



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel



Pages 15 & 16



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

BUILDING on the conclusions of the editorial by our esteemed colleague Jassim Boodai yesterday, it is evident that Kuwait possesses a wealth of genuine statesmen. The time has come to actively seek them out and abandon the outdated selection methods used for decades.

Indeed, Kuwait is full of potential, let us strive to tap it

The Gulf region, including Kuwait, is facing considerable risks that affect the stability of all our nations. To overcome such challenges, we need ministers with exceptional political acumen and administrative prowess—true statesmen like those highlighted in your column.

We have lived through turbulent parliamentary periods when cabinet members were appointed one evening only to be relieved of their duties the next morning. There were even reports—or prevailing rumors at the time—suggesting that a clerical error in a name was enough to secure a ministerial appointment.

My dear friend Abu Marzouq, throughout the globe, particularly within advanced democracies, specialized bodies affiliated with top-tier leader-

ship are tasked with vetting candidates and rigorously evaluating their credentials. As observed time and again, high achievers are identified and vetted starting in high school, and even their social behavior is under continuous observation. These appointments are far from random, which explains why so many ministers perform exceptionally in their positions.

Moreover, should any stain mar their professional record, they step down without delay, much like the former Swedish Deputy Prime Minister, who resigned immediately after it was revealed that she bought a candy bar using an official government card.

Holding public office is far more than a prestigious title, it is defined by executive integrity and con-

duct. It demands figures driven by vision, initiative and vitality—leaders who remain conscious of their responsibility to the public and the press long before formal investigations occur.

My dear colleague, Kuwait is undoubtedly home to extraordinary homegrown talent, with many achieving great success in their respective fields. However, these capable individuals rarely solicit high posts.

Continued on Page 5

Follow me on:

@Ahmedaljarallah

Ahmed aljarallah

ahmed@aljarallah.com



Scan QR code to visit the website:

aljarallah.com

Data center tender awaits CAPT nod

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) is waiting for the approval of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to launch a procurement process for consultancy services.

These services include designing and preparing the Request for Proposals (RFP) and technical specifications for the National Data Center, as well as supervising the implementation.

CAIT asked CAPT to reconsider the proposal during a meeting held on Sept 20, but CAPT decided to postpone the issuance of its decision until it receives a formal letter from CAIT—within five working days—detailing the previously discussed amendments.

The National Data Center project is a significant technological initiative that will bring about a qualitative shift in the information technology sector. It enables government entities to rapidly restore their automated services in the event of emergencies or malfunctions at their primary data centers.

CAIT plays a crucial role in this project. Acting as the government's center of expertise, it provides the necessary operational environment for each government entity, including the required physical space for equipment, power supply, cooling systems and centralized monitoring.

It is worth noting that in 2015, the Council of Ministers issued a resolution on the establishment of the center. This resolution mandates government entities to immediately host their backup automated systems at the National Data Center. This measure ensures that they can quickly restore services following failures at their primary data centers, while providing a secure shared hosting environment for all government entities.

CIAT based its request on Article 17 of the Public Tenders Law, which governs contracting through bidding, competitive negotiation or the solicitation of offers.

Once the tendering process is approved, CAPT will set a deadline for companies to submit their bids, which will then be referred to CAIT for evaluation, followed by a decision to award the contract to the company whose bid complies with the specifications and conditions.

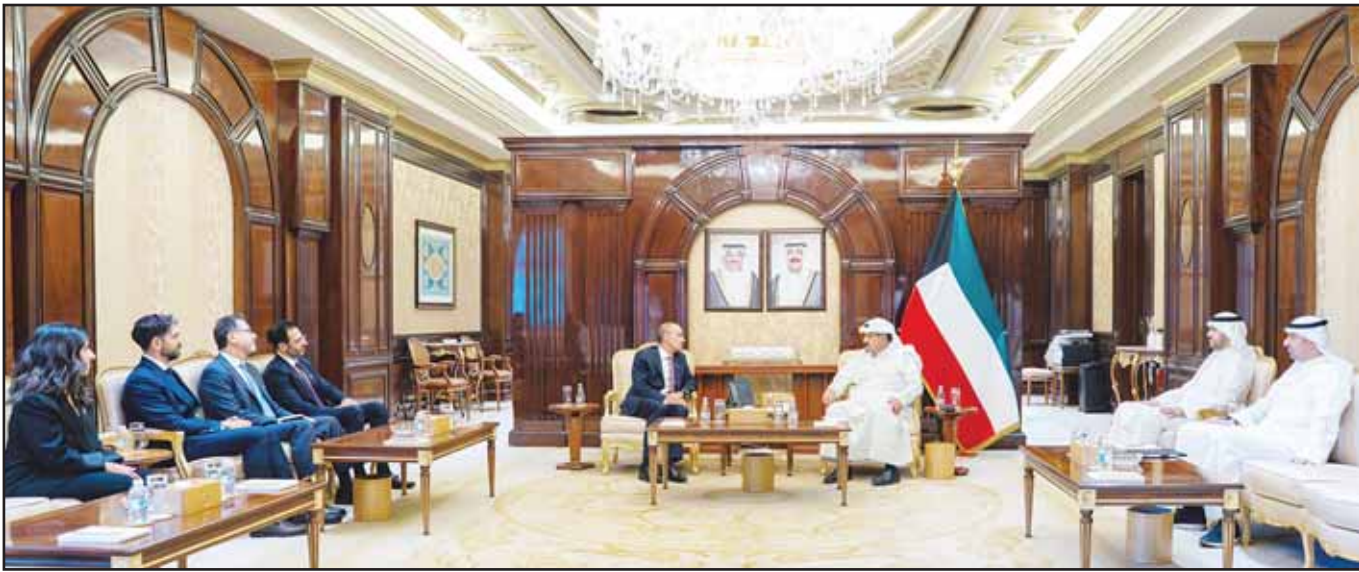
Kuwait Cassation Court sets judicial framework

Appeals to be distributed electronically

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The General Assembly of the Court of Cassation, presided over by Counselor Dr. Adel Bouresli, approved the composition of the circuits, their respective jurisdictions, the number of sessions, and the schedule for the new judicial year, which shall take effect on Oct 1.



PM Diwan photo

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives McKinsey & Company Global Managing Partner Robert Sternfels and his accompanying delegation.

Kuwait PM receives McKinsey global managing partner

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Monday McKinsey & Company Global Managing Partner Robert Sternfels and his accompanying delegation on their visit to Kuwait.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance

cooperation between Kuwait and McKinsey in financial services, investment, digital transformation of the financial sector and development of national cadres, in support of Kuwait's economic vision and strategic objectives.

The meeting was attended by Acting

Chief of the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikh Khaled Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Assistant Director General for Investment Operations at the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Abdullah Sabah Hamoud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

AS wisdom dictates, jealousy stems from deficiency, envy belongs to failure, and backbiting is the mark of the hypocrite. Likewise, sowing discord is the recourse of the weak, while empty chatter comes only from the foolish mind.

How widespread such individuals are in our midst, and how prevalent these character types remain across the world!

Nevertheless, our faith rests in Allah, for, as the Levantines aptly remark, it takes all kinds to make a world.

Unusual occurrences abound in this life, though whether fasting in Rajab bears any connection to them remains beyond my knowledge.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait takes aim at nicotine push as cessation rate spikes

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: President of Kuwait Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society Dr. Khaled Al-Saleh underscored the importance of continuing national efforts to raise awareness about the harmful effects of smoking and nicotine products.

Al-Saleh pointed out the increase in smok-

ing cessation rates in Kuwait -- from seven percent in 2024 to nine percent at present. He said this proves the need for continuous support for those wishing to quit smoking.

He warned against marketing tactics that utilize flavors, attractive packaging, social media, influencers and sports or music sponsorships.

He also stressed the need to raise awareness regarding the risks associated with nicotine products, particularly among the youths and

adolescents.

His statement coincides with recent warnings issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the rapid spread of nicotine pouches, especially among young people. WHO reported that the sales of these products exceeded 23 billion units in 2024—an increase of more than 50 percent compared to the previous year, while the global market value reached about \$7 billion in 2025.

The scientific data published by WHO this month showed the link between smoking and fertility issues. A systematic review of studies conducted between 2000 and 2026 indicated that female smokers face 40 percent higher risk of infertility compared to non-smokers, while a review covering 44 studies and more than 60,000 men established a connection between smoking and impairments in sperm quality and sexual function.

Other Voices

What does the return of fighting in Yemen mean for the Gulf?

By Nasser Al-Hajeri

For several years, Yemen remained in an uneasy period between war and peace. The conflict was never fully resolved, but the UN-brokered truce in 2022 helped reduce large scale fighting and created hope that diplomacy could eventually lead to a lasting political settlement. Recent developments, however, have brought Yemen back into regional attention as fighting has intensified and tensions have once again reached beyond its borders.

For the Gulf states, what hap-



Nasser Al-Hajeri

pens in Yemen cannot be viewed as a distant issue. Yemen shares a long border with Saudi Arabia and overlooks the Bab al Mandab Strait, one of the most important shipping routes in the world. Any major escalation can therefore have consequences for neighboring countries, commercial shipping, energy supplies and the wider regional economy.

The renewed Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia are particularly serious and deserve clear condemnation. Missiles and drones directed toward Saudi cities, civilian areas and important infrastructure cannot be accepted or treated as a normal part of regional politics. Civilians should never be placed in danger, regardless of the political or military disagreements behind a conflict.

Continued on Page 5

KNG and Finnish delegation discuss military cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwait National Guard Assistant for Financial Affairs and Resource Management Maj. Gen. Riyadh Al-Tawari and Commander of Military and Security Affairs Brig. Gen. Abdullah

Abdullah received Monday a Finnish delegation led by Undersecretary of State for International Trade Jarno Siriala and Finnish Ambassador to Qatar Juha Mustonen.

Continued on Page 5



KNG photo

Maj. Gen. Riyadh Al-Tawari and Commander of Military and Security Affairs Brig. Gen. Abdullah Abdullah with Finnish delegation led by Undersecretary of State for International Trade Jarno Siriala and Finnish Ambassador to Qatar Juha Mustonen.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's ambassador to Tajikistan Mohammad Al-Omairi on Monday underlined diplomacy as the only viable path out of conflicts and crises, saying that the respect of the sovereignty of states was an integral part of such efforts.

The events seen around the world this year highlight the need to bolster the use of diplomacy to keep conflicts in check, which entails respecting the security and sovereignty of countries, the Kuwaiti envoy told an international forum on peace and diplomacy in the Tajik capital Dushanbe. (KUNA)

□ □ □

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait on Monday strongly condemned and denounced the storming by Israeli occupation officials and settlers of Al-Aqsa Mosque right under the nose of occupying forces as a serious breach of international law and international humanitarian law.

In a press statement, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry reiterated its absolute rejection of the repeated violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its religious and historical standing, which provoke the feelings of millions of Muslims across the world. (KUNA)

8 Boursa Kuwait launches third edition of 'The Bell'



9 NBK honors 104 schools participating in 'Bankee' for the 2025-2026 academic year

10 Zain Kuwait retains three Ookla Speedtest Awards



11 KFH continues to invest in youth & empowers digital transformation



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:21 Asr 15:03
Sunrise .. 05:40 Maghrib .. 17:37
Zohr 11:38 Isha 18:54



HH the Amir



HH Crown Prince



HH the PM

Amir congratulates Turkmen Pres. on Independence Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of congratulations to the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Amir wished the President good health and wellness, and the friendly people of Turkmenistan further progress and prosperity.

Crown Prince congratulates

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a cable of congratu-

lations to Turkmenistan's President, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, on his country's Independence Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the President good health and wellness, and the friendly people of Turkmenistan further progress and prosperity.

PM congratulates

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent Sunday a cable of congratulations to President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov on his country's Independence Day.



Minister Omar Al-Omar

Preparations reviewed for book fair in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar reviewed Monday the latest preparations for the 49th Kuwait International Book Fair.

The Ministry of Information said in a statement that Al-Omar held a meeting with members of the fair's higher organizing committee, during which they reviewed preparations and arrangements for the cultural event and discussed several items on the committee's agenda.

Al-Omar stressed the importance of continued coordination among the relevant authorities to complete preparations to the highest standards and reinforce the cultural standing of the Kuwait International Book Fair as one of the country's prominent cultural events.



KUNA photo

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan meets the outgoing Ethiopian ambassador to Kuwait.

Deputy FM receives outgoing Ethiopian Ambassador Jibril

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan received Monday Amba-

sador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Saeed Mohammad Jibril on the occasion of the end of his tenure in Kuwait.

'Kabad' to get good roads, bridges in new MPW deal

Traffic density demands infrastructure update

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Ministry of Public Works has announced the contract for the construction and maintenance of roads, utility services, two vehicular bridges and two pedestrian bridges in Kabad in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm'.

This project, which will be implemented within 36 months, will be tendered through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT). It will serve several areas like South Saad Al-Abdullah City, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak City and Shaddadiya Industrial City.

It aims to ensure smooth traffic flow, enhance mobility for residents of nearby areas, and connect these locations to industrial hubs like Shaddadiya Industrial City.

The ministry intends to increase the capacity of the bridges and surrounding roads to accom-

modate higher vehicle volume and traffic density.

The project includes storm water drainage systems to prevent asphalt deterioration caused by rainwater accumulation and flooding, upgrading existing roads and services for farms, sewage treatment plants, oil and water well sites and industrial zones, completing the route of 6.5 Ring Road from Kabad-Sulaibiya Road to Salmi Road, and connecting the area to major surrounding roads, such as the Sixth and Seventh Ring Roads and Salmi Road, to ensure smooth traffic movement to and from the location.

Meanwhile, CAPT extended the deadline for the submission of bids for the tender related to the study, design and construction supervision of the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) headquarters. The new deadline is Oct 13, instead of Sept 27.

□ □ □

KPA gets SAB approval: The Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) obtained conditional approval from the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to award a contract for consultancy services and the devel-

opment of its strategy at a total cost of KD2.537 million.

This is a confirmation of the report that the newspaper published on Aug 21 titled, "Port Strategic Plan Under Audit Review".

The corporation previously secured approval from the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) to award the contract to the bidder that met all requirements. It then referred the tender to SAB on Aug 31 for pre-audit, review and approval in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Through this tender, the corporation aims to achieve several objectives like the organizational transformation into a flexible and efficient system capable of responding to future challenges, governance of operations and procedures, implementation of accountability and transparency mechanisms, raising operational efficiency and revenues by developing port and logistics services and upgrading infrastructure and technology to align with global best practices, building the capabilities of the national workforce, and preparing middle management for senior leadership roles in the future.

Kuwait's CITRA takes part in GCC telecom meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwait Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) took part in the 32nd meeting of the GCC committee of undersecretaries of posts and telecommunications through videoconference.

In a statement to KUNA, CITRA said that the participation of Kuwait's

delegation led by chairman Khaled Al-Zamel was part of enhancing cooperation and coordination with member states in posts and telecommunications boards, adding the meeting discussed topics and relevant recommendations in a manner that supports joint Gulf action and serves mutual interests of GCC states.

The participation of CITRA and the Ministry of Transport also shows the importance of integration of national efforts and coordination among concerned bodies to back Gulf work and benefit from shared expertise and experience to develop the posts sector, it added.

Such meetings are part of a frame-

work of continuing dialogue and coordination among GCC states on shared priorities and studying cooperation and keeping pace with developments in the two sectors, it noted. The delegation included acting undersecretary of the Transport Ministry Meshal Al-Zaid and head of public relations department Ahmad Al-Hoseini.

Arab expatriate held for over 15 home burglaries

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Jleeb Investigation Unit apprehended an Arab expatriate accused of stealing kitchen appliances from homes in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to security sources, the suspect confessed to stealing appliances, including washing machines, ovens, and refrigerators, as well as household cookware, with the intention of selling them, even at low prices.

The stolen goods were loaded onto a light truck and handed over to Asian expatriates to be sold as used items at the Friday Market, with the proceeds shared among those involved.

The suspect was arrested at an apartment in Farwaniya and subsequently led officers to a storage facility containing stolen appliances ready for sale.

He admitted to transporting the stolen goods in a light truck and confessed to committing more than 15 home burglaries.

He has been referred for interrogation to establish the full details and circumstances of the case and complete the necessary legal procedures.

□ □ □

It is father's mistake!: The repercussions of a traffic accident involving a vehicle driven by an Asian expatriate and an Arab child on a scooter extended beyond the collision itself, with charges also being brought against the child's father, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, police officers referred an Egyptian expatriate to investigative authorities following a collision in Fintas. The incident occurred when an Indian expatriate's vehicle struck an Egyptian child riding a scooter. The incident subsequently led to a separate case concerning the guardian's responsibility for the care of his minor child.

The incident was initially recorded simply as a traffic accident involving the two parties before a separate aspect of the case was addressed after authorities established that the scooter rider was a child born in 2014.

Competent authorities then registered a separate misdemeanor case against the child's father, classified as "negligence in the care of a minor," after separating it from the primary traffic accident file.

The case has been referred to investigative authorities to complete procedures concerning the guardian's liability for the incident.

'Provide more opportunities for persons with disabilities'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Macramé Art course was launched at the Arab Open University on Monday, under the patronage and in the presence of Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The course aims to encourage the participation of people with disabilities in various aspects of life, while empowering and supporting them.

Director of the university Dr. Salah Al-Jamadi, Director General of Tanmiya Charity Association Dr. Nasser Al-Ajmi and Chairperson of Jusoor International Consulting Services Hanan Al-Enezi and a number of academic figures warmly welcomed the governor.

During the event, the governor was briefed on the objectives and implementa-

tion stages of the course.

He also visited the accompanying exhibition and listened to explanations regarding the displayed works and contributions. He commended the efforts to support people with disabilities and nurture their talents and capabilities.

He affirmed that Farwaniya Governorate remains fully committed to supporting community initiatives designed to serve and empower people with disabilities, as well as to enhance their participation in various sectors, in cooperation with the relevant institutions.

He lauded the efforts invested in organizing the course and the works and contributions on display, which reflect the capabilities and creativity of people with disabilities. He then wished the organizers

Protecting school-going kids

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Director of the Public Relations Department at the Security and Media Relations General Department in the Ministry of Interior Colonel Othman Al-Gharib confirmed that the ministry launched the 'Prevention and Safety' awareness campaign at the beginning of the school year in order to protect children throughout the school year.

Speaking on the "Good Morning Kuwait" program, Al-Gharib unveiled plans to visit schools for students with special needs and to deploy officers proficient in sign language.

He said the Security and Media Relations

General Department is spearheading the campaign, which aims to connect with special needs schools, promote clear communication, and provide sign language assistance through the trained officers.

He added "these efforts prove that the senior leaders at the ministry are keen on taking care of this group, hence, striving to solidify the initiative for children with special needs and provide holistic care and awareness programs tailored to what they need."

He stressed that input from parents and the published reports convinced the ministry on the need to continue this campaign. He affirmed that the objectives of the campaign are clear -- safeguarding the public and raising awareness in every part of society.



KUNA photo

Minister of State for Communications Affairs and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar, receives the Azeri Ambassador to Kuwait, Emil Karimov.

Kuwait, Azerbaijan to boost cultural and touristic bonds

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Omar Al-Omar, Minister of State for Communications Affairs and Acting Minister of Information and Culture, discussed with Azeri Ambassador to Kuwait, Emil Karimov, aspects of bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation in cultural and tourism sectors.

According to a ministry statement on Thursday, Minister Al-Omar emphasized during the meeting Kuwait's commitment to supporting and developing bilateral relations with the friendly Republic of Azerbaijan through exchanging expertise and knowledge and enhancing cultural and tourism presence between the two countries.

Waqf highlighted as key partner in sustainable development at conference



Top and above: Photos taken at the conference organized by the Al-Awazem Charitable Society.

By Bassam Al-Qassas
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Speakers at a conference organized on Monday by the Al-Awazem Charitable Society at the Kuwait National Library, under the patronage of Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, emphasized that Waqf (Islamic endowment) is a key partner in achieving sustainable development.

