was a positive," Chase, the West Indies skipper, said. "The guys we have here are the best players in the Caribbean. So we have to use this test as a stepping stone

for the next series."

It was only the fourth time since 1961 that India was forced to bat again in a test after enforcing the follow-on.

West Indies has not beaten India in their last 27 tests - home or away - dating to 2002. Yashasvi Jaiswal, with 175, and Gill, with an unbeaten 129, guided India's big first-innings total that set up the win.

Kuldeep Yadav picked eight wickets for 186 runs across the two innings, and was named player of the match.

"It was a totally different wicket to Ahmedabad. Bowling a lot of overs was challenging here - there wasn't any drift and the wicket was too dry. So it was a very different challenge," he said.

## Top teams battle for supremacy as Zain Premier League returns



A file photo of players fighting for the ball.

**By Hassan Mosa**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: The national team players will return to their clubs tomorrow following participation in the international training camp. The squad had been away on an overseas camp since late September, during which they played two friendly matches. The delegation arrives back today.

A total of 26 players will rejoin their clubs ahead of the resumption of the Zain Premier League, with Round 5 kicking off on Friday.

The round opens with a single fixture between Al-Jahra and Al-Tadamun. On Saturday, Al-Fahaheel will

face Al-Nasr, while Al-Qadsia takes on Kazma. The round concludes on Sunday with two matches: Al-Shabab vs. Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi vs. Al-Salmiya.

Kuwait Club tops the league table with 10 points, just one ahead of second-placed Al-Salmiya. Al-Arabi sits third with 8 points, followed by Al-Qadsia in fourth with 7 points — level on goal difference with Al-Shabab. Kazma is sixth with 6 points, Al-Tadamun seventh with 4 points, Al-Fahaheel has 3 points, Al-Jahra 1 point, and Al-Nasr remains at the bottom without any points.

Kuwait Club, Al-Arabi, and Kazma remain unbeaten after the first four rounds, though Kazma has drawn

three times. Al-Salmiya and Al-Qadsia have each suffered a single defeat, while Al-Nasr has lost all four of its matches.

This round is expected to be crucial. League leader Kuwait Club faces fifth-placed Al-Shabab, who recently defeated Al-Fahaheel. A win for Al-Shabab could see it draw level with Kuwait Club on points.

The round also features two key matchups: Al-Salmiya vs. Al-Arabi (second vs. third) in a highly competitive clash, and fourth-placed Kazma against third-placed Al-Qadsia at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in Hawalli, a match difficult to predict due to both teams' inconsistent form in recent weeks.

## Al-Sumaii hails Kuwait's squash team win at Arab Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kuwait Squash Federation President Waleed Al-Sumaii expressed his pride in the national team's victory at the Arab Squash Championship, which concluded Sunday in Beirut, describing it as a well-deserved achievement born of teamwork and strategic planning.

Al-Sumaii, who also serves as President of the Arab Squash Federation, made his remarks upon the national team's return to Kuwait on Monday.

He noted that Kuwait's success in claiming the overall title — after winning first place in the team event and securing both first and second places in the individual competitions — came as no surprise, given the players' dedication and consistent efforts. Al-Sumaii praised the players and the delegation he headed, saying he was



Waleed Al-Sumaii

"immensely proud" of their commitment and performance.

He added that the players had set their sights on winning from the outset and achieved their goals with determination and merit, dedicating this accomplishment to the country's political leadership for its unwavering support of Kuwaiti youth.

## 'Breaches undermine fairness and transparency in soccer'

## Kazma seeks enforcement of Article 33 in Al-Azmi case

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 14: Kazma Club has formally requested that the Football Association enforce Article 33 of the Professionalism and Player Status Regulations and require all parties to pay training compensation under Article 53, regarding the case of player Omar Al-Azmi.

The club explained that it had remained silent in recent weeks concerning Al-Azmi's transfer to Al-Arabi, amid procedural and legal breaches that undermine fairness and transparency in football.

Kazma noted that it had given the Football Association the opportunity to clarify the facts and issue an official statement on the dispute, but no response was provided. The club emphasized it will take all necessary steps to ensure the situation is resolved legally.

Al-Azmi, a player developed through Kazma's youth system, was offered a professional contract that was revised multiple times at his and his father's request. Despite this, he refused the offer, negotiated externally without the club's knowledge, and joined Al-Arabi's training in March 2025, outside official registration periods.



Omar Al-Azmi

Kazma initially filed a complaint with the Professionalism and Player Status Committee citing Article 28, which stipulates that a player must remain with

his club until the end of the season in which he turns 23 if he refuses a contract offer.

The club further reported that Al-Arabi ignored regulations and continued contacting the player, prompting Kazma to submit additional complaints to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committees against both Al-Arabi and Al-Azmi for violating rules and sportsmanship. These cases are still under review.

The committee initially ruled that Al-Azmi should remain registered with Kazma and not transfer to any other club. Despite this, the player moved abroad to Mauritania's Enzidan Club without Kazma's approval. After 10 weeks, he returned and was registered with Al-Arabi, contravening the committee's decision and explicit transfer regulations. As a result, the Football Association suspended his participation with Al-Arabi pending a final decision on his eligibility. A letter from the Mauritanian FA later confirmed that Al-Azmi was never officially registered with Enzidan.