



Sponsored by NBK, Al-Sour Theatre opens with an epic operetta honoring the nation's defenders

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KD 3,000 threshold triggers declaration

GAC reminds travelers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) has reiterated its call for travelers to declare funds, whether in cash or bearer negotiable financial instruments, if the value amounts to KD 3,000 or more, or the equivalent in foreign currencies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In an awareness post on its X account, GAC explained that anyone entering or leaving Kuwait while carrying such funds or instruments must declare their value to GAC. Failure to make the required declaration subjects the violator to legal accountability in accordance with Law No. 106/2013 and Minister of Finance Resolution No. 37/2013.

Customs declarations can be submitted electronically through its website under "Electronic Services" or via the Sahel app by selecting the "Electronic Declaration of Funds" service under the General Administration of Customs' services.

Kuwait First Deputy PM, Qatar envoy discuss coop

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah on Wednesday discussed with Qatari Ambassador in Kuwait Ali Al Mahmoud several issues of mutual interest and ways to promote bilateral cooperation and collaboration.

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Ministry of Interior photo

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah with Qatari Ambassador in Kuwait Ali Al Mahmoud and his Deputy, First Secretary Jassem Alabdelgader.

Other Voices

Sir Basil Spence: Engraved in Kuwait's history

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

We look at old photographs of Kuwait City with a certain sense of loss. The old wall, neighbourhoods, markets and courtyard houses survive vividly in photographs, but very little remains on the ground.

More than half a century later, our instinct has not changed as much as we might like to think. Demolition is still often easier than adaptation. The value of land is readily calculated; the value of memory is not.

Kuwait's old Palace of Justice deserves to be considered in that context.

It was designed by Sir Basil Spence, one of Scotland's most distinguished twentieth-century architects and the architect of the new Coventry Cathedral. The Palace was designed in 1976, the final year of Spence's life, and belongs to an extraordinary period when Kuwait became a laboratory for modern architecture, commissioning figures including Jørn Utzon, Kenzo Tange, Reima and Raili Pietilä, and Spence himself.

Preservation, therefore, is not simply an exercise in nostalgia.

Scotland has more than 46,500 listed building records. Owning a listed building does not give even the wealthiest owner an unrestricted right to demolish it or alter its character. Significant changes require consent. Heritage value, in other words, is translated into an institutional and legal constraint.

The story of Kuwait's Palace of Justice illustrates the difference.

In 2022, a committee of Kuwait's Municipal Council recommended preserving the building and exploring its



Al-Anjeri

integration into the new development. That same year, Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters recognised the Palace as being of significant value to the country's modern architectural heritage.

Four years later, the government announced that technical studies had concluded that the existing foundations could not bear the required loads, and that a decision had been taken to demolish and rebuild the structure.

I am not qualified to challenge that structural assessment, nor is this an argument against development. It does, however, raise a larger question: what is the difference between recognising heritage and actually protecting it?

Other cities demonstrate that development and preservation need not be opposing choices. In Melbourne, Australia the nineteenth-century Coop's Shot Tower was retained and Melbourne Central was built around it, placing an industrial relic beneath a spectacular glass cone. In London, the Grade II*-listed Battersea Power Station has been transformed from a redundant industrial building into the centrepiece of a major mixed-use neighbourhood.

This is the principle behind adaptive reuse: rather than asking only what should replace an old building, planners ask what new life an existing building might accommodate.

A city's capacity to modernise should not be measured by how much of its past it can demolish, but by how intelligently it can incorporate that past into its future.

No one wants Kuwait City frozen as a museum. Cities must grow. Buildings must sometimes make way. But between preserving everything and demolishing everything lies an entire discipline of architecture, engineering and urban planning.

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Newswatch

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth revealed early Thursday that SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, Anduril co-founder Palmer Luckey and former Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) will lead a new Pentagon effort to study the future of warfare, dubbed Project Meridian.

The Pentagon chief said that the project is meant to harness America's innovators, senior leaders and technologists to look decades into the future and "forecast the creative solution for tomorrow's conflicts."

"It is futuristic on purpose," he said of the project, which he said was not meant to develop new strategies or policies.

"We should have the humility to recognize that the best forecasters of future conflict do not solely reside inside the Pentagon," according to Hegseth. (KUNA)



PM Diwan photo

HH the PM chaired Thursday a meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Following Up on Major Development Projects in Kuwait.

'Streamline, accelerate, deliver'

PM urges all-out push to advance major projects

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chaired Thursday a meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Following Up on Major Development Projects in Kuwait.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of intensifying efforts and streamlining procedures related to project implementation, calling for continued efforts to accelerate major development projects in line with directives of His Highness

the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by several ministers, senior state officials and representatives of relevant authorities.



Photos by Rezk Tawfik

Group photo during the launch of India-Kuwait Media Connect (IKMC).

Stories can bring our two societies closer: Ambassador Tripathi

India, Kuwait media ties get new connect

By John C. Fernandes

Online Media Manager, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: H.E. Paramita Tripathi, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, launched the India-Kuwait Media Connect (IKMC), a new platform aimed at strengthening engagement between the Embassy of India and Kuwait's media fraternity and promoting greater understanding of India-Kuwait relations.

The initiative, under the theme "Partnership, Perspectives and Possibilities," was launched at a ceremony at The St. Regis Kuwait Hotel on September 30, 2026, in the presence of senior representatives of leading Kuwaiti media organisations.

Speaking at the launch, Tripathi said India and Kuwait share a relationship deeply rooted in history and enriched by strong people-to-people ties.

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H.E. Paramita Tripathi, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait addresses the attendees.

PACI takes electronic signatures fully digital

By Mohammed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has announced the availability of an electronic signature issuance service through the "Kuwait Mobile ID" app, as well as via self-service kiosks located at PACI headquarters in South Surra, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a statement on its X account, PACI explained that the service is available during standard working hours across two shifts - morning shift from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm and evening shift from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

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GCC economies weather shocks, maintain strength

MANAMA, Oct 1, (KUNA): Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi said on Thursday that GCC states have demonstrated their ability to efficiently deal with various crises and exceptional circumstances while maintaining the strength and resilience of their economies.

Al-Budaiwi made the remarks in a speech at the 126th meeting of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee in Manama, chaired by Bahrain's Minister of Finance and National Economy

Sheikh Salman bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa and attended by GCC ministers concerned with financial and economic affairs.