They noted that sustaining its charitable impact requires institutional management capable of keeping pace with economic and technological changes while preserving donors' intentions and adhering to Sharia and legal guidelines.

The speakers highlighted the importance of exchanging expertise and experiences to develop practical recommendations and initiatives that strengthen the role of Waqf in education, healthcare, social welfare, and human empowerment, thereby reinforcing Kuwait's role in supporting charitable, endowment, and humanitarian work.

In his opening speech, Hamad Al-Bseis, Chairman of the Al-Awazem Charitable Society, affirmed that Islamic Waqf embodies a message of faith and humanity rooted in the continuity of goodness and the extension of its benefits across education, healthcare, social care, and human empowerment.

He stressed the importance of developing Waqf mechanisms in a manner that preserves donors' intentions and safeguards the integrity of the endowment.

Al-Bseis explained that economic and technological shifts necessitate a transition from traditional endowment management to prudent management based on disciplined investment, governance, and the informed use of modern technologies and artificial intelligence, while remaining compliant with Sharia and legal regulations.

Innovation in Waqf serves as a means of preserving assets, growing resources,

upholding donors' intentions, expanding the circle of beneficiaries, and transforming charitable giving into measurable developmental impact.

The conference addresses several key issues, most notably the jurisprudence of Waqf investment, governance and risk management, financial sustainability and portfolio diversification, Sukuk and financial technologies, as well as digital transformation, legislation, and oversight.

Al-Bseis pointed out that developing the Waqf sector is a shared responsibility involving Waqf institutions, government bodies, the private sector, financial institutions, universities, and experts.

He expressed hope that the conference would produce practical recommendations that serve the sector and enhance its sustainability.

Meanwhile, the guest of honor at the Second Conference on Innovation Strategies in Islamic Waqf and Sustainable Development, former MP Sheikh Fahad Fahal Bin Jaame, stated that the conference represents a continuation of the Al-Awazem Charitable Society's efforts to advance charitable and Waqf work, embed the principles of governance and sustainability, and maximize societal impact.

Bin Jaame emphasized that the gathering of distinguished scholars and experts reflects the importance of advancing Waqf practices and moving the sector toward a stage that better preserves assets, honors donors' intentions, and enhances its capacity to serve individuals and society.

He stressed that Waqf is not merely a response to a temporary need but an enduring mission, an intergenerational partnership, and a trust requiring sound management, rigorous oversight, and sustained giving.

Bin Jaame noted that the conference bridges academic expertise with institutional practice, creating opportunities to exchange experiences in ways that contribute to tangible developmental impact.

He expressed pride in the support Kuwait provides for charitable, Waqf (endow-

ment), and humanitarian work, commending the political leadership's support for this journey of benevolence and giving, as well as the government's efforts and the solidarity of the Kuwaiti people in strengthening Kuwait's status as a hub for humanitarian action and a beacon of generosity and philanthropy.

In addition, Dr. Yousef Abdulghaffar Al-Abbasi, Chairman of the Regional Network for Social Responsibility, explained that Islamic Waqf embodies a genuine and sustainable development framework.

Historically, it has proven its ability to support education, healthcare, and vulnerable populations while promoting social stability and cohesion.

Dr. Al-Abbasi clarified that Waqf is not merely a charitable instrument, but it has played a crucial role in establishing academic, healthcare, and social institutions that made significant contributions to Islamic civilization.

He underscored the need to revitalize this system and align it with the principles of sustainable development.

Dr. Al-Abbasi further noted that the present era demands innovative approaches to transform Waqf into a catalyst for achieving economic, social, and environmental objectives.

He stressed that developing human resources through education, training, healthcare, and social services is fundamental to sustainable development.

Dr. Al-Abbasi also highlighted the importance of utilizing artificial intelligence technologies to manage and enhance Waqf assets, particularly in areas such as asset classification, data analysis, and return forecasting, thereby improving efficiency, transparency, and sustainability.

He asserted that organizing specialized scientific and practical conferences on Waqf facilitates the exchange of knowledge, evaluation of experiences, and exploration of innovative ideas that strengthen Waqf's developmental impact.

Dr. Al-Abbasi expressed hope that the conference would generate partnerships and pioneering projects that serve both the Waqf sector and society.



Room Description

Price

One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast	BD 53.361 / Net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD 119.173 / Net

Terms & conditions apply



Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | 350 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

Jahra on road to facelift as Mutla'a under focus

Continued from Sept 28

Q: What new projects will be launched or completed in the coming period?

A: Projects and files are being followed up with the competent authorities, most notably Salail Road and the roads and entrances in Mutlaa, maintenance and development of the main and internal road network, developing roads in agricultural areas like Abdaly, and dealing with the treated water file in a way that serves farms and sustains production.

We will complete the visualization procedures related to parks and open facilities, including organizing investment and participation in public parks for small business owners and productive families.

There is also a proposal to establish a sports and entertainment walkway in the vicinity of the land behind Jahra Central and Jahra National Park, in addition to proposals to construct suspension bridges to avoid traffic density and pedestrian bridges in a number of locations.

The next stage includes completing the health and environmental sustainability programs of the governorate and continuing cultural seasons, carnivals, and youth and community events.

We confirm that the governorate initiates, proposes, coordinates and follows up, while approving, financing and implementing projects remain the responsibility of the relevant government agencies.

Q: Is there a plan to develop facilities and services in new areas of the governorate?

A: Yes. Mutlaa City is at the forefront of the new areas that we are following up through an integrated plan that is not limited to one file. The work includes all the challenges and needs related to schools, roads, entrances and exits, water, hygiene, lighting, mosques, youth facilities and community services.

We are also following up the need for additional youth sites in the new areas, foremost of which is Mutlaa. These needs have been raised to the competent authorities.

Q: Are there plans to develop green spaces, parks and recreational facilities?

A: Yes, this file is an essential part of improving the quality of life, and we have coordinated with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources to discuss the development of public parks and open the regulated space for owners of small enterprises and productive families to invest in and participate in them in a way that contributes to revitalizing the parks, improving their services, and making them attractive and sustainable facilities for families.

The governorate also supports afforestation and beautification initiatives in cooperation with the relevant authorities and civil society institutions. Proposals were prepared to establish and maintain parks and pedestrian walkways, including the proposed sports and recreational walkway around the plot behind Jahra Central, after obtaining the approval of the competent authorities. This is integrated with the conservation initiative and coordination with the Environment Public Authority in the environmental and awareness aspects.

Our goal is that the afforestation works and environmental activities are not seasonal, but rather part of an ongoing plan that suits the needs of each region.

Q: What is your plan to develop services for youth, sports and community activities?

A: Children and youth are central to the work of the governorate and its council. Our plan follows two tracks: first, addressing their needs regarding sports and youth facilities, and second, expanding their participation in cultural, volunteer and community activities.

We have identified the need for additional youth-oriented sites in new areas, most notably Mutlaa. We submitted these require-

ments to the relevant authorities.

Regarding programming, the Jahra Cultural Season, along with various carnivals and student, national and volunteer events, helped create spaces for participation, learning and showcasing talent. We are also committed to involving schools, students and volunteers in these events, and promoting initiatives that instill a sense of responsibility, belonging and teamwork.

We will continue to collaborate with government agencies, public benefit societies and the private sector to support sports, cultural and social programs for youths, empower entrepreneurs and small business owners, and link activities to open spaces and parks so they remain accessible to families and young people throughout the year.

Q: How can citizens send their feedback or suggestions to the governorate?

A: The doors of the governorate are open to everyone. We are always ready to listen to opinions, suggestions and concerns. Citizens can submit complaints or proposals through the Sahel app or in person at the headquarters of the governorate. A team has been formed to manage and track complaints, ensuring that a specific entity handles receipt, sorting, classification and follow up.

If an issue falls outside the governorate's jurisdiction, it is redirected to the appropriate channel. If it concerns another government agency, that agency is contacted, and its response and actions are monitored.

Significant or recurring issues are referred to the relevant committee in the Governorate Council.

When necessary, a field monitoring team is tasked with conducting site inspections, documenting findings with photographs, and verifying that the issue has been resolved.

Periodic reports are also prepared, detailing the volume and types of complaints, the relevant agencies involved, and the status of each case—whether resolved, referred or still under follow up.

Our goal is for citizens to know that their feedback is not merely logged, but enters a clear process that can be tracked until the final resolution.

We view the Governorate Council and its committees—comprising representatives from various ministries and state institutions—as a 'mini-cabinet'. This body facilitates the discussion of shared issues, the resolution of problems, and efforts to enhance and develop services across all areas of the governorate.

Q: Regarding the Salail Road project, what stage has it reached?

A: The Salail-Jahra-Mutlaa Road is one of the strategic projects we are monitoring, given its importance in providing an additional corridor to serve Mutlaa City, alleviating pressure on existing entry points and bolstering the governorate's road network.

The relevant authority prepared the project study and submitted it to the concerned state entities. The governorate is currently tracking the technical and administrative procedures in coordination with the competent bodies. We continue to follow up until all project requirements are met. The schedule for tendering or execution will be announced by the competent government agency once the necessary studies, approvals and procedures are finalized.

The developed section of Abdaly Road spans the distance between kilometer markers 10 and 34. Areas of focus include public services, security affairs, health, education, community development, and the handling of complaints and suggestions. Roads, schools, water supply, sanitation, street lighting, mosques, and youth facilities are among the top priorities for monitoring. The project is in its final stages before implementation, pending the completion of technical and administrative procedures.

Sincere thanks and appreciation go to Jahra Governor Office staff, retired Major General Fahad Al-Mayyah and Captain Waleed Khaled Al-Saeed for their outstanding efforts, warm hospitality and cooperation.

Concluded

Kuwait ecotourism ... natural treasures open up sustainable development vistas

Ecotourism is based on the responsible enjoyment of natural areas in a way that ensures the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, curtails the impact of visits, and augments the visitor's understanding of the location and its environmental and cultural value.

In this context, Secretary-General of the Kuwait Environment Protection Society Jinan Behzad said that Kuwait's environment boasts a rich natural diversity that offers a promising foundation for developing ecotourism, integrating leisure and environmental education and safeguarding the na-



Participants pose during a guided heritage tour highlighting Kuwait's natural and cultural treasures.

For his part, Chairman of the Ku-

Also speaking to KUNA, Fadh Al-Musallam, a KGS board member and head of the KGS Media Committee, said that the focus of ecotourism has shifted toward environmental protection, the reduction of carbon emissions, and investment in sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Continued from Page 1

The ongoing decline in public sector performance originated years ago from the entrenchment of currying

The public, particularly the youths, must rise to fulfill their obligations. Rather than squandering potential on reckless behavior, such as hazardous stunt driving and traffic offenses, and subsequently lamenting fuel costs or drifting into illicit pursuits, young people ought to direct their capabilities toward productive and meaningful endeavors.

The experience of recent years

The assembly approved a system for distributing criminal appeals based on their automated reference numbers. The First Circuit hears

It granted the President of the

The delegation was also briefed on measures to prevent and protect against chemical, biological and radiological hazards, as well as detection, monitoring and emergency response procedures aimed at ensuring rapid response and enhancing readiness.

Hala Industrial Co.

شركة هلا الصناعية

Decoration works, wood products and cupboards are available

You can get all what you need at Hala Industrial

Contact us now

Subhan Industrial - Block 10 - Street 5 - Plot 151 - Tel: 60660817 - 66448545 - 50446599

Hala_Industrial

hala@halakw.com

Kean Jr and Bennett clash over war in Iran, tariffs

WH begins airing 2024 Trump campaign ad in latest taxpayer-funded messaging

WASHINGTON, Sept 28, (AP): The Trump administration is using taxpayer funds to air a television advertisement from Donald Trump’s 2024 presidential campaign in the latest in a series of ads promoting the president ahead of the midterms that the White House maintains are “public service announcements.”

The 30-second video, which is virtually identical to one that aired in 2024, shows Trump walking down a hallway as his voice can be heard warning of a “final battle” against “globalists” and “warmongers.” The black-and-white video ends with Trump staring straight into the camera lens with a message that says: “Paid for by the US Government.” The 2024 iteration of the ad from the Trump campaign urged viewers to “Join President Trump’s Fight for America.”

Lawmakers of both parties have criticized the new series of ads for their inherently political nature and the use of taxpayer dollars. The White House maintains they are like

the ones used by past presidents, though those previous ads promoted particular policies, not Oval Office occupants.

Spending on the latest ad already topped about \$319,000, according to AdImpact, which tracks media spending.

“With you at my side, we will demolish the ‘deep state.’ We will expel the war mongers from our government. We will drive out the globalists; we will cast out the communists, Marxists, and fascists,” he says in the narration. “We will throw off the sick political class that hates our country. We will rout the fake news media, and we will liberate America from these villains once and for all.”

It’s in addition to a minute-long ad that began airing Friday and features scenic videos of Mount Rushmore at night with quotes and clips from Trump’s Fourth of July weekend speech there honoring the country’s 250th anniversary. An earlier 30-second spot that began airing on



Rebecca Bennett, the Democratic candidate in the US Congressional District 7 race speaks with reporters after a debate with Republican candidate Tom Kean, Jr on Sept. 27, in Rahway, NJ. (AP)

Wednesday features clips of Trump talking about defeating communism interspersed with onscreen text promoting the “largest tax cuts in his-

tory,” “reigniting American manufacturing” and a call to “defend law and order and police.”

The White House in a statement

on Friday defended the use of what it described as “public service announcements” and dismissed criticism of them as “deeply dishonest.”

“The announcements are very clearly not campaign ads; President Trump is not on the ballot and there is no call to action,” the White House said. “Instead, the announcements are a reminder for Americans to love their country and know why it’s worth defending - at home, at the border, and abroad.”

Examples cited by the White House include George W. Bush’s administration airing a campaign about a Medicare law and the Biden administration running one about COVID-19 vaccinations.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Tom Kean Jr, the New Jersey Republican congressman whose four-month absence from the House this year went unexplained until he disclosed that he was being treated for depression, clashed Sunday with Democratic

opponent **Rebecca Bennett** in the battleground district over his support for President **Donald Trump’s** tariffs and the Iran war.

Appearing on stage together for their first and only debate before the Nov. 3 midterm elections, Kean latched himself to Trump’s divisive record, defending Trump’s signature protectionist economic policies that have roiled global trade and backing Trump’s decision to launch attacks on Iran, saying the country could not be permitted to obtain a nuclear weapon.

Bennett, a Navy veteran, sought to tap into public discontent over rising prices, and urged an end to the war and called on Congress to rein in Trump’s use of tariffs on imports.

The 7th Congressional District, which includes Trump’s Bedminster golf club, has changed party control in each of the past two midterm elections, making it a magnet for campaign spending and a political barometer.



A child checks a shop in a flooded street during a nor’easter storm on Sept 27, in Sea Bright, NJ. (AP)

Powerful nor’easter floods Northeast again, causing problems from New Jersey to New England

BOSTON, Sept 28, (AP): Residents of coastal communities in the Northeast slogged through floodwaters for a second day as a powerful nor’easter pummeled the shoreline Sunday, knocking out power to tens of thousands of homes.

Tidal surges swamped low-lying neighborhoods in New Jersey while wind gusts toppled trees on New York’s Long Island, damaging homes and bringing down utility poles.

In the New Jersey beach town of Sea Bright, each high tide brought a new round of flooding. “It’s not like a one-time occurrence,” said Caroline Virenius, whose garage filled with about a foot of water (30 centimeters). “It’s getting wet again and again.”

The slow-moving storm, which killed a New York City Housing Authority worker when a tree fell Saturday, was expected to linger through Sunday with heavy rain, strong winds and dangerous surf all the way to New England.

Extreme amounts of rain - more than 4 inches (10 centimeters) since Friday in some spots in New Jersey - combined with a surging ocean led to flooding amounts not seen for close to a decade in places used to dealing with high water, residents said.

The National Weather Service predicted the storm will weaken over Sunday night with local heavy rain in parts of New England and the mid-Atlantic. But local officials in New Jersey and New York told residents that high tide late Monday could potentially bring more flooding.

“There is another band of the storm, a weaker band, but still another band that could hit early this afternoon and later into the evening,” said New York’s Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman.

The nor’easter triggered memories of Superstorm Sandy, which left behind over \$60 billion in damage across the eastern U.S. in 2012. While this storm’s impact has been

nowhere near that, it could be the first of several along the East Coast this fall because of an El Niño climate pattern that’s disrupting this year’s weather.

Images of waves crashing into sea walls and onto beaches raised concerns about coastal erosion.

Well over 100,000 customers were without power across the Northeast and mid-Atlantic at times on Sunday, according to PowerOutage.us. The most widespread outages were in counties along the coast from New Jersey to Connecticut.

Numerous flights were canceled or delayed up and down the coast. More than 250 flights had been canceled at Boston Logan International Airport by late Sunday morning as wind gusts reached 40 mph (64 kph), according to the Massachusetts Port Authority.

The worst of the remaining rainfall was expected Sunday from northern New Jersey into southern New England.

While the storm was gradually

weakening, tidal flooding would stay through high-tide cycles Sunday night, said Bob Oravec, a lead forecaster with the National Weather Service in College Park, Maryland.

In New York City, water a few inches deep filled streets in the Howard Beach neighborhood but didn’t deter residents from venturing out for coffee Sunday morning.

Carole Ann Palmer, who owns Jingles Bait and Tackle in North Beach Haven, New Jersey, said this was the worst flooding she’s seen in 10 years.

“Yesterday, I was like, oh my God, it just keeps getting higher and higher,” said Palmer, who lives above the store.

The front step was swept away in the storm and she saw neighbors kayaking through the streets on Saturday.

Her biggest problem on Sunday was taking her two puppies outside to relieve themselves. She had to put on waders and carry them to dry land.

Ukraine claims battlefield breakthroughs

Russian drones pound civilian areas

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 28, (AP): Russia’s round-the-clock bombardment of targets in Ukraine killed at least six civilians and wounded 53 others, officials said Monday, while Ukraine’s army claimed more successes in a recent push on the front line.

The attacks followed a week of diplomatic efforts at the United Nations to get traction for negotiations on ending Moscow’s invasion that began 4½ years ago.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov indicated Monday that the chances of making speedy headway on forging a peace settlement were bleak after recent Ukrainian attacks, including during recent parliamentary elections in Russia.

“Ukraine will have to pay a price for the actions that have taken place in recent months,” Peskov told reporters. “That is happening right now.”

Battlefield positions have changed little since last year, in part because swarms of drones severely restrict troop movements, but Kyiv’s forces launched a recent offensive, code-named Operation Vivaldi, on part of the 1,250-kilometer (800-mile) front line.

Ukraine’s Third Army Corps said Monday it had recaptured another 51 square kilometers (20 square miles)



Rescue workers put out a fire at the National Academy of Sciences building damaged after a Russian drone strike in the center of Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 28. (AP)

from the Russians, bringing the total to 176 square kilometers (68 square miles) since the offensive began several months ago.

The corps said that in order to break through Russian defenses, it converted Soviet-era BTR-60 armored personnel carriers into kamikaze vehicles that blew up the strongest Russian fortifications. The operation has also used ground robots to attack Russian positions.

The claimed breakthroughs came

in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, which the bigger Russian army has been trying in vain to conquer.

Russian officials made no immediate comment on the Ukrainian claim.

Russia’s Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said Russian troops captured the villages of Novovodiane in the Donetsk region and Ulanove in the northern Sumy region.

It was not possible to independently verify the claims.

The ceaseless Russian drone attacks on cities and towns aim to wear down Ukraine’s resistance and cripple the Ukrainian economy.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said its forces struck two data centers in Kyiv, as well as gas stations in the Ukrainian capital. A distribution hub belonging to the Nova Poshta postal service was struck in the southern city of Odesa, it said.

The Russian military also hit a cargo ship in the Black Sea and another one in the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk, the ministry said. The strikes aim to curb Ukraine’s grain exports, though they may also create food shortages in countries that rely on Ukrainian imports.

The Russian aerial attacks regularly hit civilian areas. Moscow claims it targets only military-related sites.



This photo released by Serbia’s presidential press office shows Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic before signing his resignation in order to run for prime minister, in Belgrade, Serbia on Sept 27. (AP)

Serbia’s populist President Vucic resigns to run for PM at early vote

BELGRADE, Serbia, Sept 28, (AP): Serbia’s populist President Aleksandar Vucic resigned Sunday to pursue a bid to become prime minister in an upcoming early parliamentary election that will test his firm rule in the Balkan country, which was rattled by nearly two years of protests.

Vucic’s second presidential term would otherwise end in May next year. He is banned by the Serbian Constitution from seeking a third term and said he was resigning to lead his right-wing Serbian Progressive Party in the Oct 25 ballot.

The governing populists face a major challenge at the ballot box from a youth-backed movement that led the protests triggered by the Nov. 1, 2024, train station canopy collapse that killed 16 people in the northern city of Novi Sad.

University students demanded accountability for the tragedy. Their struggle for justice and against corruption has grown into a strong movement that will attempt to oust Vucic’s government after 14 years in power. Vucic himself has been either prime minister or president for the past 12 years.

“I am resigning the duty of the President of the Republic,” Vucic said, reading the text of his resignation.

The ballot in October will be held against a backdrop of high political tensions as Vucic’s populists seek to remain in office despite widespread popular discontent. His decision to run for prime minister is seen as a

carefully planned maneuver to retain a top position, and to boost his party’s chances against the student movement.

Before signing his resignation, Vucic briefly addressed his supporters outside the presidency building in Belgrade. He said “tonight is a very special occasion for me, my last evening in this beautiful building.”

“But I look to the future with joy, new victories await us,” he told the crowd as they chanted his name. “Let’s beat them (opponents) more convincingly than ever before.”

Vucic in recent weeks has toured the country tirelessly in a live coverage on pro-government media. He has opened new roads, offered assistance money and cheaper medicines, and visited voters in their homes. More recently, Vucic was filmed driving in his brother’s car to some of the events.

The prime minister in Serbia is formally more powerful than the president. But Vucic still took a dominant role during his two five-year terms, sometimes presiding over government sessions and routinely announcing all important decisions and plans.

The Independent Bureau for Social Research, or BIRODI, has filed a complaint alleging that Vucic has abused a public institution as president to promote his party, which he has dismissed. There has been no response from the anti-corruption authorities that are under government control.

After Vucic’s resignation, the acting president will be a close ally and former prime minister, Ana Brnabic, who is the outgoing speaker of Serbia’s 250-member Parliament.

Vucic said the first round of the early presidential election must be held by the end of this year because of a 90-day deadline.

Vucic and his party have been accused of rampant corruption, organized crime links and a clampdown on democratic freedoms, including the critical media. The SNS party has gradually taken control over all state institutions since coming to power in 2012, while denying abuse of office and repeatedly pledging to fight graft.

The student-backed election list includes little-known experts, professors, teachers, athletes and other individuals from all walks of life. Groups of students have been touring the country on bicycles as part of their campaign calling for the rule of law and an end to corruption.

Analysts say the student group and Vucic are polling close, heralding a tight race and a referendum-like atmosphere. Also running are Vucic’s allies, the Socialist Party, a pro-EU opposition alliance and several smaller groups.

Vucic said that as of Monday, he will be “everywhere in Serbia to listen to the people.” While praising his government’s achievements, Vucic contended that “I have made mistakes but I have worked diligently like hardly anyone in this position.”

Europe

Hungary suspends immunity for Magyar: Hungary’s Parliament voted on Monday to lift the parliamentary immunity of three lawmakers, including the country’s prime minister, **Péter Magyar**, as prosecutors proceed with ongoing criminal investigations.

Prosecutors are investigating Magyar on suspicion of misdemeanor theft after he allegedly took a man’s mobile phone during a nightclub altercation and threw it into the Danube River in June 2024, nearly two years before his party won a landslide election that unseated former populist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Magyar has denied that his conduct amounted to theft and called the case, which alleges damages scarcely exceeding \$300, politically motivated.

He has also criticized prosecutors for requesting the lifting of his immunity at the same time as that of two former Orbán-era ministers, whose alleged crimes involved misusing tens of millions of dollars in public funds and accepting millions more in bribes.

Prior to the vote, Magyar told lawmakers that he had “not committed a crime, I take responsibility for all my actions.” (AP)



Magyar

cure a majority in Parliament, according to the News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR).

Fico said an early election could be held by adopting a constitutional law to shorten the current parliamentary term. “It’s not in my hands. I’m here to govern this country, but you can only do that if you have your back covered by Parliament,” Fico said.

He added that if an early election becomes necessary, it should be held as soon as possible rather than being postponed until June.

The prime minister said he was prepared to accept an election in January, while Slovak National Party (SNS) leader Andrej Danko and Environment Minister Tomas Taraba, an SNS nominee, would have to decide whether they wanted the government to continue until the next regular election scheduled for 2027. (AP)

□ □ □

Swiss reject tighter neutrality rules: Voters in Switzerland overwhelmingly rejected a proposal championed by a right-wing populist party to strengthen the country’s vaunted neutrality.

Supporters of the plan, led by the Swiss People’s Party, which includes members with pro-Russia leanings, argued that the government had gravitated too close to the European Union and NATO, particularly over Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Final results from the Swiss government showed 70% of voters, and a majority in all 26 of the country’s regions, rejected the plan.

The measure would have barred Switzerland from joining punitive measures against other countries unless they were imposed by the United Nations. Russia, one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, holds veto power over such measures. (AP)

Asia

8 dead as floods swamp Thailand: Thailand’s nationwide flooding since Sept. 16 has left eight people dead, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said on Monday.

Twenty-eight provinces, including Bangkok, are still affected by the disaster, mainly in Thailand’s central, northern, eastern and northeastern regions.

According to the department, flooding has swept through 42 provinces between Sept. 16 and 28, affecting 1.8 million people.

On Saturday, Bangkok Governor Chadchart Sittipunt declared the whole of the capital a flood-hit zone after almost 48 hours of relentless rainfall caused widespread inundation and traffic chaos. Thailand’s meteorological department said on Monday that downpours in Bangkok and its environs had abated. (Xinhua)

Heavy rain displaces thousands in Cambodia: Flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall have affected 44,889 families across Cambodia, forcing 3,685 families to evacuate to higher ground, a disaster control spokesperson said on Monday.

Soth Kim Kolmony, spokesperson for the National Committee for Disaster Management, said that 10 provinces have been hit by the deluge. The rising waters have also impacted 40,384 homes and 49,925 hectares of rice paddies, with Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap identified as the worst-hit provinces.

Kolmony noted that the current flooding is driven primarily by local heavy rainfall. The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology reported that Cambodia is experiencing widespread rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds from Sept. 24 to 30, triggered by the peripheral systems of Typhoon Surigae. (Xinhua)

Over 1,500 remain in shelters after Japan quake: Over 1,500 people are



Streets flooded after a heavy rain, in Bangkok, Thailand on Sept 28. (AP)

still staying in evacuation centers two months after a powerful earthquake struck Kumamoto Prefecture in southwestern Japan on July 28, local media reported Monday.

The 7.1-magnitude quake registered a maximum of 7 on Japan’s 0-to-7 seismic intensity scale in the hardest-hit areas, leaving 38 people dead.

As of Friday, 1,514 people remained in shelters at 32 locations across the prefecture, while many others continue to live in hotels or in their damaged homes. Jiji Press reported, citing the prefectural government. (Xinhua)

NZ’s National, Labor parties launch election campaigns: New Zealand’s National Party officially launched its campaign on Sunday for the

country’s Nov 7 general election, holding an event in Auckland and setting the tone for a six-week campaign.

Incumbent Prime Minister and National leader Christopher Luxon reiterated the campaign slogan “no new taxes,” a message also backed by former prime minister John Key in a speech at the event.

Also on Sunday in Auckland, opposition Labor Party leader Chris Hipkins launched his party’s campaign at an event attended by former prime minister Helen Clark. (Xinhua)

3 dead in Melbourne highway collision: Three people have died and one other has been hospitalized with critical injuries following a collision between multiple vehicles northwest of Melbourne on Sunday night.

Police said that two vehicles were traveling on a highway near the small town of Ledcourt, 230 km northwest of Melbourne, when they collided around 6:45 p.m. on Sunday.

Detective Acting Sergeant Leigh Miller from the Major Collision Investigation Unit told reporters at the scene that a car had collided with a truck before crossing onto the wrong side of the road and colliding with an oncoming car.

Two people in the second car, who have not been formally identified, died at the scene. (Xinhua)

Australia car crash kills 1-year-old girl: A one-year-old girl was killed and a woman and an infant injured in a car crash in the east Australian state of Queensland on Sunday morning, police said.

Emergency services were called to Golden Mile Road near Dysart in central Queensland about 9 a.m. after a vehicle left the road and rolled.

The one-year-old girl was declared deceased at the scene, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) said in a statement.

The driver, a 22-year-old woman, sustained minor injuries and a five-month-old boy suffered serious injuries. (AP)

‘Border blasts that injured 3 officers likely caused by Pyongyang mines’

Seoul demands apology after Zelenskyy reveals NKorean POWs sent to S.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 28, (AP): Seoul has called for an official apology from Ukraine after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy revealed what it says was supposed to be a secret transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea.

Zelenskyy told the UN General Assembly last week that Ukraine had recently sent the men to South Korea, after capturing them on a Ukraine-Russia battlefield in early 2025. The two are among thousands of North Korean soldiers sent to support Russia’s war against Ukraine.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung quickly accused Ukraine of violating a nondisclosure agreement about the transfer. Ukraine denied making such a deal.

Late Sunday, Seong Ghi-hong, a senior presidential adviser for Lee on public relations, expressed “strong regret” over Ukraine’s latest actions and demanded an official apology and explanation.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned Ukraine’s ambassador to Seoul, Andrii Viesh-

kin, to protest what it described as Kyiv’s “unilateral disclosure” of the prisoners’ transfer and its false denial that the two countries had agreed to keep the matter confidential.

Vieshkin said he would convey Seoul’s position to his government, the ministry said in a statement. Repeated calls to Ukraine’s Embassy in Seoul seeking comment were unanswered.

Seong said that Ukraine’s “false” denial of the nondisclosure agreement was “an act that seriously undermines trust between the two governments and causes significant damage to friendly relations between the two countries.”

Seong said the agreement was reached because Seoul was concerned about the safety of the North Korean soldiers and their relatives in the North while Kyiv worried about possible domestic criticism for forfeiting an opportunity to exchange them for Ukrainian soldiers held in Russia.

While still in Ukraine, the two soldiers said in media interviews that they wanted to resettle in South



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, (second from right), speaks during a cabinet meeting at the presidential office in Seoul, South Korea on Aug 18. (AP)

Korea.

Seoul had called on Ukraine not to send them back to North Korea, where they could face persecution. The South legally regards the North as part of its territory and has a policy of accepting and financially supporting North Korean defectors.

More than 34,000 North Kore-

ans have fled to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, mostly in the last three decades. Most were female civilians from the North’s poorer northern provinces. Defections by soldiers are uncommon.

In his UN speech, Zelenskyy didn’t provide details about the

transfer, but said that “one of them, when he realized he was going to be taken prisoner, tried to kill himself and he was shocked that fate didn’t let him die. This is how they raise people in the North.”

Some experts say Zelenskyy likely decided to expose the danger of North Korean involvement in the war as a way to attract bigger Western assistance.

Meanwhile, South Korea’s liberal government worried that news of the transfer could trigger an angry response from the North and hurt efforts to resume diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington.

A growing arms exporter with a well-equipped and US-backed military, South Korea has provided humanitarian aid and other support to Ukraine while joining U.S.-led economic sanctions against Russia since its invasion in 2022.

However, Seoul has resisted calls by Kyiv and NATO to provide direct military support to Ukraine in line with a long-standing policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflict.

North Korea and Russia confirmed in April 2025 that their soldiers fought together to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia’s Kursk border region. South Korea, the United States and others say North Korea has also supplied artillery, ammunition and missiles to Russia in return for economic and military assistance.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: South Korea’s military on Monday said explosions that injured three of its officers last week inside the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone separating the Koreas were probably caused by North Korean mines.

The South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff announced the preliminary finding after inspecting the site with the US-led United Nations Command.

The assessment could further heighten tensions between the rivals. Relations have deteriorated sharply in recent years amid North Korea’s accelerating nuclear weapons program and the collapse of US-led diplomacy aimed at resolving the nuclear standoff.



A woman wades through floodwaters in her neighborhood following heavy rains in Kanpur, India, on Sept. 22, 2026. (AP Photo)

Heavy rain, flooding kill 62 in northern India

At least 62 people have died after days of heavy rain and flooding in northern India’s Uttar Pradesh state, officials said Monday.

The state government said 46 people were injured and more than 1,000 houses were damaged after three days of heavy rainfall caused flooding in several districts.

Schools were closed Monday in parts of the state, including the capital, Lucknow, while rescue teams moved people from flooded areas to safer locations. Residents were advised to avoid unnecessary travel through waterlogged areas and stay away from fast-flowing rivers, streams and drains.

Rainfall was expected to ease from Monday as a weather system over the Bay of Bengal weakened,

said Atul Kumar Singh, a senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Lucknow. Light rain could continue in eastern and western parts of the state through Tuesday, he said.

Flooding also affected the eastern state of Odisha, where more than 75,000 people were evacuated to safer areas, officials said.

In neighboring Nepal, 21 people died in weather-related incidents from Thursday through Sunday, the country’s disaster management agency said. Five people remained missing and five others were injured, while floods and landslides damaged 194 houses.

Nepal is recovering from devastating August floods that killed more than 1,400 people and left nearly 6,000 missing. (AP)

Venezuelans rally to demand opp’n leader Machado’s safe return

CARACAS, Venezuela, Sept 28, (AP): Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado took to the country’s streets on Sunday to demand her safe return and presidential elections that could lead to a democratic transition in Venezuela. The government has been widely accused of stealing elections, jailing dissidents and stifling freedom of speech.

In Caracas, hundreds of activists in sky blue shirts - the color of Machado’s Vente Venezuela party - rode motorcycles and drove through the city’s main avenues, honking their horns and waving Venezuelan flags. Similar demonstrations were held in state capitals including Valencia, Maracaibo and Merida.

“This is not a matter of parties or politics,” said Flavio Valentini, a Vente Venezuela activist in Caracas who grabbed a megaphone and addressed the crowd. “This is a movement for the people and by the people.”

Machado has been living in exile for the past nine months, and has had her plans to return to Venezuela spoiled multiple times. Opposition activists have accused Venezuela’s government



Supporters of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado attend a rally calling for her return to the country, in La Guaira, Venezuela on Sept 27. (AP)

of blocking her return, a claim denied by Venezuelan authorities.

Machado’s party said this week that on Monday night, the opposition leader made three unsuccessful attempts to return.

“We hope this transition process leads us to presidential elections and consolidates a free, democratic country that will be the main ally of the United States,” said Anthony Rome-

ro, a leader for Vente Venezuela in the nation’s capital.

Machado, one of Venezuela’s most popular political leaders, was barred from running in Venezuela’s last presidential election by courts under the control of former President Nicolás Maduro. But her stand-in candidate is widely believed to have won the election with almost two thirds of the vote.

4 confirmed dead after avalanche hits Nepal’s Himlung base camp: police

KATHMANDU, Sept 28, (Xinhua): At least four people have been confirmed dead after an avalanche struck the base camp area of Mt. Himlung in Nepal’s mountainous district of Manang on Sunday morning, a senior police officer said on Monday.

“Two dead bodies were recovered on Sunday, and an additional two dead bodies were recovered on Monday morning at the incident site,” Binod Bohora, an inspector at the District Police Office in Manang, told Xinhua.

The bodies were recovered during a helicopter-assisted rescue operation on Monday morning.

The avalanche swept through the mountain’s base camp and buried several tents where expedition guides and support staff from an advance team were staying for necessary observations and preparations ahead of the autumn climbing season.

Bohora said more people were feared dead, as more than a dozen people were reported missing by the concerned expedition companies.



However, 11 people who survived the avalanche have made contact with their respective companies, according to Bohora.

Officials said rescue efforts on Monday were made easier by improved weather conditions after incessant rainfall in several parts of the country, including Manang, until Sunday.

“It’s a sunny day today,” said Mukti Prasad Khanal, chief district officer of Manang. “Helicopters are operating for rescue efforts.”

Mexico’s Baja California braces for major hurricane

PUERTO SAN CARLOS, Mexico, Sept 28, (AP): Hurricane Polo bore down on Mexico’s Baja California peninsula on Monday with a threat of storm surge, high winds and heavy rains, while Hurricane Nolo threatened parts of Hawaii with torrential rain even as the storm edged further away from the state’s islands.

Polo was a Category 3 storm with top sustained winds of 125 mph (205 kph) Sunday evening, the US National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The storm is expected to lash the peninsula with heavy rainfall overnight and could produce life-threatening flooding and mudslides.

Nolo was well southwest of Hawaii and moving away from the Big Island as the weekend drew to a close, but a high-wind warning, wind advisory and high surf advisory remained in effect for parts of the island through Sunday evening. Nolo’s maximum sustained winds increased to near 105 mph (165 kph).

In Puerto San Carlos, a fishing town of about 5,700 people on Mexico’s Baja California peninsula, residents boarded up homes Sunday as workers hauled dirt and rubble to shore up the embankments protecting the town. Authorities said 90% of the community was susceptible to flooding.



Workers build a barricade to help keep water out of their town as Hurricane Polo approaches in Puerto San Carlos, Baja California Sur state, Mexico on Sept 27. (AP)

Initiative promotes knowledge as foundation for informed investing

Boursa Kuwait launches third edition of ‘The Bell’

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Boursa Kuwait launched the third edition of its “The Bell” financial literacy initiative, featuring a month-long awareness program throughout October that brings together six professional, academic and investment institutions.

The initiative aims to make investment concepts more accessible to the public and help individuals better understand their financial options and the risks associated with them through interactive sessions, workshops and digital content that connect financial knowledge with everyday needs and developments in Kuwait’s capital market.

The new edition reaffirms Boursa Kuwait’s commitment to ensuring that the continued development of the market and expansion of investment options are accompanied by sustained efforts to enhance public awareness.

As financial products become more diverse and access to information becomes easier, there is a growing need for trusted content that explains key concepts clearly, helps investors ask the right questions and enables them to better understand the options that align with their objectives and financial capabilities, without unnecessary complexity or reliance on incomplete information.

This edition of the initiative is organized in collaboration with CFA Institute, CFA Society Kuwait, Gulf Capital Investment Company (InvestGB), Kuwait University, Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET), and the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), a diverse group of partners that brings together investment expertise, academic knowledge and corporate experience to deliver a program tailored to investors, students and young people preparing to enter the workforce, providing each audience with practical knowledge relevant to its needs.

It also coincides with the tenth edition of World Investor Week, led by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to promote investor education and protection, and supported by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) through its “Ring the Bell for Financial Literacy” campaign.

Boursa Kuwait is translating its participation in the global campaign into a month-long local program, complemented by educational content that will remain available for audiences to benefit from beyond the conclusion of the initiative’s activities.

Highlighting the importance of aligning market development with investor knowledge, Senior Director of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Boursa Kuwait, Mr. Naser Meshari AlSanousi, said: “Boursa Kuwait believes that knowledge is the foundation of informed investing, and that the value of market development is fully realized when people understand the opportunities available to them and how to engage with them responsibly.”

“Through ‘The Bell’ initiative, Boursa Kuwait brings this knowledge closer to the public through clear language and trusted content, helping individuals better understand opportunities and risks before making investment decisions. This is an ongoing commitment that is reflected in practical programs and partnerships that combine expertise with the ability to reach and engage the wider community,” he added.