He said GCC states continued efforts to enhance fiscal sustainability and efficiency, develop financial risk management tools, improve public spending efficiency and diversify revenue sources, strengthening their ability to preserve economic gains and maintain flexibility in dealing with future changes.

Continued on Page 5

New artery opens to Kuwait's north

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi and acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Kifaya Al-Najdi inaugurated the first phase of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Road (formerly Abdaly Road) development project, with Director General Eng. Khaled Dhawi Al-Otaibi in attendance.

The road is a vital artery connecting Jahra Governorate to the northern areas, thereby, easing travel to Abdaly, the farms and border crossings. Its positive impact on land travel and freight transport underscores the importance of the project in terms of service provision and economic value.

The development works aim to raise the efficiency of the road, improve traffic flow and guarantee the safety of road users.

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KfH wins Global Finance's Best Bank for 8 Financial Institutions in the Middle East award



Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:22 Asr 15:01
 Sunrise .. 05:41 Maghrib .. 17:33
 Zohr 11:38 Isha 18:50



HH the Amir



Xi Jinping

Amir congratulates China's President on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, congratulating him on his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished the Chinese President lasting health and wellness, and further progress and prosperity for his country and people.

Crown Prince congratulates

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

Sabah sent on Thursday a cable to President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, congratulating him on his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Chinese President lasting health and wellness.

PM congratulates

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Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah joins Kuwaitis and residents in blood donation campaign.



KUNA photos

KOC, Ahmadi Gov. launch blood donation drive

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Kuwait Oil Company and Ahmadi Governorate launched Thursday a blood donation campaign under the slogan "30 Minutes = A New Life" at The Warehouse complex.

The campaign, held under the patronage of

Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Humoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, promotes voluntary blood donation as a humanitarian act that helps save lives.

It highlights the importance of blood donation in supporting strategic reserves, meeting

patients' and hospitals' needs, and raising public awareness of community participation.

The initiative also reflects the importance of government-private sector partnerships in supporting health and humanitarian programs and strengthening social responsibility.

Kuwaitis can renew passports electronically via 'Sahel'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Ministry of Interior announced the steps for electronically renewing Kuwaiti passports through the Sahel app, noting that the service is available to citizens aged 21 and older, subject to the applicable conditions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry explained that the renewal process begins by logging into the Sahel app and selecting "Services," followed by "Ministry of Interior," then "Kuwaiti Passport Services,"

and finally "Renew Kuwaiti Passport."

The process includes specifying the passport collection location, entering the automated number of the residential address, selecting a validity period of either five or 10 years, depending on the available options, attaching a recent personal photo that meets the required specifications, reviewing the information, and completing payment of the renewal fee electronically.

The ministry urged citizens to check the

validity of their own and their children's passports when planning travel and to initiate the renewal process well in advance to avoid any travel-related obstacles.

It emphasized the necessity of attaching a recent, clear personal photo taken within the last six months that accurately reflects the applicant's current features and complies with the approved specifications. Old photos used in previous passports should not be reused.

'Kuwait cares for, targets dignified life for elderly'

Old guard country's valuable asset: Al-Huwaila

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila on Thursday announced the launching of the 'Charter of Loyalty to the Elderly' project, which serves as a national and societal framework embodying the commitment of entities and individuals to take care of the elderly, translate the values of loyalty, respect and appreciation into principles that safeguard their



Dr. Al-Huwaila

rights, and improve their status and the quality of their life.

Speaking at the celebration of the International Day for Older Persons held in Salwa Al-Sabah Hall under her patronage, Al-Huwailah pointed out that the occasion honors the generation which helped build Kuwait. She stressed that taking care of the elderly is a crucial aspect of the development plans and strategies of the country. She underscored the importance of moving beyond traditional care toward empowerment, capacity building, and utilizing their expertise in the development of the nation.

She affirmed that the ministry is keen on developing an integrated care system covering health, psychological and social aspects to ensure a dignified and secure life for the elderly. She said the ministry continues to expand mobile home-care services and develop legislation that protect the rights of the elderly and grant them priority access to government services.

She added that the ministry is implement-

ing community initiatives that expand their life and professional experiences, while promoting communication and knowledge exchange with younger generations.

She stressed the need to expand their community participation and listen to their views and aspirations, asserting that the elderly do not exist on the margins of life, as they are at the heart of the concerns and priorities of the country.

She also commended the efforts of the staff and support entities dedicated to elderly care.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for the Social Care Sector Iman Al-Enezi confirmed that the ministry has had significant strides in digitizing services for the elderly, particularly the priority card and parking permit, which are available through the Sahel application, enabling seamless electronic transaction processing.

She also unveiled the plan to implement the 'Smart File' project to fully transition from paper to electronic records to ensure that each elderly has a comprehensive digital file in the sector. She revealed that the project is currently in the preparatory phase.



KUNA photo

Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei receives Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, Jang Hyun Kim.

Kuwait, Korea discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei received Wednesday Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait, Jang Hyun Kim, as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation.

The Ministry said in a statement that

the meeting discussed ways to consolidate cooperation between the two sides, broaden partnership prospects and exchange expertise, particularly in education, contributing to benefiting from international experiences and supporting the development of Kuwait's education system.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti and Italian customs officials during the meeting.

Customs eyes Italy expertise

A delegation from Kuwait's General Administration of Customs visited Italy to learn about its customs practices and latest systems at ports and border crossings.

A statement by the Customs Administration on Wednesday said the delegation included Deputy Director for Customs Investigation Affairs Saleh Al-Omar and Director of the Southern Ports Customs Department Musa'ed Al-Othman.

The visit aims to exchange expertise and enhance customs operations, port security, efficiency, and trade facilitation, in line with directives from First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah.

The delegation visited Civitavecchia Port to learn about inspection procedures, risk management, monitoring technologies, customs clearance, and trade facilitation.

The statement added that the two sides also discussed common topics and exchanged experiences to enhance cooperation, coordination, and information sharing.

The delegation affirmed Customs' commitment to adopting suitable international practices while balancing effective control with trade facilitation. (KUNA)

Egyptian drug peddler held in Jleeb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Security forces arrested an Egyptian expatriate in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh for possessing, using, and trafficking narcotic substances, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the Jleeb Investigation Department received information concerning an unemployed expatriate involved in trafficking the drug "Shabu". After verifying the information, the Jleeb Investigation Team went to a location where the suspect, an Egyptian national, was waiting to complete a drug transaction.

The suspect was arrested in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh while in possession of five sachets of Shabu prepared for sale. He confessed to possessing, trafficking, and using the narcotic substance.

The suspect told investigators that he had been trafficking in narcotic substances to obtain money to support himself and purchase Shabu for personal use.

He was referred to the Drug Control General Department to complete the necessary legal procedures.

9 astronomical events to illuminate Kuwait's skies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Al-Ojeiri Scientific Center revealed that Kuwait will experience nine unique astronomical events during October 2026, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These events include Saturn's opposition to the Sun, lunar conjunctions with various planets and celestial objects, the Draconid and Orionid meteor showers, a full moon, and a close approach to the Pleiades star cluster.

According to the center, on October 4, Saturn will be positioned directly opposite the Sun from Earth, making it an excellent target for observation. It will be visible from Kuwait City from sunset to sunrise.

On October 5, the Moon will pass just over one degree north of Mars, creating a notable apparent close approach between the two celestial bodies. Both will be visible together in the dawn sky from Kuwait City.

The peak of the Draconid meteor shower will occur on October 8 and 9. These meteors will be visible after sunset, and this year, their activity coincides with the new moon phase, providing dark, moonless skies that enhance visibility.

The new moon will occur on October 10, with the Moon and Sun in alignment. The crescent moon for Jumada al-Ula is anticipated to appear at 6:50 PM.

On October 12, Mercury will reach its maximum eastern elongation, providing an ideal opportunity for viewing, as it will be visible in the evening sky away from the Sun's brightness.

The Orionid meteor shower will peak on October 21 and 22, making it the second most significant meteor shower of the month, with activity typically continuing until November 7.

On October 24, the Moon will pass 6 degrees and 47 arcminutes north of Saturn. At 14 days old, both the Moon and Saturn will be visible together in the evening sky from Kuwait City.

The Moon will reach its full phase on October 26, located in the lunar mansion known as Al-Butayn.

This full moon in October is referred to as the "Hunter's Moon," a name historically associated with certain Indigenous North American tribes.

The name refers to the Moon's brightness during this season, which helped hunters locate animals at night during the traditional hunting period.

On October 28, the Moon will move closer to the Pleiades star cluster.

This celestial occurrence can be seen with the naked eye, especially in areas away from bright lights, where viewing conditions are most favorable.

Al-Fulaij represents Kuwait

Main focus on environment issue

CAIRO, Oct 1, (KUNA): The Executive Office of the Arab Environment Ministers Council held its 62nd session on Wednesday, with participation from Kuwait represented by Minister of State for Development and Sustainability Affairs Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij.

Director of the Environment and Meteorology Affairs Department at the Arab League Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah said in his opening speech that the meeting coincides with the Arab Agriculture Day, which is being celebrated under the slogan "Sustaining Arab Pastures: Key Pillar for Sustainable Agricultural Development."

He added that this topic was adopted by

the Arab Council of Ministers responsible for environmental affairs as the main focus of its 37th session under the slogan "Sustainable Pastures to Enhance Resilience."

He explained that the meeting will discuss following up on the implementation of the decisions from the previous 36th council session, and preparing for the 37th session scheduled for tomorrow, chaired by Yemen.

According to the agenda, the executive office will discuss 21 items divided into two main sections, the first following up on international environmental agreements and meetings, primarily the outcomes of the 24th Arab team on biodiversity and desertification control meeting.



KUNA photo

Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Fawaz Boursli presents his credentials during a meeting with Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission Dr. Robert Floyd.

Kuwait Ambassador to Vienna presents credentials to CTBTO

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Fawaz Boursli presented Wednesday his credentials as Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). He presented the credentials during a meeting with Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission Dr. Robert Floyd.

According to the embassy, Boursli affirmed Kuwait's support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and its commitment to strengthening nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

He said such efforts contribute to international initiatives aimed at promoting secu-

urity, stability and international peace.

Boursli stressed the importance of continued international efforts to achieve universal adherence to the treaty and bring it into force, particularly amid current challenges facing disarmament and non-proliferation.

He called for intensified joint efforts to advance the treaty's objectives and strengthen its role in reducing the risks posed by nuclear testing.

Boursli also affirmed Kuwait's commitment to continuing its contribution to international efforts to establish an effective disarmament and non-proliferation framework and support initiatives promoting regional and international security and peace.

Case of dismissed Arab teachers ... what next?

“WE can understand the situation of an Egyptian expatriate returning after being dismissed from a job abroad, particularly the scale of such returns when they originate in the Gulf and are mandated by Gulf government decisions rather than being voluntary,” Kuwaiti journalist **Hassan Ali Karam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Egyptians generally feel more at ease working in Gulf countries than in other nations, including Western countries such as those in Europe, the United States, or Canada. This sense of comfort stems from the fact that moving to the Gulf is akin to relocating from one Egyptian city to another; the social, linguistic, and religious environments are remarkably similar. I am certain that Egyptians share this sentiment toward the Gulf, a feeling that is reciprocated.

“As someone who has visited Egypt many times, like millions of other Gulf citizens who feel no sense of alienation there, whether traveling as tourists, business people, students, or for other purposes, I can attest to this. The history of the relationship between the Gulf and Egypt cannot be summarized in a single word, a newspaper article, or even a book. It is a relationship defined by enduring and unbroken ties. The secret lies in our shared emotions and common language, which requires no interpreter.

“Gulf citizens travel to Egypt, landing in Cairo and visiting other cities, and navigate its streets, alleys, markets, museums, and universities with ease, requiring no assistance. This is not mere flattery, nor is it simply a description of the character of two peoples united by shared customs, despite the distances that separate them.

“This introduction serves those who may not fully grasp the deep bond connecting the Nile and the Gulf. People from the Gulf have long drunk from the waters of the Nile, while Egyptians have delighted in Gulf fish, such as naqroor, hamour, and even meid, a fish that is immensely popular, especially during the summer and the date-ripening season. It is no exaggeration to say that Gulf nationals have embraced tilapia with even greater enthusiasm than Egyptians. Ultimately, these two peoples share a bond that transcends borders, united by common sentiments.