“The third edition more closely links financial awareness to market development and to the questions that matter most to investors, particularly young people. Investors need to understand their options, students need to connect their studies with real-world applications and entrepreneurs need to understand the requirements for growing their businesses. Together with our partners, we are developing content that responds to these needs and encourages learning, engagement and informed questioning,” he continued.

“Our ambition is for financial knowledge to become part of how people think and make decisions, and for the initiative’s impact to continue well beyond the conclusion of its activities.”

This ambition has shaped the development of “The Bell” since its launch in 2024, with the initiative steadily expanding both its partnerships and its reach. To date, it has collaborated with more than ten organizations and

■ Month-long October program brings together six leading professional, academic and investment institutions to strengthen financial literacy and promote informed investment decision-making



Dr. Saad AlNahedh, Assistant Professor of Finance at the College of Business Administration



Mrs. Mai AlOwaish, Chief Executive Officer of CINET



Mrs. Jeannette Tawk, Director of Institutional Solutions for the MENA at CFA Institute



Mrs. Sara Samad, CFA Society Kuwait President



Mr. Talal Al-Khamis, Head of Equities and Fixed Income at InvestGB



Mrs. Fadwa Darwish, Secretary General of the Union of Investment Companies

reached over 2000 beneficiaries through its programs.

Its impact has also extended beyond in-person activities through “The Bell” podcast, which has generated more than two million views across four seasons, broadening access to financial and investment content and allowing audiences to benefit from expert discussions and insights beyond the initiative’s live sessions.

The initiative has also placed particular emphasis on translating learning into practical experience for younger generations, including Boursa Kuwait’s sponsorship of the CFA Institute Research Challenge, for which it serves as the first strategic partner in Kuwait.

The Challenge has enabled around 100 university students to apply their academic learning to listed companies and gain practical experience in analyzing their businesses and financial information, taking learning beyond the classroom and placing students in a setting that requires research, analysis and evidence-based judgment, reinforcing the broader objective of equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed to engage more effectively with the capital market.

Connecting learning with application

The third edition of “The Bell” builds on the themes explored over the past two years, including money management, financial planning, digital financial services, sustainability and applications of artificial intelligence.

This year’s program takes that foundation further, progressing from core investment principles and market awareness to more specialized topics such as exchange-traded funds (ETFs), fixed-income products, credit awareness and entrepreneurship. In doing so, the program is designed to move participants gradually from understanding fundamental financial concepts to seeing how they apply across different stages of personal, professional and investment decision-making.

The first stage of this progression focuses on younger audiences and the financial decisions closest to their everyday lives. An interactive panel discussion bringing together Kuwait University and CINET will explore financial and credit awareness, helping students better understand personal financial responsibility and the role of credit in shaping future financial choices.

By linking personal finance with entrepreneurship, these sessions provide a practical entry point into broader capital market concepts. The program then extends this learning through digital content, allowing participants and the wider public to explore invest-

ment topics in greater depth and at their own pace.

October will also see the launch of the fifth season of “The Bell” podcast, in collaboration with CFA Society Kuwait and InvestGB. Building on the introductory themes addressed through previous seasons, the weekly episodes will focus on core investment strategies and approaches to following market developments, with a conversational format that helps place investment concepts within a practical context, while the on-demand nature of the podcast allows audiences to revisit discussions, reinforce their understanding and continue learning beyond the physical events.

From these broader investment principles, the program progresses to a more detailed examination of specific financial instruments. Workshops organized by the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) will introduce participants to exchange-traded funds and fixed-income markets, including funds that track specific indices and instruments such as bonds and sukuk.

The sessions will explain their principal characteristics, uses and associated risks, helping participants move from a general understanding of investing toward a clearer appreciation of how individual products differ and the considerations involved in evaluating them.

The final stage of the program is designed to ensure that this learning does not end with the October activities. Boursa Kuwait is collaborating with CFA Institute to enrich the Boursa Academy online education platform with financial literacy materials and training modules that will remain available beyond the initiative.

By connecting live sessions, digital discussions, specialized workshops and permanent educational resources, “The Bell” creates a continuous learning pathway that allows individuals to build their knowledge progressively and return to trusted educational content as their needs and interests evolve.

Partnerships bringing together expertise and expanding the initiative’s impact

The third edition of “The Bell” brings together a select group of professional, academic and investment institutions, enabling the initiative to draw on diverse expertise and deliver practical, knowledge-based content aligned with the needs of investors, students and capital market participants.

This collaborative approach also allows the program to broaden the scope of financial literacy into more specialized areas, while connecting participants with per-

spectives from across the investment, academic and business communities.

Within this framework, Kuwait University’s participation focuses on connecting academic knowledge with practical experience and creating opportunities for students to engage directly with industry professionals.

“Our participation in ‘The Bell’ initiative for the second consecutive year provides an opportunity to bring financial and investment topics closer to students and connect them with their lives and aspirations,” said Dr. Saad AlNahedh, Assistant Professor of Finance at the College of Business Administration.

“Learning becomes more meaningful when students can discuss real-world experiences and direct their questions to specialists. Through this participation, we aim to help them understand their financial responsibilities at an early stage, broaden their knowledge of the business environment and strengthen their readiness for professional life and their ability to make well-informed decisions,” he said.

Building on this academic foundation, the Kuwait Credit Information Network Company (CINET), Kuwait’s provider of credit information and credit scoring services, brings a practical personal-finance dimension to the program by raising awareness of financial obligations and the importance of understanding borrowing and installment payments as part of responsible money management.

Commenting on the company’s participation, Chief Executive Officer of CINET, Mrs. Mai Bader AlOwaish, said, “Credit awareness begins with individuals understanding their financial obligations and their ability to meet them. As installment options continue to expand, it is increasingly important for young people to understand the impact these decisions can have on their financial position before committing to them.”

“Through ‘The Bell’ initiative, we are sharing our expertise to make these concepts more accessible to students and encourage responsible financial behavior. We believe that direct dialogue and practical examples drawn from everyday life can help turn information into deeper and more lasting understanding,” she added.

The CFA Institute’s contribution draws on its expertise in investment education, particularly in areas such as fundamental analysis, investment valuation, portfolio management and professional ethics. This provides a strong foundation for developing content that combines professional rigor with practical relevance

for local audiences.

Commenting on the Institute’s participation, Director of Institutional Solutions for the Middle East and North Africa at CFA Institute, Mrs. Jeannette Tawk, said, “Boursa Kuwait and the CFA Institute share the belief that financial knowledge helps individuals better understand their options and participate in markets with greater awareness. For the third consecutive year, we are pleased to take part in ‘The Bell’ initiative, combining the Institute’s expertise with Boursa Kuwait’s understanding of the needs of the local market.”

“We look forward to continuing to develop clear and practical educational content that enables wider segments of society to build their knowledge and apply it to their financial decisions,” she added.

This collaboration forms part of a three-year partnership between Boursa Kuwait and the CFA Institute, under which Boursa Kuwait serves as the exclusive strategic partner of the CFA Institute Research Challenge in Kuwait. The annual global competition focuses on the financial analysis of listed companies and gives students from public and private universities the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to real-world cases while strengthening their practical skills.

Complementing this global professional expertise, Boursa Kuwait’s partnership with CFA Society Kuwait, which dates back to 2018, provides a longstanding local platform for educational content, programs and workshops.

This year, the Society is extending that collaboration through the fifth season of “The Bell” podcast, helping sustain the investment dialogue beyond the initiative’s in-person activities.

“As the market evolves, investors need knowledge that helps them understand what is changing and what those changes mean for their decisions. Through our partnership with Boursa Kuwait, we work to make this knowledge clear, relevant and accessible to the public,” said CFA Society Kuwait President Mrs. Sara Abdul Samad.

“We see ‘The Bell’ initiative as an opportunity to bring specialist expertise into useful discussions that explain the fundamentals of investing and help audiences assess opportunities and risks with greater understanding,” she added.

Adding a practitioner perspective to this educational dialogue, InvestGB, the investment arm of Gulf Bank, brings hands-on expertise in investment, asset management and wealth management to the fifth season of the podcast.

Commenting on the company’s participation, Mr. Talal Jamal Al-Khamis, Head of Equities and Fixed Income at InvestGB, said: “We are pleased to continue our collaboration with Boursa Kuwait through ‘The Bell’ podcast and to share our experience through discussions that help audiences better understand investing and follow market developments.”

“We aim to ensure that the ideas presented are clear and relevant to listeners, whether they are at the beginning of their investment journey or seeking to deepen their knowledge. The real value of financial content lies in people’s ability to understand it and use it when considering their options,” he said.

The program then takes this practical perspective a step further through the participation of the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), which strengthens the applied dimension of the initiative through workshops that connect an introduction to investment products with a clearer understanding of their characteristics and associated risks.

“We are proud to continue our participation in The Bell Initiative for the second consecutive year and to support Boursa Kuwait’s efforts to further promote financial and investment literacy,” said Secretary General of the Union of Investment Companies, Mrs. Fadwa Darwish.

“This year, our focus is on topics that reflect the evolving market landscape, including Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and fixed-income instruments. At the Union of Investment Companies (UIC), we believe that the growing diversity of investment instruments should be accompanied by greater awareness of their characteristics, associated risks and potential opportunities, enabling investors to make more informed investment decisions,” she added.

“The ‘Bell’ initiative also represents an important model of institutional collaboration in promoting investment knowledge and extending its reach to a broader segment of society. At the same time, it provides us with a valuable opportunity to engage directly with the public, listen to their questions, and provide greater clarity on the investment topics that matter most to them.”

Embedding financial literacy within Boursa Kuwait’s sustainability strategy

“The Bell” initiative forms part of Boursa Kuwait’s Corporate Sustainability strategy, which encompasses support for education, skills development and partnerships that generate meaningful social impact.

The initiative also aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. The program translates this approach into a collaborative model in which each partner contributes according to its area of expertise, combining broad public reach with high-quality content and opportunities for continuous learning.

Through this program, Boursa Kuwait continues to strengthen its role in promoting investor awareness and connecting the development of Kuwait’s capital market with the needs of the wider community.

The third edition of “The Bell” offers multiple learning pathways that combine dialogue, practical experience and digital content, giving investors, students and entrepreneurs the opportunity to explore topics directly relevant to their decisions and aspirations.

These efforts form part of Boursa Kuwait’s ongoing institutional commitment to supporting more informed and responsible participation in financial and investment activities.

About ‘The Bell’

“The Bell” is a financial literacy initiative launched by Boursa Kuwait in 2024 to improve public understanding of investment and capital market concepts through clear, practical and accessible content. The initiative brings together professional, academic and investment institutions to deliver sessions, workshops, digital content and programs tailored to investors, students and young people.

Its activities are complemented by “The Bell” podcast and Boursa Academy, extending the reach of educational content, supporting continuous learning and helping individuals make better-informed financial decisions.



Photos during the Bankee Program.

In the presence of the Minister of Education & Chairperson of Nazaha

NBK honors 104 schools participating in ‘Bankee’ for the 2025–2026 academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: In recognition of their pivotal role in supporting the program’s objectives, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) honored the schools participating in the 2025–2026 academic year of the Bankee Program; an initiative that aims to foster financial literacy among students and instill values such as saving, financial planning, responsibility, and integrity from an early educational stage.

The ceremony, which was held at the Ministry of Education’s theater hall, honored 104 public and private schools that participated in the program during the 2025–2026 academic year. The event was attended by Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of Education; Dr. Rana Al-Faris, Chairperson of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha); and Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO at the National Bank of Kuwait, alongside senior officials from the Bank, the Ministry of Education, and Nazaha.

The “Bankee” program exemplifies a successful national partnership between NBK, the Ministry of Education, and Nazaha. This partnership has united efforts and expertise to deliver an innovative educational experience that instills financial literacy and positive values in learners, further making the program a leading national initiative in the fields of education and awareness.

This celebration serves as the culmination of an academic year rich in achievements and recognizes the pivotal role played by school principals, their assistants, and teaching and administrative staff in supporting the program over the years. Their ongoing commitment and cooperation have been instrumental in ensuring the program’s sustainability and the realization of its objectives. Moreover, school administrations played a prominent role in maintaining the program’s continuity during the period of remote learning, enabling it to sustain its activities and reach learners despite the challenges posed by that exceptional phase.

Investing in Future Generations

On this occasion, Mr. Isam Al-Sager said: “We gather today to celebrate the true partners in the success of the ‘Bankee’ program. The results and achievements realized are the fruit of collaboration between the Bank, the Ministry of Education—including school principals, administrations, and teaching staff—and Nazaha. All parties played an instrumental role in transforming the program’s objectives into a tangible impact on the lives of students”.

Al-Sager added: “Since the program’s launch, our goal has extended beyond merely introducing students to basic financial concepts; rather, we aim to build a generation that is more aware and



Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of Education.



Dr. Rana Al-Faris, Nazaha Chairperson.



Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO at the NBK.

Al-Tabtabaei: “Bankee” is an exemplary model of public-private partnership.
Al-Faris: Instilling values of integrity at an early age lays the foundation for a society based on respect for the law and the fight against corruption.
Al-Sager: The success of “Bankee” is the result of fruitful cooperation with our partners at the Ministry of Education and Nazaha.

- NBK believes that investing in the financial literacy of future generations is an investment in Kuwait’s future.
- We place great importance on monitoring the program’s implementation on the ground through periodic school visits throughout the year.
- We will continue to develop the program and expand its impact to foster financial inclusion and prepare a generation capable of facing future challenges.

prepared for the future, possessing the ability to make responsible decisions. Today, as we witness participation expanding year after year, we recognize the significant positive impact the program is achieving within schools and in the lives of students and their families”.

Additionally, Al-Sager added: “Driven by NBK’s unwavering commitment to supporting sustainable development and investing in future generations, we will continue to work alongside our partners to develop the ‘Bankee’ program and expand its reach. This aligns with our vision of supporting education, fostering financial inclusion, and empowering youth with the knowledge and skills essential for the future”.

Al-Sager also emphasized the Bank’s strong commitment to monitoring the program’s on-the-ground implementation through periodic visits to public and private schools, ensuring its objectives are met and its impact maximized. He noted that the program has garnered remarkable engagement from students and widespread praise from parents, who have observed its positive influence on their children’s behavior and financial awareness.

Finally, Al-Sager concluded: “I extend my congratulations to all the principals of the schools honored today and commend the efforts of the teachers, administrators, and parents who contributed to this success. I also reaffirm NBK’s commitment to

continuing its support for educational and awareness-raising initiatives that help prepare generations capable of building a more prosperous future for Kuwait”.

A National Partnership Enhancing the Quality of Educational Outcomes

For his part, Eng. Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, Minister of Education, emphasized that building the learner’s character and developing their life skills are two fundamental pillars of the educational process. He highlighted the Ministry’s commitment to providing an educational environment that enables students to discover their capabilities, cultivate their talents, and realize their ambitions, further enhancing their role in actively contributing to building Kuwait’s future.

Al-Tabtabaei stated: “Education is not limited to the transfer of knowledge; it encompasses building the learner’s character, fostering awareness, and instilling values that enable them to make responsible decisions”, also noting that the “Bankee” program embodies this approach by translating educational concepts related to financial literacy, integrity, and responsibility into practical practices and experiences within the school environment.

Al-Tabtabaei pointed out that concepts such as saving, rational consumption, and financial integrity have become integral to the educational system and values the Ministry strives to embed through curricula and school activities.

This approach fosters sustainable awareness among learners and reinforces the link between knowledge and practical application in their daily lives.

Moreover, Al-Tabtabaei highlighted that the Ministry’s focus on young learners stems from a firm belief in the importance of the values and behaviors instilled during these formative years, which serve as the foundation for building the learners’ character and shaping their awareness and future, also emphasizing the commitment to ensuring that schools serve as learning environments where learners do not merely receive knowledge but also engage in hands-on experiences, participate actively, assume responsibility, and gradually develop a sense of national and ethical awareness.

Al-Tabtabaei also commended the efforts of school administrations and teachers in the participating schools, valuing their role in translating the program’s concepts into tangible educational practices and experiences within the school environment, which helps raise awareness and foster the development of skills and self-confidence.

Finally, Al-Tabtabaei concluded by saying: “We extend our thanks to NBK and Nazaha for this fruitful partnership. We also appreciate the efforts of the school administrations and teaching staff who contributed to the program’s success. We look forward to continuing these

joint efforts and expanding their impact to reach more students, driven by the belief that instilling values and building awareness among the rising generation represents a genuine investment in Kuwait’s future, and contributes to preparing a conscious, responsible generation capable of preserving the nation’s assets and participating in building its future.”

Instilling Integrity from a Young Age

For her part, Dr. Rana Al-Faris, Nazaha Chairperson, emphasized the importance of initiatives targeting the youth and contributing to the cultivation of positive values in them from an early age.

Al-Faris stated: “The ‘Bankee’ program serves as an exemplary model of initiatives that combine financial literacy with the instilling of a value system essential for young people during their formative years, foremost among them integrity, responsibility, transparency, and respect for public funds. These are fundamental values for building conscious generations that contribute positively to societal development”.

Al-Faris added: “Instilling values of integrity and transparency in the youth represents an investment in the nation’s future. The more deeply these principles are rooted at an early age, the better equipped future generations will be to build a society founded on responsibility, respect for the law, and the fight against corruption. The Bankee program has success-

fully presented a practical model that integrates financial literacy with values of integrity, using an interactive approach that leaves a lasting impact on learners”.

Additionally, Al-Faris noted that the program’s successes have garnered both local and international acclaim, establishing it as an exemplary initiative showcased at United Nations forums; she further highlighted that renewing the partnership for the next five years supports the program’s continuity and expands its impact across schools in Kuwait.

Al-Faris expressed her aspiration to continue collaborating with all partners to broaden the program’s reach and benefit more learners, further contributing to the development of a conscious, responsible generation that upholds integrity in daily life and is committed to serving the nation and preserving its resources.

Over 50,000 Learners Across 104 Schools

During the ceremony, the key achievements of the Bankee program during the 2025–2026 academic year were highlighted, along with the results attained across participating schools. Success stories and experiences were also showcased, illustrating the program’s positive impact in fostering financial awareness among learners and developing their skills in resource management and sound financial decision-making.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, Bankee engaged over 50,000 learners across more than 104 schools in various regions of Kuwait, with the active participation of over 12,000 teachers and an investment exceeding KD one million. These figures reflect the program’s extensive reach and profound impact, as well as its role in empowering educators and enhancing their ability to convey financial literacy concepts through modern, interactive methods.

Bankee is the first program of its kind in Kuwait dedicated to fostering financial literacy and inclusion among students through innovative, interactive, and practical educational content. It helps simplify financial concepts and improve student comprehension while instilling sound financial habits at an early age that support financial inclusion goals and contribute to raising a more financially aware and independent generation.

NBK continues to solidify its leading position as a major contributor to social responsibility in Kuwait by launching diverse, innovative, and sustainable initiatives that target various segments of society. These efforts place a special emphasis on supporting the education sector and developing youth capabilities, reflecting the Bank’s belief that investing in education and youth development is the fundamental pillar for building Kuwait’s future.

Leading Kuwait in 5G speed & coverage

Zain Kuwait retains three Ookla Speedtest Awards

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Zain Kuwait has once again secured three prestigious Ookla® Speedtest Awards™, retaining for the second time running the titles of Fastest 5G Network, Best 5G Network, and Best Mobile Coverage in Kuwait for Q1-Q2 2026 from one of the world's leading platforms for network intelligence, testing, and analytics.

The latest recognition builds on Zain's triple win in the second half of 2025, reflecting the consistency and sustained strength of its network experience across consecutive measurement periods. More importantly, it reinforces a commitment that goes beyond individual milestones, centered on consistently delivering the fast, reliable, and high-quality connectivity experience customers expect, while keeping pace with the evolving ways they live, work, communicate, and engage with digital services.