“Regarding the relationship between Kuwait and Egypt, certain opportunists and agitators have attempted to fish in troubled waters, yet they would struggle to catch even a tiny zouri fish, even in stagnant, shallow pools. Kuwait’s Ministry of Education identified a surplus of teachers, both citizens and expatriates, across the country’s schools.

“The question arose - Could a Kuwaiti teacher be dismissed in favor of an expatriate? The answer was unequivocal - a citizen has the primary right to their livelihood. Consequently, despite the bitterness of the situation, the only recourse was to issue a decision to terminate the contracts of expatriate teachers of Arab nationalities. This sparked a flurry of contacts, appeals, and interventions aimed at keeping these teachers in Kuwait, perhaps by employing them in private schools.

“However, the concept of private schools in Kuwait differs from what one might imagine. The majority are foreign-run institutions that use curricula imported from similar schools in their countries of origin. Yes, there are Arab schools; however, the question of whether they require additional teachers arises only after classes have already been filled before the start of the academic year.

“I speak, and feel, as a father, a provider for a family, and a grandfather. I fully grasp the magnitude of the responsibility and the upheaval involved in uprooting a homeowner, a spouse, and children. Yet, this decision is not based on emotion; the reality is that the number of teachers currently in the country exceeds the actual needs of Kuwait’s schools. This is not merely a matter involving one, two, or even ten teachers. Arab teachers of various other nationalities are also affected, so the issue is not limited to one group.

“While I agree with the Egyptian Teachers’ Syndicate that dismissing them at the start of the school year was a mistake, I do not believe that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education makes decisions haphazardly. I reiterate that I am a father and a provider for a family and grandchildren, and I empathize with the heavy burden weighing on these teachers. Nevertheless, every problem has a solution.”



Hassan Ali Karam

Also:

“As Arab crises escalate, most recently, the Iranian aggression against the Gulf states, an old question resurfaces - Is the Arab League still capable of keeping pace with the region’s political transformations, or has the time come to reform its structure and charter?” columnist **Khaled Ahmed Al-Tarrah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Must we wait for further crises, whether in the Gulf or across the wider Arab world, before reevaluating the Arab League’s role and political function? Can the bloody circumstances and rapid developments in the Gulf really tolerate the continued use of evasive language in the League’s rhetoric and positions?”

“While there is no dispute over the right to evaluate the performance of the League’s Secretaries-General, past and present, the more critical issue lies in conducting a deeper review of the influence of the host country on their performance and political role. This matter warrants careful scrutiny and candid discussion that goes beyond the traditional considerations that have long governed the League’s operations.

“In most international and regional organizations - from the United Nations to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the African Union - the position of Secretary-General is subject to the principle of rotation among member states. In the Arab League, however, the position has remained effectively tied to the host country—a striking exception that is inconsistent with the standard organizational norms of international and regional institutions.

“Hence, there is a clear need to review the Arab League’s performance and reconsider its administrative structure, particularly the office of the Secretary-General, to allow for rotation among member states while also taking into account the role of the countries that fund and support the League’s operations and budget.

“Proposing or adopting such an initiative at the Gulf level does not imply relocating the League’s headquarters to the Gulf; rather, it represents an effort at administrative and political reform aimed at strengthening balance within the Arab institution. It seeks to reduce ambiguities that may arise when the Secretary-General’s performance is interpreted as reflecting the position of the host country.

“Indeed, such a move could help safeguard Egypt’s stature and role in the Arab world by separating individual actions from the political position of the League’s host country. Reflecting on past experiences, such as the reservations expressed by Gulf states in 2003 regarding the performance of former Secretary-General Amr Moussa, provides an opportunity for objective review. Those concerns focused particularly on his stance toward Kuwait, which at times appeared to reflect a personal perspective rather than the collective positions and decisions of the Arab member states.

“Valuable insights can also be drawn from successful international organizational models, such as the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council and the rotating leadership structures within the African Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The aim of proposing this idea is not to incite discord, but to initiate an objective and professional discussion on modernizing the Arab League’s operational mechanisms and regulations. It seeks to break the cycle of traditional administrative stagnation that has frequently led to confusion regarding the organization’s vision and Arab decision-making processes.

“The crisis in Arab discourse following the Iranian aggression against the Gulf states has highlighted an urgent need to review the mechanisms of joint Arab action while simultaneously subjecting the Arab League’s performance and political role to critical scrutiny. Reforming the Arab League is no longer merely an administrative or protocol matter; it has become a political necessity dictated by the changing Arab landscape and rapidly unfolding regional conflicts. Institutions that fail to renew themselves inevitably decline.

“The Arab League now faces a genuine opportunity to revise its charter and refine its operational mechanisms - steps that would strengthen joint Arab action and restore the League’s natural role in safeguarding Arab interests and formulating a clearer and more effective Arab stance in a rapidly changing world.”

– Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Municipality officials and workers at the start of the campaign.

Jahra Governorate photo

Jahra Governorate launches cleanup drive

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: A comprehensive cleanup campaign was launched in Jahra Governorate through the concerted efforts of the Kuwait Municipality and the governorate, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The campaign covers different areas, as part of a field plan that will continue in the coming days.

Municipality teams are conducting the campaign, which includes general cleaning, removing waste and debris, cleaning sites and addressing field issues.

This is in compliance with the directives of Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi to intensify field efforts to raise public sanitation standards in order to improve the overall appearance of the governorate.

The teams carry out their tasks systematically, while coordinating and following up with the governorate and the Municipality to ensure all targeted sites are covered and field observations are addressed.

12 arrested in 8 cases of smuggling, using drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) apprehended 12 suspects in eight separate cases, and seized narcotics and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and personal use, along with alcoholic beverages, a firearm, ammunition, and cash, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior announced that the arrests resulted from efforts by the International Control, Local Control, and Information departments to combat the trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances and apprehend those involved.

The operations resulted in the seizure of 2,565 Lyrica capsules, 1,700 grams of hashish, 850 grams of “Shabu” (crystal methamphetamine), 150 ml of “Chemical” liquid, 100 grams of hashish oil, and 100 psychotropic tablets.

The seized items also included 83 bottles of locally produced alcohol, 40 sheets infused with “Chemical” liquid, six grams of Lyrica powder, six precision scales, a firearm and ammunition, and KD 5,790 in proceeds from sales.

The suspects and seized items have been referred to the competent authorities for the necessary legal proceedings.

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Beware stray dogs! The Ministry of Interior has reiterated its call for citizens and residents to keep their distance from stray dogs, prioritize their safety upon sighting them, note their exact location, and contact the emergency number 112, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The ministry emphasized that animal owners must comply with the legal regulations governing animal ownership and care to ensure public safety.

It stressed that abandoning animals or leaving them in public places is prohibited if owners can no longer care for them. Instead, the public is urged to contact the emergency number 112 to arrange for the animals to be handled or collected in coordination with the competent authorities.

News in Brief

CAMPAIGN: The Security Directorates Affairs Sector, represented by the Capital Security Directorate, launched a comprehensive security campaign in collaboration with Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The operation aimed to strengthen the security presence, apprehend wanted individuals and lawbreakers, and enforce regulations, resulting in 678 enforcement actions.

According to an official statement from the Ministry of Interior, the campaign resulted in 432 traffic citations and the arrest of 72 individuals wanted for absconding (workplace desertion), 53 residency law violators, 19 individuals wanted for criminal offenses, 16 illegal migrant workers (freelance laborers), four individuals wanted for debt, and three individuals involved in alcohol possession cases.

Furthermore, authorities impounded 46 abandoned vehicles and one vehicle under a judicial seizure order, detained one street vendor, and arrested one individual for forging official documents.

An unlicensed men’s salon was also closed in coordination with Kuwait Municipality.

On Failaka Island, the campaign, conducted in cooperation with PAFN, resulted in the apprehension of 11 individuals who were transporting and selling fish using vehicles and methods that failed to meet regulatory standards. Authorities also detained seven individuals found in possession of four hunting weapons.

The ministry confirmed that the appropriate legal measures had been taken against those detained and cited, and that they had been referred to the relevant authorities.

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TRAVELERS: The General Administration of Customs (GAC) urged travelers passing through customs checkpoints to refrain from carrying or transporting bags or luggage belonging to others and to verify the contents of their own luggage before crossing the checkpoint, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In an awareness post on its X account, GAC emphasized that luggage belonging to others may contain items prohibited by law from being imported, exported, or transported, warning that carrying such items could expose travelers to legal liability.

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REGULATIONS: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in the Capital and Hawally governorates to identify buildings and facilities violating safety and fire prevention regulations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

Teacher acquitted in colleague brawl

Cigarette smuggler nabbed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Misdemeanor Court acquitted a female teacher of charges of assaulting a colleague following a dispute over workers entering the school to move boxes and bags of books, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The incident stemmed from an accusation that the teacher assaulted her colleague outside their workplace. The complainant alleged that the defendant struck and pushed her, causing her to fall and sustain a shoulder injury, as documented in a medical report.

Lawyer Mohammad Baqer represented the defendant, arguing that the charge was unfounded and that the alleged incident had not been proven against his client.

The court heard testimony from several witnesses who confirmed that they had observed a verbal altercation between the parties but stated that none of them had seen the defendant physically assault the complainant.

Furthermore, police investigations found no evidence to substantiate the complainant’s allegation of physical assault.

The court affirmed that the case file lacked conclusive evidence proving that the defendant had committed the alleged act.

It noted that her denial of the charge was consistent with the witness testimony and investigation findings, thereby negating the elements of the alleged assault.

Consequently, the court acquitted the

defendant of the charges pursuant to Article 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Regarding the civil claim, the court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction to hear the matter and ordered its transfer to the competent court, while reserving its decision on legal costs.

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Smuggling cigarettes: Support patrol officers from the Hawally Security Directorate referred two expatriates - one Arab and one Asian - to the Deportation Department after apprehending them for concealing quantities of cigarettes in secret compartments inside a vehicle belonging to the Arab expatriate in Salwa, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, a Hawally Security Directorate support patrol, while conducting a security sweep in Salwa, spotted a suspicious vehicle parked in an open area behind a house, with an individual standing nearby.

When officers approached him to verify his identity and question him, the man attempted to flee but was pursued and apprehended. He was identified as an Asian expatriate.

A precautionary search of the vehicle revealed a quantity of cigarettes. During questioning, the Asian expatriate admitted that the vehicle belonged to a Jordanian expatriate, a manager at a major company, who would periodically bring the vehicle to him and instruct him to conceal cigarettes in secret compartments in preparation for smuggling them into a neighboring country.

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Embassy holds exhibition to showcase Peruvian heritage

Peru, Kuwait enjoy 50 years of ties



Ambassador Carlos Jiménez



Peruvian Ambassador with diplomats and dignitaries.

By John C. Fernandes
Online Media Manager, Arab Times

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Embassy of the Republic of Peru in Kuwait hosted a reception to mark the opening of the exhibition “Retablos de Ayacucho: A Living Tradition of the Peruvian Andes” at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP Kuwait), bringing a distinctive expression of Peruvian cultural heritage to Kuwait.

The exhibition, which continues until October 6, was attended by diplomatic and cultural figures, as well as art enthusiasts and visitors interested in Peru’s heritage and traditions.

Peruvian Ambassador to Kuwait Carlos Jiménez said the exhibition offers a window into a distinctive aspect of Peru’s cultural heritage, giving visitors an opportunity to discover the country through the colours, characters and stories

depicted in the Ayacucho retablos, one of the most recognised forms of traditional Peruvian folk art.

He stated that the handcrafted works originate from the Ayacucho region in the Andes and consist of brightly coloured wooden boxes containing miniature scenes depicting different aspects of daily life, celebrations, music, dance, traditional occupations and Andean customs.

Jiménez said each retablo is handmade and painted by skilled artisans and carries its own story, reflecting the creativity, identity and cultural heritage of the Peruvian people. The art form has become one of the distinctive symbols of Peruvian folk art and plays an important role in preserving traditions and stories passed down through generations.

Five decades of Peru-Kuwait relations

Speaking about bilateral relations, Jiménez said Kuwait and Peru enjoy strong ties and highlighted the progress achieved over the past decades as the two countries approach nearly 50 years of diplomatic relations.

He stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen people-to-people contacts and expanding areas of bilateral cooperation between

Peru and Kuwait.