Zain Kuwait CEO Nawaf Al-Gharabally



- **Nawaf Al-Gharabally:** “This recognition reaffirms that our 5G investments are delivering on our network promise, elevating the customer experience and enabling a stronger digital innovation ecosystem”
- Fastest 5G Network, Best 5G Network, and Best Mobile Coverage titles for the second time running, based on Ookla® Speedtest® Intelligence data for Q1-Q2 2026 from millions of user-initiated tests in Kuwait

continues to advance its infrastructure, capabilities, and network intelligence with a clear focus on translating technology into a stronger and more seamless customer experience.

By sustaining its position across speed, overall 5G performance, and coverage, Zain continues to place consistency at the heart of its network strategy, ensuring that innovation and technological progress translate into tangible value for customers across Kuwait.

Fastest 5G Network in Kuwait

According to Ookla's Q1-Q2 2026 market analysis for Kuwait, Zain was named the Fastest 5G Network in Kuwait, achieving a Speed Score™ of 72.77. The results also showed Zain recording a median 5G download speed of 514.59 Mbps and a median upload speed of 34.74 Mbps, reflecting strong performance across the everyday demands placed on its 5G network.

The Ookla® Speedtest Award™ for Fastest 5G Network is based on Speed Score™, which assesses both network throughput and responsiveness. The methodology incorporates download and upload speeds alongside latency, using weighted components of 70% for download speed, 20% for upload speed, and 10% for latency, providing a broader assessment of speed performance than a single headline download figure.

Best Mobile Coverage in Kuwait

Zain also retained the title of Best Mobile Coverage in Kuwait, achieving a Coverage Score™ of 45.40 during Q1-Q2 2026. Ookla's analysis recorded a verified Zain coverage area of 7,844 km², based on 37,480 devices and more than 43.6 million scans, demonstrating the breadth of the network experience available to customers across Kuwait.

Ookla's Coverage Score measures the spatial extent of a provider's verified mobile coverage using real-world measurements collected through mobile coverage scans. The methodology applies quality filters before grouping the data into spatial areas and assessing whether users were successfully connected to a cellular network, providing a data-driven view of actual service availability.

Best 5G Network in Kuwait

Zain was also recognized as the Best 5G Network in Kuwait, recording a Speedtest Connectivity Score™ of 82.24, the highest in the market during Q1-Q2 2026. The results showed strong performance across the different elements that shape the overall 5G customer experience, including a Speed Score™ of 72.77, Web Browsing Score of 96.25, and Video Streaming Score of 87.17.

The Best 5G Network award is based on Ookla's Speedtest Connectivity Score™, which provides a broader

measure of the connected experience by combining real-world indicators across speed, latency, web browsing, and video streaming. The score is weighted 50% toward Speed Score, 25% toward Web Browsing Score, and 25% toward Video Streaming Score, reflecting how customers experience the network across multiple everyday digital activities.

ABOUT OOKLA®

Ookla, an Accenture company, is a global leader in connectivity intelligence that brings together the trusted expertise of Speedtest®, DownDetector®, Ekahau®, and RootMetrics® to deliver unmatched network and connectivity insights. By combining multi-source data with industry-leading expertise, Ookla transforms network performance metrics into strategic, actionable insights.

Ookla's solutions empower service providers, enterprises, and governments with the critical data and insights needed to optimize networks, enhance digital experiences, and help close the digital divide. At the same time, it amplifies the real-world experiences of individuals and businesses that rely on connectivity to work, learn, and communicate. From measuring and analyzing connectivity to driving industry innovation, Ookla helps the world stay connected.

Delivering KD 97,000 savings per well

Sanad AI speeds access to KOC drilling expertise

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): In oil industry, big innovations do not necessarily stem from laboratories; sometimes they begin with a simple question raised by an engineer while carrying out their routine duties such as “how can I reach accurate information from the right source, at the exact moment I need.”

In regular well-drilling operations, the answer may exist, but it can be scattered across thousands of pages of standard operating procedures, daily reports, and health, safety and environmental guidelines, as well as non-productive time reports and lessons learned from previous experience.

With every new well, not only does the volume of data grow, but so does the valuable human and institutional knowledge built up over long years of operations, challenges and engineering decisions.

move it into an actual corporate environment while maintaining information-security requirements, governance and data integrity.

Project documents show that cooperation among operational, engineering, digital and information-technology teams enabled Sanad AI to mature from a concept into a solution ready for operational use, with a focus on security, governance and operational integrity.

The real value of any innovation in the oil sector does not appear on a presentation screen but when it faces actual working conditions, Al-Shammari stressed.

Sanad AI was tested during the drilling of a producing well in the Lower Burgan reservoir, where the well was delivered 13 days ahead of schedule, he pointed out.

Operational savings associated with applying standard procedures also amounted to 13 days and approximately KD 97,000 (about USD 295,000) per well.

If the approach was applied to 47 similar wells, the potential annual savings would hit 637 days and approximately KD 4.5 million (nearly USD 13.7 million).

Sanad AI's primary objective was to preserve institutional knowledge, Eng. Al-Shammari underscored.

“Equipment can be replaced and systems can be upgraded, but the expertise an organization has built through thousands of decisions, operations and lessons learned needs to be preserved,” he said.

“When we make this knowledge available to the current and next generation of engineers, we are not simply preserving files; we are preserving part of Kuwait Oil Company's engineering memory,” he noted.

Sanad AI also received the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation Award at Kuwait Oil and Gas Exhibition and Conference in February 2026.

“We did not design Sanad AI to replace the engineer, but to be a support for the engineer,” Eng. Al-Shammari said.

“The human possesses the experience, understands the reality and bears responsibility for the decision, while artificial intelligence gives the engineer faster access to the knowledge that supports that decision,” he stressed.

Real success should not be measured by the number of questions the system can answer or the number of awards it receives, but by whether the knowledge KOC had built up over years becomes more accessible to its engineers and is translated into consistent decisions, more efficient operations and a more sustainable future, Al-Shammari added.

For his part, KOC Drilling Team V Leader Jumaa Bashir told KUNA that awards and recognition are important because they reflect how far the project has progressed.

“The added value of the project is its impact on the work,” he said, emphasizing that when innovation starts with a real problem and specialists participate in its development, its prospects for sustainability and expansion become greater.

Bashir noted that Sanad AI aimed to incorporate more historical, updated and real-time drilling data, expand its user base to include engineers and field supervisors, and enhance its capabilities through integration with other drilling tools.

“The team is also studying the possibility of expanding the solution into other exploration and production activities,” he noted.

At a time when controversy grows about the ability of artificial intelligence to replace humans in performing jobs, Sanad AI team offers a different vision of the relationship between engineers and technology, Bashir argued.

He agreed with Al-Shammari that AI-human relationship in the oil industry is based on complementarity and support rather than replacement.

“Sanad AI received institutional support because it was directly linked to an operational need rather than being treated as a technology experiment separate from the realities of the workplace.

“The strength of Sanad AI stemmed from the fact that it was not developed in isolation from operations; the idea emerged from a genuine need among drilling engineers and was then supported by the engineering and technological expertise required,” he went on.

Sanad AI uses large linguistic models (LLMs) and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) technologies, Bashir said, noting that this mechanism allows the system to search a defined knowledge base before generating an answer.

The knowledge sources used in the project include standard drilling operating procedures, daily drilling reports, non-productive time documents and lessons learned, as well as technical content stored in different formats, including documents and scanned images.

When a question is submitted to Sanad AI, the system searches for the information most relevant to the query and adds it to the context used by the language model, which then formulates an answer based on the retrieved content, Bashir added.

Al-Shammari and Bashir appreciated KOC for its institutional support and for providing the resources, capabilities and expertise that helped transform Sanad from an engineering idea into a practical reality.

They also thanked President of Kuwait's Association of Artificial Intelligence of Things (AAIoT) Sheikh Mohammad Ahmad Al-Sabah for his continued support of the initiative from the beginning and his role in the successes of the project.

Leading a new, digital era of wealth management

InvestGB launches Avaloq wealth platform

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Gulf Capital Investment Company KSCC (“InvestGB”), the investment arm of Gulf Bank, announced that it has gone live with Avaloq, a global leader in private banking and wealth management technology, to serve InvestGB's individual and institutional clients in Kuwait and the wider Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

InvestGB selected Avaloq to build a single, harmonized operating environment across its business and to elevate the digital experience it offers clients. By unifying wealth management, portfolio management and fund administration on a single Avaloq platform, InvestGB has established one operating environment across its business. The milestone marks InvestGB's first step into a new phase of digital wealth and investment management and marks Avaloq's first go-live in Kuwait.

The implementation forms a key component of InvestGB's broader digitalization strategy. By operating on a single platform, the firm is well positioned to improve operational efficiency, scale its business and optimize total cost of ownership across infrastructure, software, implementation services and operational teams.



Mr. Samer Obaid, Mr. Akash Anand & Ms. Jinnan Hussain

Mr. Samer Obaid, Managing Director of Information Technology at InvestGB, commented:

“Going live with Avaloq is a major milestone in our digital transformation journey and reflects our commitment to innovation and our mission to deliver long term value to our clients. With Avaloq's advanced technology now fully operational, we are strengthening our wealth management capabilities, fostering growth through innovation, and positioning ourselves to address the evolving needs of our clients. Most importantly, it enables our teams to

focus more of their time and energy on delivering exceptional value for our clients.

From her side, Ms. Jinnan Hussain, Senior Vice President of Information Technology at InvestGB, added: “This go live is the result of months of close collaboration between our technology and business teams to ensure a seamless transition onto the Avaloq platform. The new infrastructure gives us a stronger technical foundation, tighter system integration, and greater agility to support InvestGB's continued growth. We greatly appreciated Avaloq's commitment, expertise and

clear communication throughout the project.

Mr. Akash Anand, Managing Director for the Middle East, Africa and India at Avaloq, remarked:

“This is a landmark achievement for both InvestGB and Avaloq, and we are proud to see InvestGB go live as our first client in Kuwait.

He added: “Together, we have delivered a transformation that will help simplify the company's operations and increase efficiency. We would like to thank the InvestGB team for their close collaboration and market expertise, which played a vital role in the success of this program. With this foundation now in place, we look forward to continuing our partnership as InvestGB advances the next phase of its digital transformation journey.”

At a time when financial institutions across the GCC face mounting pressure to improve efficiency and control costs. And keep pace with evolving regulatory requirements, InvestGB has set a successful example of how institutions in the region can reduce complexity and accelerate innovation by consolidating their operations on a single platform rather than relying on fragmented systems.

Campaign supports orphaned children

Warba Bank's Basma campaign wins Middle East Award

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Warba Bank announced that it has won the “Changing Lives in the Community” award at The Cards and Payments Awards Middle East for its “Basma” campaign, launched in partnership with toy platform Dabdoub. The award was presented during the regional ceremony held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The “Changing Lives in the Community” category recognizes financial and technological initiatives that go beyond traditional transactions by using payment cards and innovative solutions to support charitable and community causes and create positive social impact. Mohannad Essa Burhama, Director of Products and Segments – Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank, accepted the award on behalf of the bank during the regional ceremony in Dubai, attended by senior representatives from the banking, technology, and financial sectors.

Executive Commentary

Commenting on the award, Burhama stated:

“Winning the regional ‘Changing Lives in the Community’ award is a source of pride for the entire Warba Bank family. This recognition reflects the success of our strategic direction in delivering empowering experiences that go beyond traditional banking



Warba Bank wins cards & payments award.

and combine banking innovation with meaningful social and humanitarian causes.”

Burhama added: “Our goal at Warba Bank is to contribute to empowering people and communities and creating meaningful value. The ‘Basma’ campaign reflected our core values of innovation, collaboration, and social responsibility, demonstrating how everyday card transactions can help make a real difference by bringing joy to orphaned children during Eid Al-Fitr.”

How the “Basma” Campaign Worked

Launched during the holy month

of Ramadan in collaboration with the Orphanage Department under Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs, the campaign engaged customers through everyday spending:

- **Eligible Cards:** The campaign covered Warba Bank Visa cards, including Visa Signature, Visa Platinum, and prepaid cards.
- **Funding Mechanism:** Warba Bank donated an amount equivalent to 10% of customers' total spending at cooperative societies and consumer outlets during Ramadan to purchase Eid Al-Fitr gifts through the Dabdoub platform.
- **Customer Cost:** Warba Bank

fully covered the donation, with no additional cost or deduction for customers, allowing them to contribute through their regular card spending.

Burhama explained: “While Ramadan initiatives often focus on food baskets and Iftar meals, we wanted to complement these efforts with a different humanitarian dimension by bringing joy and happy memories to orphaned children on Eid morning. Giving is not limited to meeting essential needs; it also means helping these children feel that they are an integral part of the community.”

Community Impact

The award reflects Warba Bank's approach to integrating financial technology and payment cards with community programs, in line with Kuwait Vision 2035 and the bank's sustainable growth and corporate social responsibility strategy.

The category has also recognized initiatives that use payment and card technologies to facilitate donations and support humanitarian causes.

Burhama concluded: “We see this award as further motivation to continue developing banking products and services that combine digital innovation with positive community impact, while reinforcing our commitment to being a trusted financial and community partner to our customers.”

The bank participates in the closing ceremony of the 6th edition of ‘Kuwait Codes’

KFH continues to invest in youth & empowers digital transformation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), as part of its strategic partnership with CODED Academy, has concluded the activities of the 6th edition of the “Kuwait Codes” program. The closing ceremony featured showcase presentations of innovative student projects and the honoring of standout participants, with the attendance of numerous officials, partners, parents, and stakeholders from the technology and education sectors.

During his speech at the closing ceremony, Fahad AlSaad, Senior Manager of PR and Events at KFH, stated that the “Kuwait Codes” program is a pioneering initiative, reflecting KFH’s commitment to supporting education, empowering youth, and investing in their capabilities. He noted that the initiative equips participants with the technical and cognitive skills required to meet future demands and contribute to the digital transformation journey in the State of Kuwait.

AlSaad added that the strategic partnership between KFH and CODED Academy, which started in 2018, serves as a successful model of collaboration aimed at youth empowerment and investing in their technical capabilities. Through “Kuwait Codes” program, this partnership has successfully equipped more than 10,000 students with advanced digital and technical skills, helping prepare a generation capable of meeting future demands and addressing emerging challenges with confidence and competence. Furthermore, the initiative has contributed to raising cybersecurity awareness and embedding a digital culture across various age groups, supporting efforts to build a more digitally aware community prepared for rapid technological transformation.

AlSaad emphasized that investing in human capital is a key pillar of sustainable development, noting that KFH is committed to supporting initiatives that foster a generation capable of leading the digital future and advancing the knowledge economy. This aligns with Kuwait’s vision for digital transformation and



Fahad AlSaad receiving the honor from Ahmad Marafi.



Honoring the winner of the Digital Sustainability Award.

AlSaad: Supporting Education and Youth Empowerment is a Core Pillar of Sustainability
More than 10,000 Students Equipped with Digital Skills and Technological Expertise

building a society grounded in innovation and technology.

He highlighted that the projects and ideas presented by the students during the closing ceremony reflect the vast imagination and promising capabilities the Kuwaiti youth possessed. He added that this underscores the initiative’s success in cultivating analytical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills, while fostering a spirit of creativity and entrepreneurship among the participants.

AlSaad pointed out that “Kuwait Codes” is no longer just a coding training program but has evolved into a national platform that helps discover young talent

and empowers them to leverage technology in creating innovative solutions and ideas that serve the community and meet future needs.

AlSaad expressed his gratitude and appreciation to CODED Academy, its trainers, and everyone involved in the initiative. He also praised the vital role parents play in supporting and encouraging their children to acquire technical skills, while congratulating all participants on their outstanding achievements throughout the program.

Digital Sustainability Award

As part of its support for innovation and sustainability, AlSaad noted that KFH launched the “Digital

Sustainability Award” for the best tech project aligned with sustainability concepts. The award aims to encourage students to develop innovative digital solutions that serve the community and advance the digital transformation journey. The award was won by student Nora Sulaiman Al-Khezai for her project “Be Aware”, an innovative application that encourages community members to help keep Kuwait clean by reporting or photographing waste locations. The app leverages artificial intelligence to identify the type of waste in images, alongside a gamified points system that allows users to redeem points for rewards, thereby promoting a culture of social responsibility and environmental sustainability through innovative technical solutions.

AlSaad pointed out that supporting education and youth empowerment are core pillars for achieving sustainability, driven by KFH’s firm belief that investing in human capital is the most crucial and impactful investment. This reflects its pioneering role in social responsibility and its ongoing commitment to contributing to a knowledge-based economy shaped by creativity and innovation.

He added that KFH will continue to invest in impactful, long-term qualitative initiatives, particularly in the fields of education, technology, and ingenuity, driven by its social responsibility and its commitment to its developmental role as an active partner in supporting the community.

Meanwhile, Hashim Behbehani, Co-Founder of CODED Academy, stated: “KFH’s partnership with CODED Academy began right at the start of the initiative, leaving a profound impact on developing students’ capabilities and elevating their technical and creative outputs year after year. We deeply value this continuous support for the “Kuwait Codes” initiative and many other CODED Academy programs, and we look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership in the coming years to empower more Kuwaiti youth and prepare them for future demands.”



Arabsat, CGWIC partner on Arabsat-50.

The Arabsat signs deal to build ‘Arabsat-50’ satellite

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Arab Satellite Communications Organization (Arabsat), a leading satellite operator in the Middle East and North Africa, has announced the signing of an agreement with China Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) to manufacture its new “Arabsat-50” satellite, coinciding with the organization’s 50th anniversary. The move aims to strengthen the sustainability of satellite broadcasting services and support operational capabilities in the years ahead.

“Arabsat-50” holds particular significance in Arabsat’s journey. Its name marks the organization’s Golden Jubilee, bringing together 50 years of Arab space heritage with a vision for a more advanced, resilient, and sustainable future.

Advanced Satellite Capabilities

“Arabsat-50” is a high-power Ku-band satellite designed to provide immediate and effective sustainability to support and ensure the continuity of Direct-to-Home (DTH) television broadcasting services from the 26° East orbital position. It will enhance the quality of services provided to satellite broadcasting customers while offering ready-to-use, integrated technical solutions for government and private media channels across the Middle East.

The satellite has been designed with operational flexibility in mind, enabling the redistribution or modification of beam and channel frequencies

according to operational requirements. This will enhance capacity management efficiency and ensure service continuity.

A Reliable Platform

“Arabsat-50” is being developed in partnership with CGWIC and will be based on the DFH-3E platform, which has proven its reliability in space. The platform provides an integrated solution combining reliability, sustainability, operational efficiency, and economic viability.

The satellite will also support Arabsat’s continuity and disaster recovery plans by providing flexible backup solutions to support operations across ARABSAT’s satellite fleet orbital positions, particularly at 26° East. This will help meet the organization’s future Ku-band requirements.

A New Chapter

The announcement of “Arabsat-50” marks the beginning of a new chapter of achievement and leadership in the organization’s five-decade journey. It reflects Arabsat’s continued focus on developing a more efficient and flexible space infrastructure that ensures service continuity while advancing the quality and capabilities of its services to meet the evolving expectations of customers and viewers across the Arab region and beyond.

Arabsat-50... 50 years of achievement, A New Satellite for the Future.

The three-month series brings together guided meditation

Waldorf Astoria Kuwait introduces new poolside sound healing journey this Oct

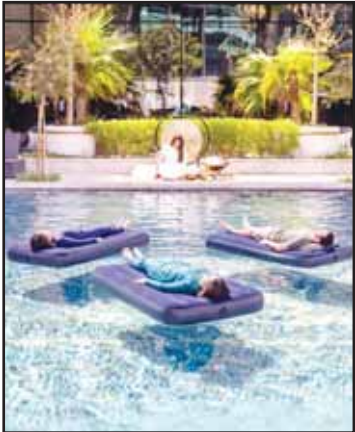
KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Waldorf Astoria Kuwait will introduce a new Poolside Sound Healing Experience this October, offering guests a serene journey centered on relaxation and mindfulness sound, and the calming presence of water.