The Ambassador said cultural activities such as the Ayacucho retablos exhibition serve as an important bridge between the two countries, as culture provides an opportunity to understand the history, identities and traditions of different peoples while promoting greater mutual understanding and communication.

The exhibition features a collection of retablos depicting scenes from life in the Andean region through colourful miniature figures and settings inspired by everyday life, popular celebrations, music, dance, customs and traditional occupations.

Known for their intricate details and vibrant colours, the retablos offer visitors an insight into the popular memory and cultural traditions of Ayacucho, with each piece reflecting elements of a heritage preserved and passed from one generation to another.

The exhibition carries the message “Discover Peru through the colours and stories of Ayacucho,” presenting the retablo tradition not merely as handicrafts or works of art, but as a living expression of the cultural identity and heritage of the Peruvian people.



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives visitors in his office.

Support pledged for people with disabilities hone skills

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Governor of Farwaniya Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah met with Chairperson of Jusoor International Company Hanan Al-Enezi at the Farwaniya Governorate headquarters on Wednesday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Also present at the meeting were trainer Doha Al-Akhdar and participants of the Macramé Art course Maryam Dhiyaab, Israa Al-Khaldi and Laila Aziz.

The Arab Open University conducted the course under the patronage of the governor.

During the meeting, the trainees presented their work from the course to the governor.

The discussion focused on the role of the course in empowering individuals with special needs by developing their skills, showcasing their potential, and ensuring their active participation in community activities and initiatives.

The governor commended the trainees’ efforts and the outstanding work they produced. He stressed the importance of continuing to support initiatives that develop the skills of people with disabilities and enhance their presence and participation in society, wishing them continuous success.

Meanwhile, the guests expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the governor for his patronage and attendance at the opening of the course, as well as for supporting initiatives that promote the inclusion of individuals with special needs. They also presented a commemorative plaque to the governor.

KUNA Media Training Center concludes podcast program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): KUNA Media Training Center concluded Thursday a training program on podcasting, voice-over and dubbing, attended by staff from KUNA and the Direct Investment Promotion Authority.

The program, presented by media professional Dr. Bassam Al-Jazzaf, aimed to develop participants’ skills in podcasting, voice-over and dubbing, covering the scientific and technical foundations of professional voice use.

It included theoretical and practical sessions on voice fundamentals, breathing, vocal warm-ups, pronunciation, tone, pauses, speed and rhythm, enhancing participants’ control over voice and performance.

The program also covered podcast production, from developing concepts and identity to recording, editing, publishing and archiving, alongside audience analysis and audio branding.

Al-Jazzaf told KUNA that the rapid growth of podcasts and audio content requires media professionals to develop specialized skills in voice, performance, recording and content production.

He stressed the importance of continuously developing media professionals’ skills to keep pace with changes in the sector and produce clear, high-quality audio content.

Established in December 1995, the KUNA Media Training Center has conducted hundreds of programs in various media fields, aiming to develop media professionals’ capabilities and advance professional media work.

Other Voices

The ‘shortcomings’ of the commercial cover-up law

By Ahmad alsarraf

FOR over three centuries, Kuwait was home to a people and rulers who were immune to oppression and injustice. Kuwait was a haven, and later a homeland, for all those seeking security, freedom, and work.

With the advent of economic prosperity, the government facilitated employment for expatriates, especially those with expertise, without significant restrictions. Subsequently, the government required a national partner for every commercial business, particularly large-scale ventures, so that citizens could benefit financially and learn the secrets of their trades.

These partnerships resulted in the formation of massive industrial and commercial institutions, some of which achieved global reach, and a significant number of which are still operating.

The number of these companies would have been much higher had it not been for the ban imposed on individuals of certain nationalities from returning to Kuwait due to their governments’ stance about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Some of these individuals played a pivotal role in managing these companies. However, the ban at the time prompted a number of Kuwaiti partners, most of whom were “shadow partners” with no real involvement in the day-to-day management, to act swiftly and assume leadership. Some of them went on to achieve great success in industrial and commercial businesses.

I dare say that the Arab partners who were prevented from returning to Kuwait received fair compensation for their investments, although most of them, especially the Palestinians, did not expect to receive much of what they were entitled to.

This discussion is prompted by the issuance of the Commercial Cover-up Law, which contains numerous flaws and has created difficulties for all parties involved, whether Kuwaiti citizens or non-Kuwaiti partners.

I believe that some articles of the law urgently need to be reviewed before its implementation at the beginning of 2027. Perhaps it would be best to postpone the



alsarraf

law’s implementation until its economic and social impacts have been studied, as Lawyer Omar Al-Essa suggests.

It is essential to issue clear regulations that ensure the fight against commercial concealment without harming the national economy or a large segment of citizens and residents who have played a vital role in Kuwait’s industrial, commercial, and investment progress.

I fully understand the necessity of issuing this law in line with international requirements, while ensuring the clarity of its provisions, the fairness of its application, the proportionality of penalties to the offense, and the provision of legal avenues for modifying the status of some businesses.

The sudden implementation of the law could trigger significant capital flight from Kuwait at a time when we need to attract investment, revitalize the private sector, and diversify our sources of income.

Low-income and middle-income earners and retirees who rely on returns from small businesses may be negatively impacted, potentially losing vital sources of income due to business closures, layoffs, and the inability to meet existing financial obligations.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) may need to propose amendments to the law based on a survey of business owners from both sides of the legal spectrum, taking into account the perspectives of small business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as legal and economic experts.

Undoubtedly, the law will have negative consequences, some of which can be mitigated by establishing clear implementation criteria, providing a sufficient transition period, and regulating voluntary disclosure and rectification processes. Penalties should be graduated and proportionate to the scale of the business and the resulting damage.

I agree with what Lawyer Al-Essa said, “The success or failure of the law should not be measured by the number of establishments that close or by the amount of money that leaves Kuwait, but rather by the law’s ability to stop commercial cover-ups and transform unregulated activities into legal and transparent investments that support the economy and preserve citizens’ sources of income.”

■ ■ ■

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Kuwait Interior Ministry enhances ties with Italian prison authorities

tional and security protocols, modern technological systems, and rehabilitation programs implemented to boost institutional efficiency.

Major General Al-Wohaib conducted a field tour of the facility, reviewing social reintegration initiatives, operational workflows, and the integration of advanced technologies in prison management.