Launching on October 3, 2026, the one-hour sessions will take place every two weeks over a three-month period. Each session will begin with 15 minutes of guided meditation, followed by 30 to 40 minutes of sound healing and a curated ritual inspired by a different theme each month, incorporating practices such as intention and wish setting.

Set against the tranquil backdrop of the hotel’s pool, the sessions will offer guests the choice of taking part on individual floating mats in the water or from comfortably spaced mats poolside, creating an intimate setting designed to encourage stillness and relaxation.

Commenting on the launch, Saleh Bataineh, General Manager of Waldorf Astoria Kuwait, said: “At Waldorf Astoria Kuwait, we continue to explore meaningful ways to enhance our guests’ well-being through experiences that feel both distinctive and relevant. This new series brings together meditation, sound, and the calming presence of water, creating a moment to slow down, connect, and simply be present”.

The sessions will be led by Shaimaa Bou Rashed, Founder of THE POINT and a sound healing and meditation consultant. Trained internationally in meditation,



sound healing, and aquatic therapy, she leads private and group sessions, floating sound baths, and tailored wellness experiences.

Shaimaa Bou Rashed added: “I’m delighted to collaborate with Waldorf Astoria Kuwait and bring sound healing to such a distinctive setting. Interest in the practice continues to grow within the Ku-



waiti community, as more people explore ways to slow down, reconnect, and cultivate a greater sense of mindfulness. Through these sessions, I hope to create an inviting introduction to sound healing, allowing guests to step away from their daily routines, recharge, and simply be present”.

The Sound Healing Experience



reflects Waldorf Astoria Kuwait’s considered approach to modern luxury, where moments of stillness and personal connection are thoughtfully woven into the guest journey. The three-month series offers a serene new way to unwind, bringing a sense of calm and mindfulness to the hotel’s distinctive poolside setting.

ICSK hosts MUN conference, inspires students towards diplomacy & global leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Indian Community School, Senior, successfully hosted ICSK-MUN 2026–2027, providing students with a valuable platform to experience diplomacy, negotiation, international relations and consensus-building over two days, on Friday, 4th September, and Saturday, 5th September 2026. Mr. Arul Dharmaraj, Principal of Al Amal School, Kuwait graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The conference commenced with an inaugural ceremony hosted by Master of Ceremonies Ariqah Faiz. The programme began with an Islamic prayer led by Master Mujtaba Dilawar, followed by a prayer song presented by the school choir, Swaranjali. Dr. V. Binumon, Principal and Senior Administrator of ICSK, delivered the welcome address, urging delegates to participate in discussions with open minds and uphold the core principles of diplomacy.

Addressing the gathering, the esteemed Chief Guest Mr. Arul Dharmaraj praised the enthusiasm, commitment and active participation of the delegates. He encouraged the students to look beyond familiar boundaries, broaden their perspectives and aspire to become impactful global leaders.

Secretary-General of ICSK-MUN 2026–2027, Ms. Prisha Savla, delivered the Secretary-General’s briefing, outlining the rules of procedure, expectations and guiding principles of the conference before declaring the committees open for deliberations.

Three committees formed the core of the conference. The Disar-

mament and International Security Committee (DISEC), directed by Master Aarav Panwar, deliberated on issues concerning global security and international peace. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), directed by Miss Reddhi Singh, examined international human rights responsibilities and mechanisms for protection. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), directed by Master Arash Abidi Husain, addressed pressing matters relating to international security and political conflicts.

Committee Directors Master Arash Abidi Husain, Miss Reddhi Singh and Master Aarav Panwar shared reflections on their respective committees, highlighting the delegates’ engagement, preparedness and contribution to the discussions.

The event also witnessed the presentation of awards to outstanding delegates. The awards were presented by Mr. Arul Dharmaraj and Dr. V. Binumon. In DISEC, Claire Ann Sajju, Delegate of the USA, was named Best Delegate. Saasha Yesudhasan, Delegate of Denmark, and Kamakshi Jaiswal, Delegate of France, received Honorable Mentions. Aazim Abdul Latheef, Delegate of Sweden, won Best Position Paper, while Shameena Shaikh, Delegate of Iceland, received the Diplomatic Commendation. SudikshaaGnanagopal, Delegate of Germany, was named Most Improved Delegate.

In the UNSC, Rachel Susan Thomas, Delegate of the USA, won Best Delegate. Mujtaba Dilawar Wangde, Delegate of Germany, and

Adiva Chadha, Delegate of Taiwan, received Honorable Mentions. Anusree Bijju, Delegate of France, won Best Position Paper, while Mohammed Fakhruddin, Delegate of South Korea, received the Diplomatic Commendation. Sehrish Khan, Delegate of China, was named Most Improved Delegate.

In the UNHRC, Al Afra Al Ameen, Delegate of South Africa, was named Best Delegate, while Jeanette Anna Saji, Delegate of Russia, received an Honorable Mention. Stuti Ratnawat, Delegate of Iraq, won Best Position Paper. Ayisha Diya, Delegate of the USA, received the Diplomatic Commendation, while Raed Rizwan, Delegate of Australia, was named Most Improved Delegate.

Following the awards, Secretary-General Ms. Prisha Savla announced the Certificates of Participation, which were presented to all delegates by the Chief Guest. Dr. V. Binumon presented a memento to Mr. Arul Dharmaraj as a token of appreciation.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Prisha Savla, who acknowledged the contributions of the school leadership, advisors, Secretariat and delegates towards the successful conduct of the conference.

The event came to a close with all attendees standing in attention for the United Nations Song, “United Nations on the March,” reaffirming the conference’s message of global unity, peace, diplomacy and shared purpose.



Photos during the event.



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

A skyline sculpted by vision: Kuwait City's soaring landmarks and vibrant waterfront now stand at the heart of a new era for tourism.

Experts highlight Kuwait's untapped tourism potential

Kuwait's cultural charm beckons global visitors

By Hanady Watfa

MADRID, Sept 28, (KUNA): Two Spanish experts in tourism and Middle East studies said Kuwait has the potential and resources to strengthen its position as a tourism destination in the region, citing its geographical location, diverse and open society, and coastal and recreational experiences.

Speaking to KUNA, they stressed the importance of diversifying tourism experiences and developing services and infrastructure while preserving Kuwait's social identity and local culture to attract international visitors, particularly from Asian and European markets.

Carlos Luis Gonzalez, Advisor at Turespana's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) office and official responsible for GCC markets, said Kuwait offers distinctive tourism experiences, quality infrastructure and services, noting that the "friendly and hospitable" nature of Kuwaiti society is among its key attractions.

He stressed that developing Kuwait's tourism sector should be balanced and sustainable, taking into account local culture and traditions and involving various stakeholders so that residents and different sectors can benefit from tourism activity.

"Kuwait's tourism development requires creating experiences that attract visitors while respecting local culture and traditions," Gonzalez said.

On tourism in the opposite direction, Gonzalez said interest among Kuwaiti travelers in Spain is growing, describing the Kuwaiti market as having "significant potential for development and growth."

He said Kuwait is "among the best-performing markets" in this regard, amid rising demand and interest in travel to Spain.

The high purchasing power of Kuwaiti travelers and their spending levels during trips give the Kuwaiti market particular importance for Spain, he added.



Carlos Luis Gonzalez, Advisor at Turespana's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) office and official responsible for GCC markets.

Gonzalez said strengthening tourism ties between the two countries requires improving air connectivity, particularly by providing direct flights to additional Spanish destinations.

He also called for expanding options for Kuwaiti tourists to explore lesser-known Spanish destinations, including natural and inland areas, as well as cities beyond Madrid and Barcelona.

From an academic perspective, Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies at the Autonomous University of Madrid and Middle East and Gulf researcher Ignacio Gutierrez de Teran said Kuwait has a number of factors that could



Ignacio Gutierrez de Teran, Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies at the Autonomous University of Madrid and Middle East and Gulf researcher.

support its emergence as a regional tourism destination.

Gutierrez de Teran, whose research focuses on the contemporary history of the Arab and Islamic world and Middle East and Gulf geopolitical dynamics, said Kuwait's geographical position between Central Asia and Europe is among its key advantages.

He also noted that Kuwait's relatively small size facilitates movement between coastal destinations and recreational facilities in the capital compared with some larger Gulf destinations, in addition to its historical experience as a recreational destination and its diverse, outward-looking society.

Gutierrez said Kuwait's economic diversification plans, similar to those of several Gulf countries, make tourism a promising avenue for diversifying sources of income and strengthening the role of the local private sector.

He added that Kuwait's tourism potential is not limited to attracting Western visitors, but could extend particularly to Asian markets, especially China, Japan and India, benefiting from its location in the Middle East and relative proximity to Asia.

At the same time, Gutierrez said infrastructure development remains an important factor in strengthening the tourism sector's competitiveness, particularly expanding the airport and improving road networks and access to tourism and recreational destinations where hotels and residential complexes are currently being developed.

He also stressed the importance of an integrated plan to promote seasonal tourism, particularly from October to February, through special promotional offers and programs, including events and activities linked to the year-end holiday season.

Regarding urban tourism in the capital, he highlighted the importance of increasing investment in museums, recreational facilities and family-oriented activities, as well as developing modern yacht and boat facilities to diversify Kuwait's tourism experience.

The growing interest in the Kuwaiti market comes amid the increasing importance of Gulf markets to Spain. According to the latest data from Turespana, the number of tourists arriving from GCC countries reached around 526,900 in 2025, up 2.3 percent from the previous year.

Gulf tourists' spending in Spain reached a record EUR 1.454 billion (USD 1.66 billion) during the same year, with growth particularly recorded in Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman, while Saudi Arabia and the UAE remained the largest Gulf sources of tourists and spending in Spain, according to the data.

World Tourism Day puts AI in spotlight

Conflict deals blow to Mideast tourism

MADRID, Sept 28, (KUNA): The world marked World Tourism Day on Sunday amid rapid digital and technological transformations in the tourism sector, with UN Tourism placing artificial intelligence (AI) at the center of global discussions on the future of travel and tourism.

This year's official celebrations are being held in San Salvador, El Salvador, under the theme "Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence for Redesigning Tourism," focusing on how technology and AI can reshape tourist experiences and support more accurate decision-making by governments, businesses and travelers.

Digital technologies have become a cornerstone of the tourist journey, from searching for destinations and accommodation to transportation and services.

UN Tourism is highlighting the potential of AI to enhance skills, improve tourism experiences and make the sector more inclusive and sustainable.

UN Tourism Secretary-General Shaikha Al-Nowais said in her annual message that AI is increasingly influencing how people travel, work and communicate, stressing that progress can only be complete when its benefits reach everyone.

She said the current stage represents an opportunity to rethink the direction of tourism transformation and ensure it takes place in a purposeful and inclusive manner.

AI, when properly deployed,



UN Tourism photo
Shaikha Al-Nowais, UN Tourism Secretary-General

can help build a more efficient and resilient tourism sector, she added, warning that unregulated transformation could widen the gap between those shaping new digital rules and those merely complying with them.

The message coincides with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' World Tourism Day message, in which he stressed that technology must serve people and that AI can support small businesses, improve services and create new opportunities.

Guterres warned that unbalanced use of technology could concentrate tourism flows in a limited number of destinations and platforms, calling for an open and inclusive digital future for tourism that places people at its center and advances sustainable development for all.

The discussion comes as international tourism continues to

grow despite economic and geopolitical pressures. Latest UN Tourism data showed that around 690 million international tourists traveled during January-June 2026, nearly three million more than in the same period last year.

Global tourism grew two percent in the first quarter before declining one percent in the second quarter. The decline followed a three-percent drop in April, partly affected by the Easter holiday falling in March this year, the repercussions of the conflict in the Middle East and a three-percent decline in international tourist arrivals in June.

By region, Africa recorded four-percent growth during the first half of the year, while tourist arrivals in Europe rose three percent and those in the Americas increased two percent.

Asia and the Pacific posted limited growth of one percent, amid disruptions to air travel, higher airfares and uncertainty, while arrivals in the Middle East fell 22 percent during the same period due to the direct impact of the conflict.

Despite the negative impact of the conflict on international tourism in the Middle East and other regions since early March 2026, UN Tourism said air travel disruptions began to ease in May and June following the announcement of a ceasefire, with some air routes reopening and consumer confidence recovering unevenly.

Excavations begin at historic Bazira site

Archaeologists explore Aqrah's centuries-old bazaar

ERBIL, Sept 28, (KUNA): The Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage of Duhok Governorate announced Sunday the launch of archaeological excavations at the oldest market in the Aqrah area, conducted by an Italian archaeological team in cooperation with the directorate.

Director General of the Director-

ate of Antiquities and Heritage of Duhok Dr. Bex Brefkani told KUNA that the excavation project at the Bazira archaeological site in Aqrah district is being carried out in coordination between the Italian University of Udine and the Duhok and Aqrah directorates of antiquities and heritage.

He noted that the site includes Khana Bazira, considered one of the region's most important archaeological sites dating to the Islamic era, with its history going back to the 16th century AD.

The khana served at the time as a strategic and important passage and station for visitors and merchants.



KUNA photo

Italian archaeological team conduct excavations at the oldest market in the Aqrah area.

CDC vaccine policy recommendations grind to halt under US Health Secretary Kennedy

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (AP): The Food and Drug Administration recently approved a new flu vaccine that tested well in older adults. But the federal agency responsible for telling doctors and the general public how to use it has made no recommendation on it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s inaction on the mFlusiva vaccine marks a break in longstanding practice. It’s also an example of how the agency’s vaccine review-and-recommendation process has been blown up in the past year, grinding decision-making to a halt.

Efforts by vaccine-wary officials in President Donald Trump’s administration to scale back shot recommendations have been put on hold. Federal guidance on new vaccines has stopped. And public discussion of vaccine policy questions that might cross political divides - including whether there’s solid evidence to justify giving fewer shots to kids - has diminished.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.’s crusade to upend vaccine

policy and the legal action opposing it have disrupted longstanding systems that deliver crucial health guidance to Americans, affecting whether people are getting the best available protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.

“We find ourselves at a point where even if credible evidence (for a new vaccine policy) has reached a tipping point, we don’t have an obvious mechanism that can formalize that change,” said Jason Schwartz, a Yale University health policy researcher who studies government health agencies.

For 60 years, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guided the CDC’s vaccine recommendations. The committee met publicly, reviewed vaccine data and sought input from various health groups. The panel voted on recommendations that went to the CDC director, who almost always adopted them as the government’s guidance, leading public and private insurers to pay for the shots.

Trump, a Republican, appointed Kennedy to oversee federal health

agencies, including the CDC. Kennedy last year dismissed the committee and replaced it with a group that included several anti-vaccine voices. Controversial decisions followed, leading to a lawsuit from the American Academy of Pediatrics and some other medical groups.

In March, a federal judge said Kennedy likely violated federal procedures, stopped Kennedy’s panel from holding further meetings and suspended Kennedy’s decision to reduce the number of vaccines recommended for children.

Many in the medical and public health communities celebrated the decision and took the order as a respite from what they saw as the Trump administration’s assault on vaccines.

Dr. Jason Goldman, president of the American College of Physicians, said he hoped “it will mean a return to a transparent and evidence-driven process that safeguards the health of all communities and the best interests of our patients.”

With Kennedy’s committee shut down by the court order, doctors’

groups that used to collaborate with the ACIP have gone their own way. Working with a University of Minnesota researcher, they have debated - not publicly - the kind of medical evidence formerly presented at ACIP meetings and issued their own recommendations.

The trade association for private health insurers decided to heed the medical societies’ choices, and the insurers have continued to pay for shots recommended by those organizations.

Many of the groups’ recommendations match prior ones made by ACIP and the CDC before Kennedy’s arrival. But they also made their own updates.

For example, ACIP previously recommended that a new shot be given to women late in pregnancy: a vaccine against respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, which can be dangerous to newborns. The government panel recommended that the vaccine be given between September and January in most of the U.S., to coincide with the time of year when RSV infections are most common.



A box of flu vaccines is displayed at a pharmacy in New York on Sept 15. (AP)

5 elderly residents die amid flu outbreak at Portugal care home

Congo Ebola outbreak tops 8,000 confirmed cases as disease remains out of control

BUNIA, Congo, Sept 28, (Agencies): The number of confirmed cases of Ebola virus in Congo has surged past 8,000, as the country runs out of health workers to contain the deadly disease.

Congo announced an outbreak on May 15, caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, which has no known treatment or vaccine, and has struggled to contain it.

Latest data from Congo’s health ministry showed that 8,067 cases have been confirmed, with 3,901 deaths as of Sept. 26 across 63 health zones in seven of the country’s 26 provinces, with a fatality rate of more than 48%.

“The continuously high crude case fatality ratio, and especially the continuously high rate of deaths occurring in communities, highlights the seriousness of the disease and the persistent challenges in timely case detection and access to early and adequate patient care,” the World Health Organization said in its latest report. It means that a large percentage of those infected were dying, without taking into account factors like delay in seeking help and response, or hidden cases.

Last week, the WHO said that Congo is running out of health workers to contain the disease. Health workers have complained about delayed or missing payments, triggering several strikes despite the delicate nature of the outbreak. According to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 50 health workers have died since the outbreak was announced.

Some areas have shown signs of improvement, with a fall in confirmed cases, including in Ituri province and Haut-Uele, but officials say the disease is spreading further in other areas, expanding its geographical reach.

According to data from the Africa CDC, the current outbreak has outpaced the 2-year-long West Africa regional outbreak in terms of spread in the same time. By Week 19, the regional outbreak between 2014 and 2016 recorded 3,781 cases, while the current outbreak recorded 7,840. The WHO said it is on track to surpass the regional outbreak, which killed 11,000 people.

Containment efforts have been hamstrung by insecurity, displacement, a health workers’ strike and intense population movements.



A healthcare worker is disinfected by his colleague inside a treatment center for Ebola patients in Beni, North Kivu province, eastern Congo on Sept 26. (AP)

The three hospital deaths brought the total number of fatalities linked to the outbreak to five, following two earlier deaths at the care home.

The ULSAC public health department visited the care home in Estremoz, in the Evora district, on Thursday and has been conducting epidemiological surveillance, including monitoring compliance with infection control measures, hygiene protocols, isolation procedures and the use of personal protective equipment.

A follow-up visit on Sunday afternoon found no new cases or clinical deterioration among the remaining residents.

Portugal’s Attorney General’s Office confirmed that an inquiry had been opened into the deaths, with no suspects formally identified so far.

Flu: Five elderly residents have died at a care home in southern Portugal following an outbreak of influenza A, local health authorities said Sunday.

The Local Health Unit of Central Alentejo (ULSAC) said that its Multipurpose Emergency Service had received nine patients from the care home since Wednesday. Among these patients, three died, with laboratory tests confirming the virus in two of the deceased. Three others had been discharged from hospital, while three remain hospitalized, it added.

vaccination campaign as the country steps up efforts to contain the measles outbreak, which continues unabated.

Bangladeshi Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Hossain inaugurated the campaign in Dhaka on Saturday with the aim of vaccinating 3.4 million children.

Earlier vaccination rounds that began in April have administered measles-rubella vaccines to 18.5 million children.

Bangladesh recorded 980 new suspected measles cases and three more suspected measles deaths between 8 a.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. on Saturday, the country’s health authority said.

The latest figures bring the total number of suspected measles cases to 186,813 and the suspected death toll to 1,087 since the outbreak began in mid-March.

Meth deaths: Methamphetamine-related deaths, hospitalizations and consumption in Australia have reached record levels, with researchers warning that harms from the illicit drug continue to rise, according to a report released.

There were 753 overdose deaths involving amphetamine-type stimulants, primarily methamphetamine, in 2024, or a rate of 2.9 deaths per 100,000 people, which is substantially higher than in previous years, said the report released by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Center (NDARC).

Nearly 14,000 hospitalizations were due to methamphetamine use in 2023-24, accounting for 24 percent of all drug-related hospitalizations, the report said.

Wastewater drug monitoring showed an estimated 15.8 tonnes of methamphetamine was consumed across Australia in 2024-25, the highest level recorded, with consumption particularly elevated in regional areas, said Associate Professor Amy Peacock, who leads NDARC’s drug trends program.

The rising harms were driven by increased global supply and strong local demand for the illicit drug, Peacock said.

The burden of methamphetamine-related harms has also shifted toward older age groups. People aged 15-24 accounted for 5 percent of amphetamine-type stimulant overdose deaths in 2024, down from one in eight in 2005, while mortality rates increased among people aged 25-54, she said.

The report also found that more than 16 tonnes of methamphetamine was seized by Australian authorities in 2024, significantly higher than in previous years, and called for coordinated efforts on prevention, harm reduction, treatment and monitoring.



A wildfire consumes land recently deforested by cattle farmers near Novo Progresso, Para state, Brazil, Aug. 23, 2020. (AP)

New firefighting fund launched but funding gap remains as wildfires worsen worldwide

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (AP): A United Nations report released shows that there is still a multibillion dollar funding gap for preserving tropical forests, which are key to fighting climate change.

A new fund that aims to raise \$100 million for firefighting in South America, home to the Amazon rainforest, was announced this week at New York Climate Week and the UN General Assembly. But the funding excludes vast swathes of forests in Africa and Southeast Asia.

As the fund launched, wildfires spread across the Amazon during the peak of its dry season. On Wednesday, smoke blanketed the city of Manaus in Brazil, causing air quality to hit unhealthy levels, according to IQAir, an air quality monitoring service.

“We’re at the possibility that we might lose the Amazon altogether, and once we lose the Amazon, we don’t get it back - the next couple of years are really going to matter,” said Kumar Garg, president of Renaissance Philanthropy, one of the

groups steering the new fund.

Southeast Asia was left out of the fund, even as worsening climate change, caused by the burning of fuels like gas and oil, combined with an intensifying El Nino, have also fanned fires there.

Massive fires in Indonesia have torched large stretches of land and triggered public health concerns over toxic haze across the region.

“Forest fires are a global issue,” said Bhima Yudhistira, executive director of the Jakarta-based Center of Economic and Law Studies, or CE-LIOS, who said leaving out Southeast Asia is “a big mistake.”

“Many of the tropical forest regions are affected by forest fires and need international solidarity,” he said.

South America endured one of its most severe fire seasons in 2024, breaking records across the Amazon, the Pantanal and the Chiquitano dry forest. Authorities, researchers and donors are racing to prevent a repeat this year and next, when El Nino is

expected to worsen drought and heat across the region.

The new fund aims to improve detection and response to wildfires in South America and draws inspiration from existing solutions, like a 15-year-old Indigenous fire brigade program in Bolivia and a fire-detection camera network in Brazil.

The fund, led by the non-profits Renaissance Philanthropy and Conservation X Labs, is anchored on a \$30 million contribution from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and an additional \$5 million commitment from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. It is the latest expansion of global financing to conserve the world’s tropical rainforests, which store large amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

“We have to respond to fire in South America like we would any humanitarian crisis,” said Alex Dehgan, CEO of Conservation X Labs and Renaissance Philanthropy’s South America fire fund director.

Chinese space professionals advance exploration with rigor and innovation

BEIJING, Sept 28, (Agencies): From an initial vision to the routine operation of China’s space station and the steady advance of crewed lunar exploration, China’s space program has blazed a new “Long March” with no precedent.

What has enabled Chinese space professionals to walk this path with steady steps and achieve one milestone after another is rigor and innovation.

In the eyes of **He Pengju**, a technical chief at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, this rigorous, innovative approach enabled them to complete China’s first-ever emergency launch mission in the history of its manned space program.

Speaking at a press conference recently held by the State Council Information Office, he reviewed the emergency launch of the Shenzhou-22 spacecraft last November.

Before Shenzhou-20’s scheduled return on Nov. 5, tiny cracks were found in the viewport window of the spacecraft’s return capsule, most likely due to an impact with space debris.

Postponed until Nov. 14, the return saw the three Shenzhou-20 astronauts safely home aboard Shenzhou-21. China launched Shenzhou-22 on Nov. 25 to act as the return vehicle for the Shenzhou-21 crew.

From the discovery of the anomaly to the emergency launch of Shenzhou-22, the entire process took only 20 days.

“At the very beginning of the space station’s construction, we established a ‘rolling backup’ strategy, with one combination of a spaceship and rocket assigned for launch and another combination as backup,” he said.

“Once this special situation came up, we ran ground simulations and verification assessments to determine the worst-case impact,” he said. With that, all major systems, coordinated under one mission headquarters, worked as one and moved through the entire process -- risk assessment, plan formation, emergency launch.

“The whole process was flawless,” he added.

“Even with ten thousand successes, a single hidden danger can reduce all efforts to zero. For space workers, there are only two options: 100 points or zero,” said Du Changshuai, an associate researcher at the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

During the construction of China’s space station, the system testing specifications Du helped draft stacked more than one meter high, with thousands of parameters to check one by one.

“Even a tiny mistake is unacceptable,” Du said.

While precision ensures smooth construction, innovation has allowed Du to give wings to various scientific experiments and lift them into orbit. At the press conference, he showed a special photo: two mice floating and moving in an experimental unit aboard the space station.

Less than a year ago, four pre-screened, trained mice arrived at China’s space station, living in an automatically climate-controlled habitat with Earth-like day-night

lighting. Fed custom-formulated food, they returned safely after 14 days in orbit. One of them later gave birth to nine pups.

“China’s space station has now entered the application and development phase. My team and I have led the implementation of around 200 space science experiment projects of this kind and produced a number of important scientific and application results,” Du said.

China’s innovative space professionals are targeting the moon, some 380,000 km away. At the press conference, Yang Liwei, China’s first astronaut in space, laid out the crewed lunar roadmap.

Two rockets will send up the Mengzhou crewed spaceship and Lanyue lunar lander, which will dock in lunar orbit. Astronauts will board the lander to land on the moon.

After surface tasks, they will blast off to re-dock in lunar orbit and head home on Mengzhou.

The Earth-Moon round trip, rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit, and precise lunar landing and liftoff must all be flawless, because at that distance, many operations have no backup or rescue, Yang said.

China aims for a crewed lunar landing by 2030. Core flight hardware -- the Long March-10 carrier rocket, Mengzhou crewed spacecraft and Lanyue lunar lander -- is progressing steadily.

Multiple critical tests have been finished. They include Mengzhou spacecraft’s zero-height abort and maximum dynamic pressure escape tests, the Lanyue lunar lander’s landing and takeoff test, plus the static fire test and the low-altitude demonstration and validation test for the Long March-10 rocket system.

Long Lehao, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and a carrier rocket expert at the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, noted China’s Long March rockets will pursue higher lift capacity, larger payloads, airline-style transportation and intelligent technologies. “In the future, we will also develop suborbital vehicles, trying to let ordinary people experience about 10 to 15 minutes of temporary weightlessness.”

“The ‘Long March’ of China’s space endeavor is always ongoing,” Long said. In 1966, Qian Xuesen, a pioneer of China’s space program, suggested naming the country’s carrier rockets “Long March.”

The name symbolizes that developing Chinese carrier rockets is itself a new Long March toward the sea of stars, which will surely end in glory despite challenges, he added.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: NASA has announced the four-member crew for its SpaceX Crew-14 mission to the International Space Station, with astronauts from the **United States, Japan and Russia** set to launch no earlier than spring 2027 for a long-duration science mission.

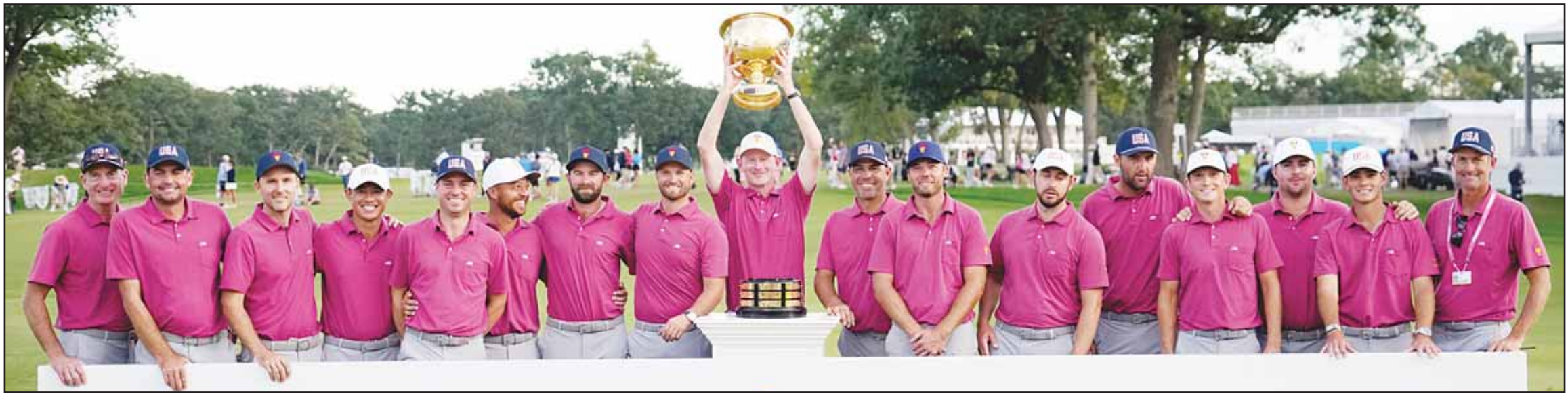
NASA astronauts **Kayla Barron** and **Chris Birch** will serve as the spacecraft commander and pilot, respectively, while Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut **Makoto Suwa** and Roscosmos cosmonaut **Arutyun Kiviryan** will serve as mission specialists, according to NASA.



He

Americans rally from deficit to win Presidents Cup

Fitzpatrick takes fourth title of year



USA team captain Brandt Snedeker holds the trophy up as players pose for a photo after the Presidents Cup golf tournament final round against the International team at Medinah Country Club, in Medinah, Ill. (AP)

MEDINAH, Ill., Sept 28, (AP): U.S. captain Brandt Snedeker won't have to second-guess the outcome of this Presidents Cup. He went from blaming himself for a three-point deficit to watching the Americans deliver the biggest Sunday rout in tournament history to win for the 11th straight time.

Outplayed over three days in team matches at Medinah, the Americans flipped two key singles matches on the back nine - one from two-time major champion Collin Morikawa, the other from 21-year-old rookie Jackson Koivun. And it was a rush of red scores at

the end. President Donald Trump was on the first tee for the start of 12 singles matches, and he kept his speech short. "It's going to be a very interesting game of golf," he said. That it was, even if the outcome was all too familiar. The Americans won nine of the 12 singles and halved the final match on the course when the Presidents Cup already was decided, adding to a 17-13 victory. Meanwhile, Matt Fitzpatrick closed with a 1-under 70 and eased to victory at the French Open for his fourth title of the year. Fitzpatrick saw his five-shot lead get trimmed to two shots at various points at Le Golf National before pulling away for a three-shot win over Spaniard Angel Hidalgo (67). The win capped a special few weeks for Fitzpatrick who, with his wife Katherine, recently welcomed their first child. Local favorite Tom Vaillant, a two-time winner on the

smaller Alps Tour but still looking for his first European tour title, tied for third after a 70. Hidalgo's second-place finish guaranteed him a spot at the British Open at St. Andrews next year through the International Qualifying Series. Yuna Nishimura played a flawless back nine after allowing the chasing pack to get close early and won the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship by five shots on Sunday for her first LPGA victory. A six-time winner on the Japan LPGA, the 26-year-old Nishimura closed with a 5-under 66 for a three-day total of 21-under 192 at Pinnacle Country Club. Leading by five shots entering the day after back-to-back 63s, Nishimura shot even-par 36 on the front nine while another Japanese player, Aki Iwai, made a charge with six birdies in seven holes to start the back nine. Iwai shot a bogey-free 62 and tied for second with Chanettee Wannasaen (65)

and In Gee Chun (67). Casandra Alexander of South Africa won for the second time in three Ladies European Tour events when she closed with a 3-under 69 for a three-shot victory over Sophie Hausmann and Anna Morgan in the Buccellati Ladies Italian Open. Kaito Onishi held on with a 3-under 67 for a one-shot victory over Taichiro Ideriha and Satoshi Kodaira in the Richard Mille Charity Tournament on the Japan Golf Tour. Chien-yao Hung of Taiwan captured his first Asian Tour title with a 1-under 71 for a one-shot victory over Wade Ormsby of Australia in the Mercuries Taiwan Masters. Kyle De Beer capped off a six-shot victory with an 8-under 64 in the Rwanda Open on the Sunshine Tour. Women's British Open champion Shiko Kuwaki closed with a 4-under 68 for a two-shot victory in the Miyagi TV Cup Dunlop Ladies Open, her third title this year on the Japan LPGA.



Ahli Bank of Kuwait's logo featured on the club members' jerseys during the visit.

ABK sponsors Porsche Club Kuwait trip to Germany

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has announced its sponsorship of Porsche Club Kuwait's trip to Germany, reflecting its commitment to supporting youth and sporting activities on an international level as part of its corporate social responsibility programme.

This first-of-its-kind sponsorship reflects ABK's role as a community partner. Beyond providing innovative banking and financial solutions, the Bank supports activities that create a positive, lasting impact and meet the aspirations of different segments of the community.

The trip introduced participants to the ABK Visa Infinite Advantage card and the benefits it offers for payments in Kuwait and abroad. It also included a Porsche driving experience through several well-known German cities and landmarks, as well as a special visit to the brand's museum and main factory. A group of Porsche Club Kuwait members took part.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer at ABK, said, "We are pleased to support Porsche Club Kuwait on this exceptional trip to Germany. We believe in creating international experiences that encourage passion and excellence among young Kuwaitis."

He added, "Our partnership with Porsche Club Kuwait reflects our commitment to delivering value to different segments of society by supporting activities that bring together sport and learning. It also reflects our confidence in the ability of young people to represent Kuwait with distinction abroad."

He said the sponsorship demonstrates how the banking sector and civil society



Mr. Sager Albenali, Chief Communications Officer

organisations can work together to organise distinctive events.

"Our approach to social responsibility includes creating engaging experiences that combine recreation with the exchange of ideas," he said. "We are committed to supporting sporting initiatives and activities that deliver added value and strengthen our position as a key partner across different sectors."

Albenali concluded, "This sponsorship builds on our longstanding partnership with Porsche Club Kuwait. We regularly sponsor its annual festival, which attracts driving enthusiasts eager to explore the latest models and designs available in the local market. We will continue to support meaningful initiatives through our corporate social responsibility programme, which covers health, sport, education and the environment, strengthening the principles of genuine community partnership in Kuwait."

Liberty crushes top-seeded Lynx

Aces cruise past Fever behind Wilson's 38-point performance and 16 rebounds

LAS VEGAS, Sept 28, (AP): A'ja Wilson played like an MVP, totaling 38 points, 16 rebounds and four blocked shots Sunday, and the Las Vegas Aces rolled to a 102-85 Game 1 victory over the Indiana Fever in the first round of the WNBA playoffs.

Wilson was named the Associated Press WNBA Player of the Year earlier in the day for an unprecedented third year in a row, and the third-seeded Aces looked every bit like the team that has won three of the past four championships. Wilson's scoring total matched a personal career postseason high.

Caitlin Clark and Indiana, which is seeded sixth, will get a chance to even the series on its court when the teams meet Tuesday night and force a Game 3 in Las Vegas. A loss ends the Fever's season and sends the defending champion Aces on to the semifinals.

It wasn't all Wilson for the Aces, who also received strong contributions from Jackie Young (21 points, 10 assists), Chelsea Gray (14 points, eight assists) and Jewell Loyd (10 points). Gray now has 397 career playoff assists to pass Courtney Vandersloot (390) for second place in playoff history.

Alyiah Boston finished with 18 points and eight rebounds for the Fever, despite being hampered by a lower leg injury. Clark had 15 points and 10 assists, and Kelsey Mitchell, who put together a record 27-game streak with at least 20 points, scored 12 point on 4-of-16 shooting.

Wilson came out blazing, ending the first half with 22 points on 9-of-11 shooting to go with six rebounds and three blocked shots. Fans chanted "M-V-P" when Wilson went to the free throw line. The Aces led 62-47 at halftime and were never seriously threatened in the second half, leading by as many as 27 points. They just missed the franchise record for most points in a playoff half. Las Vegas scored 63 points against Phoenix on Aug. 20, 2022.

Liberty 91, Lynx 75 In Minneapolis, Breanna Stewart produced yet another clutch performance in the WNBA playoffs with 34 points and 12 rebounds for the New York Liberty in a victory over the top-seeded Minnesota Lynx to open their best-of-three first-round series.

Stewart, the two-time league MVP, added six assists, two steals and two blocks. She shot 11 for 18 from the



Atlanta Dream guard Rhyne Howard (10) dribbles against Washington Mystics guard Betnijah Laney-Hamilton (4) during the first half in Game 1 of an WNBA basketball first-round playoff series in Atlanta. (AP)

floor with her friend and former college teammate Napheesa Collier, the 2024 WNBA Defensive Player of the Year, guarding her most of the afternoon.

Stewart, who recently helped the U.S. national team win a fifth consecutive World Cup, has the second-highest postseason scoring average by any player in league history. She was two short of the Liberty franchise record for points in a playoff game.

Nia Brodie led the Lynx with 16 points in 19 minutes off the bench and Kayla McBride had 14 points after missing her first five 3-point attempts. Collier and All-Star center Natasha Howard each fouled out, and star rookie Olivia Miles had a quiet post-season debut with 11 points on 3-for-12 shooting and just one assist.

New York hosts Game 2 on Tuesday with the opportunity to eliminate Minnesota, which must win to bring Game 3 back to Target Center on Thursday.

The Liberty were as tough of an opponent as a team with the league's best regular season record could face, finishing 26-18 and just two years re-

moved from their first WNBA championship that came at the expense of the Lynx in a dramatic final that went the full five games.

The Liberty were ousted in the first round last season by the Phoenix Mercury, who then eliminated the top-seeded Lynx before losing to the Las Vegas Aces for the title.

Zandalasini scores 22, leads Valkyries past Wings 104-80 in Game 1 of first-round playoff series

Valkyries 104, Wings 80

In San Francisco, Cecilia Zandalasini scored 22 points, Gabby Williams added 20, and the second-seeded Golden State Valkyries ran away from the Dallas Wings by halftime for win in the teams' playoff opener.

Paige Bueckers had 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting and six rebounds for Dallas, which won seven of eight to end the season to earn the seventh seed and will now try to stave off elimination at home.

Game 2 in the best-of-three series is Wednesday in Dallas and, if necessary, Game 3 would be Friday back at Chase Center in front of the raucous,

violet-clad sellout home crowd in "Ballhalla."

Tiffany Hayes had 21 points off the bench as the second-year Valkyries scored their most points ever, and Veronica Burton contributed 10 points. Zandalasini shot 7 for 11 with four 3-pointers.

The Valkyries outscored Dallas 37-11 in the second quarter and went 10 for 20 from 3-point range in the first half on the way to a 58-31 advantage at the break. The Valkyries shot 18 for 36 on 3-pointers in the game.

Dream 92, Mystics 77

In College Park, Rhyne Howard had 26 points and five steals, Angel Reese added 13 points and 12 rebounds in her first career playoff game, and the Atlanta Dream beat the Washington Mystics. Game 2 of the series is Wednesday in Washington.

The No. 5 seed Mystics committed 22 turnovers which Atlanta converted into 27 points. The Dream, who rallied from an 11-point deficit, set the franchise's playoff record with 16 steals, two shy on the WNBA mark of 18 held by Indiana from 2009.