The ministry highlighted that the visit reflects its commitment to adopting international best practices in inmate reform, elevating personnel capabilities, and developing security operations.

Major General Al-Wohaib arrived in Rome on Tuesday evening leading an official delegation to participate in a series of bilateral security talks.



She noted that the media in both countries has an important role in bringing the two societies closer by telling the stories that connect them. She said the rapidly changing media landscape, where news travels across borders within seconds, makes credible journalism, context and meaningful engagement more important than ever. The IKMC will provide opportunities to explore stories related to business, innovation, culture, education, tourism, technology and other areas of mutual interest.

The Ambassador also unveiled the IKMC logo, formally marking the platform's launch.

Through the initiative, the Embassy seeks to strengthen professional

The Embassy said it looks forward to developing IKMC as a constructive forum for Partnership, Perspectives and Possibilities, contributing to greater mutual understanding and further strengthening the close and enduring friendship between India and Kuwait.

The project facilitates access to the areas it serves and covers the needs arising from urban expansion and increasing vehicular traffic.

The opening of the first phase is the result of the collaborative efforts of the ministry and other concerned authorities, with the support of the Jharkhand Governorate Council – a manifestation of coordination aimed to advance road and infrastructure projects and improve the quality of services provided to residents and road users.

Recent developments, he added, underscored the importance of building on these achievements and strengthening coordination among GCC fiscal and economic policies to enhance the bloc's ability to respond to external changes and shocks while maintaining fiscal sustainability and supporting growth and development.

He said these indicators reflect the resilience of GCC economies, the effectiveness of their economic and fiscal policies and continued progress toward economic diversification and Gulf integration.

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America

Tropical Pacific moisture drenches US: Tropical weather that surged onshore from the Pacific soaked more of the U.S. on Wednesday while forecasters announced yet another hurricane off the coast of Mexico. The new hurricane, Rachel, is expected to develop rapidly and could become a major one with sustained winds topping 111 mph (178 kph). The storm was far offshore, however, and posed no threat to land. Parts of New Mexico, meanwhile, looked less and less like the months of drought that dried up reservoirs and caused hungry bears to roam into neighborhoods in search of food. Wednesday marks the end of the second wettest month ever in Albuquerque, with National Weather Service records dating back to the 1800s. Flood warnings in the southwestern state remained in effect, despite the storm slowing. (AP)

Man held on planning attack on Texas Capitol: A 40-year-old man was arrested early Wednesday on suspicion of plotting to attack the Texas Capitol, authorities said. The Texas Department of Public Safety said in a statement that it received “credible information about an individual planning a violent attack” for Thursday in Austin. Officials did not provide details about the alleged plot, citing an ongoing investigation. The tip came in Tuesday evening, and SWAT officers made the arrest about 3 a.m. Wednesday at a residence in Converse, near San Antonio. Benny Caldera Jr. was charged with making a terroristic threat against a public servant, a felony, the DPS statement said. He made bond, according to on-

line court records in Bexar County, but DPS said later Wednesday that Caldera was in federal custody after being arrested by the FBI to face additional federal charges. (AP)

California helicopter crash kills 2: A medical helicopter crashed off Catalina Island near Los Angeles, killing two people and leaving two hospitalized on Wednesday night, authorities said. LA County Fire Engineer Jonathan Torres confirmed the two deaths and said two people were transported to local hospitals, while a fifth person remained missing, KTLA-TV reported. Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn said in a post on X that she was told the helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff from Catalina. Authorities received reports of the crash shortly before 8 p.m. and responded along with the US Coast Guard, KTLA reported. (AP)

Man fatally shoots 2 before killing self: A man shot three co-workers during an altercation Wednesday at a northern Virginia business, killing two of them, before he took his own life during a police standoff along an interstate highway, police said. Marvin Grant, 37, of Charlotte, North Carolina, opened fire at an equipment rental business in Manassas, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southwest of Washington, D.C., Manassas Police Chief Doug Keen said at a news conference. Keen identified the two workers who died as Richard Lamont, 48, and Christopher Serrano, 33. A third worker was in stable condition at a hospital in Fairfax, the chief said. (AP)



Rays of sunlight shine on the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., between rain showers on Sept 29. (AP)

WH campaign against non-citizen voting demonstrates it's rare

GOP’s Scott says ‘cash is king’ as Trump team promises millions to keep majority

WASHINGTON, Oct 1, (AP): The Senate Republican campaign chairman said Wednesday that President Donald Trump’s team has assured senators “money will not be our problem” heading into the midterm elections, as MAGA Inc promises to dump millions more into battleground races to keep GOP control of the Senate. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina is linking his party even closer to the president, as Trump hits the trail to rally voters as Republicans try to boost what has been sluggish enthusiasm. Despite the prevalence of toss-up Senate races across the map, he said he remained confident Republicans can keep or even expand their Senate majority. “Cash is king,” Scott told reporters. “President Trump and his agenda are on the ballot,” he said. “Knowing that they are going to invest completely in these races is incredibly helpful.” Republicans have watched their control of Congress come under increasing risk this November as voters reel from high gas and grocery prices largely stemming from the Iran war. While the House, with its narrow

majority of a few seats, has always been up for grabs, the Senate map is now expanding as once safe Republican-held strongholds are being contested. Scott acknowledged that in Kansas, where newcomer Adam Hamilton is challenging GOP Sen. Roger Marshall, the race is closer than expected. He also said Republicans have “more work to do” if they hope to flip Georgia, where Republican Mike Collins is struggling to unseat Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff. But Scott said that during a private meeting Monday evening with White House chief of staff Susie Wiles, she assured GOP senators they would have the resources needed heading into the final stretch of the election. “She said money would not be our problem,” he said. MAGA Inc. and affiliated groups have already poured hundreds of millions in the race for the Senate, giving the GOP a cash advantage over Democrats. Meanwhile, the Trump administration’s campaign to root out non-citizen voting is demonstrating what critics of President Donald Trump’s election conspiracy theories have long argued - that it’s incredibly rare, difficult to prove and has not