Embassy of India
Kuwait

Tender No.- KUW/CONS/415/01/2026

Dated- 28 September, 2026

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Outsourcing of CPV Services at the Embassy of India, Kuwait

Embassy of India, Kuwait invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Outsourcing of CPV Services from interested Companies/Firms

Prospective / Interested companies/firms are advised to carefully read and go through the entire RFP and submit their offers/bids in the sealed cover (as prescribed in RFP) marked "Tender Documents for Outsourcing of CPV services at the Embassy of India, Kuwait - to be opened by addressee only" and addressed to the "Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait." The bid must be submitted at the Embassy on or before 26 October 2026 (Monday) (Time- 15:00 hrs Kuwait Time). A pre bid conference will be held at 10:00 hrs on 08 October 2026 [Thursday] in the Embassy of India, Kuwait.

The detailed Tender Document along with its Annexure may be downloaded from Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/> and also the official website of the Embassy of India, Kuwait from <https://indembkuwt.gov.in/whats-new.php>. (please scan QR)

For any other clarification please contact Mr. Manas Raj Patel, Head of Chancery on any working day (Sunday - Thursday) between 0800 hrs 1630 hrs on +965-22530613 or email to: hoc.kuwait@mea.gov.in and cons2.kuwait@mea.gov.in.

Larson wins fourth Kansas race after late pass

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Sept 28, (AP): Kyle Larson has always found it easier to be the hunter than the hunted.

He won't have much choice in the matter now.

The defending NASCAR Cup Series champion capped a dominant performance at Kansas Speedway on Sunday by passing Chase Briscoe with seven laps left and leading the rest of the way, leaving Larson to wheel his No. 5 Chevrolet into victory lane for a record-tying fourth time at the mile-and-a-half oval and with a padded lead in the Chase for the championship standings.

Larson won each of the first two stages and broke his own record by leading 235 laps, allowing him to turn the slimmest of leads - a single point over Denny Hamlin at the start of the day - into a 26-point advantage heading to Las Vegas next weekend.

"Such a good day," Larson said. "I was going to be happy with second how the race went, but to get the lead, that's a big

deal."

Briscoe chased down Larson throughout the final stage, finally getting around him with 30 laps to go. But after briefly pulling away, the No. 19 Toyota began to get loose, and Briscoe brushed the wall. Larson closed in on the lead again, made a move on the low side and powered away, taking the checkered flag for the second time in three races.

He also won at St. Louis, a victory that had ended a maddening 51-race winless drought.

"I think it's easier to be the hunter than the hunted," Larson said. "With me out front, I'm just defending, trying to guess on what the fast lines are, and when he got in front of me he started getting really loose."

So loose that Briscoe drifted all the way back to fourth. Austin Cindric wound up second and Hamlin finished third.

"It was better for me being in second. It would tighten me up and allow me to be a little better," Briscoe said, "and as soon

as I got the lead I got really free again. Frustrating for sure."

Cindric spent much of the day stalking Larson but was never able to get his No. 2 Ford around him. He might have been the fastest car on the track at the end, too, but Cindric was too far back to mount a challenge for the victory.

"I wish I would have had at least a shot at it. I thought we could join the fun at least," Cindric said, "but proud of the effort."

It was a similar story - and a bittersweet day - for Hamlin, whose strong third-place run nevertheless cost him in the points race. The revamped Chase format offers a big reward for wins, and Larson was the one doing a celebratory burnout at the end.

"Just didn't quite have it today," Hamlin said. "We could be really good in the long run. In the short run, the 5 was really good. The 2 was good. And we just couldn't quite hold those guys off, or keep them close enough in the short run."



Kyle Larson celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Kansas City, Kan. (AP)

Infantino watches

Spain wins Women’s U-20 World Cup in penalty shootout with North Korea

ŁÓDŹ, Poland, Sept 28, (AP): Spain added to its burgeoning haul of global soccer titles after winning the Women’s Under-20 World Cup.

Goalkeeper Laia López saved two penalties in a 4-3 shootout win over defending champion North Korea in the final.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino watched in Łódź, Poland as López saved spot kicks from Choe Yon-a and Pak Il-Sim in the shootout after the game had ended 0-0.

“I think it’s the happiest day of our lives,” Spain defender Silvia Cristobal said. “We’ve dreamed of being here and lifting this long-awaited trophy since we were little.”

Spain’s senior women’s and men’s teams are also the current holders of their respective World Cup titles.

It’s the second Women’s Under-20 World Cup title for Spain after winning in 2022.

Despite the shootout loss, North Korea became the first team not to concede a single goal at a Women’s Under-20 World Cup.

“All of our players were crying and that really broke my heart. So I tried to comfort them,” North Korea coach Han Chol-Hak said.

“And as the head coach, I think that they all did their best. So I’m very proud of them.”

Colombia beat Italy 4-3 on penalties to win the bronze medal match.



Spain players celebrate with the trophy after the Women's U20 World Cup final soccer match between Spain and North Korea in Lodz, Poland. (AP)

L AFC fires coach Dos Santos

Thiaré strikes in 99th minute as Columbus beats Miami

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept 28, (AP): Jamal Thiaré scored in the ninth minute of stoppage time, Josef Martínez scored his first goal for the Crew, and Columbus beat Inter Miami and Leo Messi 2-1.

Messi, who leads MLS in goals (21) and assists (13, tied with four others) this season, scored in 33rd minute for Miami (12-5-10), which has one win (but just two losses) in its last 10 games.

Miami’s Santiago Morales was shown a yellow card in the fourth minute of stoppage time and then a red about 2 minutes later.

Brais Méndez bent a shot from just outside the penalty area around two defenders that was parried by goalkeeper Patrick Schulte, who finished with two saves, but Thiaré slammed home the first-touch put-back from the top of the 6-yard box.

The Crew (8-14-5) had just 46% possession but outshot Miami 14-5, 7-3 on target.

After Yannick Bright pulled Josef Martínez to the ground at the top of the 6-yard box as Méndez played a corner kick into area, Martínez converted from the penalty spot to open the scoring in the 28th minute. The 33-year-old Martínez, who set the MLS single-season goals record with 31 in 2018 (Carlos Vela of Los Angeles FC broke the mark with 34 goals in 2019), signed with the Crew on Aug. 13.

Messi, from about 7 yards off the right end line, slipped a bending a free kick - Miami’s only shot in the first half - over the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Patrick Schulte and under the crossbar and inside the back post into the side-net to make it 1-1.

Rocco Ríos Novo had five saves for Miami.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles FC fired head coach Marc Dos Santos, late in his disappointing first season in charge.

General manager John Thorington announced the dismissal. LAFC didn’t immediately name a replacement for Dos Santos, who was Thorington’s hand-picked successor to MLS Cup-winning coach Steve Cherundolo just nine months ago.

“Marc has given a great deal to this club over the years, and we are grateful for his commitment, care and contributions to LAFC,” Thorington said in a statement.

LAFC undeniably has underachieved this season under Dos Santos, Cherundolo’s assistant for four seasons and the former head coach of the Vancouver Whitecaps. Despite a talented roster headlined by Son Heung-min and Denis Bouanga, LAFC sits sixth in the Western Conference standings at 11-9-8 after winning just one of its past nine games across all



Columbus Crew's Sean Zawadzki, left, and Inter Miami's Daniel Pinter fight for a header during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Columbus, Ohio. (AP)



Greece's Kostas Tsimikas, left, and Germany's Serge Gnabry fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Germany and Greece in Augsburg, Germany. (AP)

Portugal edges Norway with Ronaldo on bench

AUGSBURG, Sept 28, (AP): Germany slumped to its first defeat under Jürgen Klopp with Dimitris Kourbelis giving Greece a shock 1-0 away win in the Nations League.

The Greek substitute scored with a deflected shot in the 74th minute, somewhat spoiling the mood in Augsburg where Klopp was making his home debut as Germany coach.

It was Germany’s first ever loss to Greece, the 2004 European champion.

“It’s part of the process, absolutely,” Klopp told broadcaster ARD. “The lineup, the formation, the many changes - that is all 100% down to me.”

Klopp oversaw a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands in his first game in charge on Thursday.

His team dominated the first half against Greece with 77% possession according to Opta, albeit without creating many clear goal-chances.

Karim Adeyemi forced a fine save from Konstantinos Tzolakis in the 32nd minute but the Greek goalkeeper otherwise had little to do.

The visitors became more ambitious in the second half with Fotis Ioannidis missing a big chance, and defender Jonathan Tah preventing another, before Kourbelis stunned the home fans.

“To be honest, we simply didn’t perform well enough,” Tah said. “Of course we’re disappointed and angry when we lose a match. But the important thing is that we stick together.



Norway’s Torbjørn Lysaker Heggem, left, and Portugal’s Francisco Conceição vie for the ball during a Nations League soccer match between Norway and Portugal, in Oslo. (AP)

er. That won’t change, the euphoria around the new coach. If we don’t play well and we lose, obviously not everyone is going to be happy. But we can make up for it in the next game.”

Germany next faces Serbia in Munich on Thursday.

Cristiano Ronaldo had to be content with a place on the substitutes bench in a 2-1 away win for Portugal over Norway.

Ronaldo watched João Félix score his second goal in as many games as Portugal opened the scoring in Oslo.

Félix took a touch to control Pedro Neto’s cross before shooting low inside the corner in the 17th.

Erling Haaland missed chances before he finally equalized in the 51st. It was the Nor-

wegian star’s 65th goal in 57 appearances for his country.

But Gonçalo Ramos - playing in Ronaldo’s place - scored three minutes later after intercepting a poor pass by Norway goalkeeper Ørjan Nyland. Ramos thought he’d made it 3-1 before the hour mark after another Nyland mistake only to have the goal ruled out for offside after a VAR check.

Denmark defeated Wales 2-0 for its first win in the other Group A4 game.

Mexx Meerdink scored twice as the Netherlands beat Serbia 2-1 away, giving new coach Xavi Hernández his first win in charge.

The 23-year-old Meerdink, who plays for AZ Alkmaar, made his first start for his country and he opened the scoring with a confidently taken penalty in the 30th minute before canceling Luka Jović’s equalizer after the break with what proved to be the winner in the 69th.

It was set up by Ruben van Bommel, who has now created as many goals in as many games for the Dutch after his brilliant cross for Cody Gakpo’s late equalizer in the 1-1 draw with Germany.

Meerdink, who made his second appearance after his debut Thursday, has two goals in as many games.

They gave the Netherlands its first win in Group A2, which Greece leads after two wins.

Ireland defeated Israel 3-0 in a contentious match in Debrecen, Hungary after bitter opposition in Ireland over Israel’s actions in Gaza.

Zverev adds Laver Cup clincher to his big year

LONDON, Sept 28, (AP): Alexander Zverev added another highlight moment to his breakout season by clinching the decisive points that brought the Laver Cup back to Team Europe.

Zverev - who captured his first two Grand Slam titles this year by winning the French Open and U.S. Open - beat Learner Tien 7-6 (3), 6-3 to make it a 13-5 victory for Europe. Zverev has been a part of all six Team Europe victories in the Ryder Cup-style event, and owns the most Laver Cup singles wins with eight.

“Winning as a team - there’s no better feeling in sports,” Zverev said. “We don’t have enough of it in tennis. Being among these great players you normally see across the net every single week, it’s just fun



Team Europe celebrate after beating Team World to win the Laver Cup tennis tournament in London. (AP)

being out here.” Team World had won in San Francisco last year. It was an improved perfor-

mance for Zverev after his nine-match winning streak in singles - his U.S. Open title and two Davis

Cup victories for Germany last weekend - ended with a loss to Alex de Minaur on Saturday.

“I haven’t won a Laver Cup match in two years, so I’m happy I did it today,” Zverev said. “Massive credit to the entire Team World. They pushed us all the way again. ... We had a great team. We have a great team chemistry.”

The 13th-ranked Tien had beaten Flavio Cobolli in his Laver Cup debut on Saturday.

Earlier, Cobolli and Jakub Mensik extended Europe’s lead by beating De Minaur and Taylor Fritz 7-5, 6-3 in doubles.

Zverev’s victory sealed with it three matches to spare - which meant that Carlos Alcaraz didn’t need to take the court for the third match of the day against De Minaur.

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait's No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage celebrates after winning the men's javelin throw final, at the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. (AP)

Sports

Blues face Oman in final group clash

Kuwait eyes winning send-off at Gulf Cup

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

JEDDAH, Sept 28: Kuwait will look to end its Gulf Cup campaign on a high when they face Oman at 8:30 pm today at Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Sports City Stadium in the final round of Group A at the 27th Arabian Gulf Cup.

In the other Group A match, Saudi Arabia takes on Iraq at King Abdullah Sports City Stadium at the same time.

Saudi Arabia has already secured a semifinal place with six points, while Iraq, on four points, and Oman, on one, are battling for the second qualification spot.

With its semifinal hopes already over, Kuwait will be looking to restore pride and give its fans something to celebrate after losing 1-0 to Saudi Arabia and 3-2 to Iraq.

The Blues were competitive in both matches but were punished by fine margins. They conceded an own goal against Saudi Arabia before surrendering a late winner to Iraq in the ninth minute of stoppage time (90+9), despite seven minutes being initially added by Moroccan referee Jalal Jaid.

Kuwait coach Hélio Sousa knows a victory would be valuable in rebuilding confidence among his players and supporters. The Blues have shown encouraging signs in their opening two games, and a positive result would provide a morale boost and reward their efforts in the tournament.

Oman also needs a win to keep their semifinal hopes alive. They



Players preparing for the match.

must win by more than two goals and hope Iraq loses to Saudi Arabia by at least one goal.

Oman has yet to impress consistently, drawing 1-1 with Iraq after a better second-half display and losing 3-0 to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, can afford to rotate their squad after securing qualification. The coaching staff is expected to give playing time to some players who have featured little so far, with the semifinals scheduled for Saturday.

Iraq has the advantage in the race for second place and can qualify with a win or draw. A one-goal defeat could also be enough if Oman fails to win, while Oman's qualification hopes depend on both the margin of their victory and the Saudi Arabia-Iraq result.

Zamalek plays Brazil's Pinheiros

Burgan aims for strong finish against Veszprem at Club WC



Players gear up for their last match.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Sept 28: Burgan will face Hungarian powerhouse Veszprem at 5:45 pm today in their final Group B preliminary-round match at the Handball Club World Cup in Cairo.

The Kuwaiti side is seeking a strong finish to its historic debut after suffering a 35-17 defeat to host Al Ahly in the second round. Burgan struggled to keep pace with the Egyptian champion in front of its home crowd.

The challenge gets even tougher against Veszprem, who is among the tournament favorites. The Hungarian side comes into the match on the back of a thrilling 34-33 victory over German club Füchse Berlin.

Burgan began its campaign against Füchse Berlin before facing Al Ahly, and will now complete the preliminary stage against Veszprem.

Other matches today include Zamalek against Brazil's Pinheiros, Barcelona against Morocco's Derb Sultan, and Füchse Berlin against Al Ahly.

In the second round, Barcelona defeated Zamalek 39-29, Pinheiros beat Derb Sultan 37-22, while Sydney University overcame Los Angeles 27-23.

Burgan's coaching staff and players will look to build on its experience against Veszprem and deliver a more disciplined performance. The tournament marks a landmark moment for the club after its Asian Club Championship triumph earned them its first-ever appearance at the global event.

Iraq awarded Gulf Cup 28 hosting rights

JEDDAH, Sept 28, (KUNA): The Executive Committee of the Gulf Football Federation on Monday approved Iraq's bid to host the 28th Arabian Gulf Cup (Gulf 28), in line with the federation's regulations and approved standards.

The decision was taken during the committee's meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, held on the sidelines of the ongoing Gulf Cup 27 and chaired by federation president Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

According to a federation statement, the committee reviewed the Iraqi Football Federation's request to host the tournament, noting that it was the only bid submitted by a member association.

The Iraqi Football Federation must now notify the federation of the host city within the specified timeframe and complete all organizational requirements under the federation's regulations.

The federation said the decision reflects its commitment to strengthening cooperation with member associations, developing Gulf competitions and supporting their successful hosting and organization.

At the close of the meeting, Sheikh Hamad reaffirmed his continued support for FIFA President Gianni Infantino and said he would maintain that support in the coming period.



Kazma players celebrate with the championship trophy.

Kazma crowned futsal league champion

Kazma was crowned 2025-26 Futsal League champion after defeating Yarmouk on aggregate over the two-leg final, in accordance with the competition regulations.

Yarmouk finished runner-up following the decisive match at Al-Shabab Club's indoor hall.

Kuwait Football Association board member Dr Adel Al-Adwani presented Kazma with the

league trophy, while Yarmouk received the runners-up award. The ceremony was attended by Indoor Competitions Department director Faraj Al-Faraj.

Al-Qenaei, Al-Sarraj reach padel round of 16 as Pathirage clinches javelin gold

India's Singh and Yadav complete the podium

NAGOYA, Japan, Sept 28, (Agencies): Kuwait's national shooting team maintained its strong showing at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, posting impressive results on the second day of the individual and team trap competitions.

The Kuwait trio of Khaled Al-Mudhaf, Talal Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Feihan leads the team trap standings with 287 hits.

The competition resumes today at 4 am with a crucial final round featuring 25 more targets, taking the total to 125. The results will determine the shooters who advance to the medal round.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's women's padel duo Dalal Al-Qenaei and Mar-yam Al-Sarraj secured a place in the women's doubles round of 16, adding another achievement to Kuwait's campaign.

In athletics, Bader Suwaid ended his Asian Games campaign after finishing 11th in the 1,500m.

Padel action continues today, with



Kuwaiti returns a shot to an opponent (unseen) during the Asian Games.

Noor Hassan and Zainab Sarkhous competing in the first round of the women's doubles. Al-Qenaei and Al-Sarraj will play their round-of-16 match at 4 am, followed by the men's doubles second-round match involving Abdulrahman Al-Awadhi and Hussein Shams.

Kuwaiti sailor Amina Shah will resume her qualification campaign

at 8 am, while Kuwait's men's team faces the Philippines in the qualification round at the same time.

Athlete Ibrahim Al-Dhafiri will also be in action, competing in the 800m final at 2:05 pm.

The javelin is often overlooked by casual fans of track and field, but it's a gold-medal specialty in South Asia - specifically for India, Pakistan and

now Sri Lanka.

The newest star is Rumesh Pathirage of Sri Lanka, who won the event Monday at the Asian Games under a light drizzle with a throw of 88.55 meters. Yashvir Singh of India took silver (85.14) with bronze for fellow Indian Rohit Yadav (84.35).

Defending Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan was fourth (80.29).

Pathirage credited some of his success in the javelin to being a cricket fast bowler in his youth, which requires an overhead arm movement similar to throwing the javelin.

"That's the bowling action, same like in the javelin throw," Pathirage said. "Cricket is the help for me and the career."

Of course, cricket is the dominant sport in all of South Asia, which might explain the recent success from athletes in the region.

The addition of foreign coaching has also been mentioned as India looks to bid for the 2036 Olympics and up its profile with Qatar seeming to be the chief rival.

Pathirage is the top thrower this season including a victory in the recent World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest, Hungary.

Yarmouk lifts Kuwait Squash Federation Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Yarmouk was crowned 2025-26 Kuwait Squash Federation Cup champion after defeating defending champion Al-Qurain 2-0 in the senior final.

Khaitan finished third and claimed the bronze medal, while Al-Qurain took the silver after settling for the runners-up spot.

Al-Qurain enjoyed a strong showing in the youth categories, collecting several titles. They won the Under-19, Under-17, Under-15, Under-13 and Under-11 competitions.

Khaitan finished runners-up in the Under-19 and Under-17 categories, while Yarmouk placed third in both. In the Under-15 competition, Kuwait took second place and Khaitan third. Kuwait also finished runners-up in the Under-13 category, with Khaitan third, while Khaitan were runners-up in the Under-11 event and Kuwait took third.

In the women's competition, Salwa "A" claimed the title after defeating Qareen, who finished runners-up. Salwa "B" took third place.

Federation President Waleed Al-Sumai'i, Secretary-General Hamed Al-Omran and Assistant Secretary-General Hamad Al-Dughaim presented the winners with their medals and trophies.



The winning team, Yarmouk poses with officials.