US Attorney General Todd Blanche speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice on Sept 30 in Washington, as Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin, left, and Daniel Rosen, US Attorney for the District of Minnesota, look on. (AP)

been shown to change the outcome of elections. The administration has dedicated enormous resources to what election experts and administrators characterize as a comparatively small issue - non-citizens who, often due to misunderstanding the law, add their votes to the tens of millions of ballots cast during national elections. On Wednesday, Attorney General Todd Blanche announced federal charges against 10 people in Minnesota alleged to have voted illegally over the last three elections, a period in which more than 8 million ballots were cast in the state. “We’re focused on providing ac-

countability and restoring trust in our elections,” Blanche said, lamenting that the media did not take seriously the charges for voter fraud his office has brought. He said those added up to 90 for various types of election misconduct, including 50 against people who are alleged to have voted as non-citizens. Even the 90 cases, which conflate voter fraud cases involving citizens of both political parties with those alleging non-citizen voting, are nominal in terms of the number of votes cast during presidential elections. It’s nowhere near enough votes to swing any significant federal or even state election. The U.S. had nearly 228 million registered voters for the 2024 presidential election, with more than 152 million ballots cast. “They’re incredibly low numbers no matter how you slice it,” said Aaron Blackberg of the Institute for Responsive Government, who was on a panel of election officials and experts on Wednesday in Washington, D.C., just before Blanche’s announcement. The continuing drumbeat from the administration about voter fraud and noncitizens casting ballots, even when their own investigations show it’s rare, is one reason Democrats, civil rights groups and many election officials are bracing for the possibility of Trump intervening in the November vote. The election officials who gathered with Blackberg held a media roundtable during which they reassured voters that they are prepared for any possible disruptions this fall. Democrats and civil rights groups have filed multiple lawsuits to try to prevent the Trump administration from sending armed agents to the polls, something the administration insists it will not do. Trump has lamented that he did not order the military to seize voting machines in 2020, leading many election officials and Democrats to brace for that possibility in the fall. Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a letter to a U.S. senator last month that there are no such plans for the military. The scarcity of actual fraud or voting by noncitizens was one reason why election officials, courts and some of Trump’s own officials rejected his claims that he lost the 2020 election due to massive fraud.



Police officers look at a school damaged by a Russian drone strike in Kyiv, Ukraine on Oct 1. (AP)

Russian drone hits Kyiv school as Moscow presses aerial campaign against Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 1, (AP): A Russian drone struck a school in Kyiv on Thursday, city officials said, as the Ukrainian capital endured another night and day of relentless aerial attacks. Children and staff at the school were in shelters when the drone hit, Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko said, although the drone’s warhead didn’t explode. There was no immediate report of casualties. The building’s brick frontage showed a large hole and black burn mark alongside smashed windows. Kyiv has in recent weeks lived through repeated air raid alerts, punctuated by loud bangs and palls of black smoke as drones and missiles hit, making it feel like a city under siege. The Russian onslaught aims to terrorize civilians, officials and analysts say, and break their will to resist 4 ½ years after Moscow’s full-scale invasion. The strain is showing among Kyiv residents. Maryna Lystopad, 35, said her hair has started falling out due to the strain of escalating attacks and never knowing where a drone or missile will hit. “It’s really horrible. I can’t take it anymore. I think, I think that soon we’re all going to leave. I’m really not doing well,” she told The Associated Press. “I’m constantly anxious. I can’t relax,” she said. “I keep thinking that if something happens, if something hits, one of my relatives could be killed.” She recently had to go to another part of the city, she said, and was “genuinely stressed the whole way there.” “I kept checking, like, whether anything was flying in, where it was going, where am I supposed to go? Where am I supposed to run?” The war on the ground hasn’t seen major shifts since last year, but Ukraine is struggling to fend off Russia’s intensified aerial attacks on cities that include speedy ballistic missiles and high-flying jet-powered drones.

In response, Ukraine has fired its long-range drones at manufacturing plants deep inside Russia and has targeted Russia’s drone launch sites. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that Kyiv’s forces struck a site in Russia’s southwestern Oryol region that is used to store and launch attack drones. To turn the tide, Ukraine needs U.S.-made Patriot missiles that can effectively defend against ballistic missiles, but they are in short supply since the Iran war began. A plan to produce them inside Ukraine could take years to bear fruit. Kyiv is currently racing to produce new interceptors that can bring down fast-moving jet-propelled drones as the swift cycle of military innovation during the war continues. Ukraine also wants tougher sanctions imposed on Russia to prevent it from getting key high-tech components for its arsenal. Moscow, meanwhile, is pressing its advantage before Ukraine comes up with an answer to the latest challenges. Ukrainian officials didn’t report any energy infrastructure being hit Thursday, a day after what officials said was the biggest Russian attack on the power grid since last spring. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said Wednesday’s barrage marked “the beginning of Russia’s strike campaign aimed at degrading Ukraine’s energy security ahead of winter ... and forcing Ukraine to capitulate.” Russia is expected to step up attacks on the electricity supply as the weather gets colder. It was 19 degrees Celsius (66 F) in Kyiv on Thursday, and mild temperatures were set to continue.

Macron concludes visit to Spain and underscores bilateral commitment

PARIS, Oct 1, (KUNA): French President Emmanuel Macron expressed his gratitude to Spain on Wednesday following a two-day state visit conducted at the invitation of King Felipe VI, describing the trip as a reflection of the deep-rooted ties and strategic partnership between the two nations. A statement issued by the Elysee Palace highlighted that the visit, the first state visit by a French president to Spain since 2009, underscored the high level of economic, educational, and scientific cooperation connecting both allies. During his itinerary, President Macron engaged in discussions with students at Complutense University of Madrid regarding digital transition, social media regulation, and artificial intelligence. The French leader and his spouse Brigitte Macron also attended a state banquet hosted by the Spanish royal couple on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, President Macron participated in a joint economic and investment forum before holding high-level bilateral talks with Span-



Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, right, and France President Emmanuel Macron during a meeting at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain on Sept 30. (AP)

ish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. The discussions centered on major regional and international developments, particularly the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. Following an official farewell ceremony with the Spanish monarch, Macron reaffirmed in a message posted on social media platform X that France and Spain share a common vision to make their bilateral friendship a driving engine for European integration.

Europe

Czech govt faces no-confidence vote: The Czech government led by populist billionaire **Andrej Babis** faced a parliamentary no-confidence vote Tuesday over a ballooning budget deficit and questions about the prime minister’s conflict of interest. The opposition parties that requested the vote condemned the draft 2027 budget deficit approved by the government at 386 billion koruna, or Czech crowns (\$18 billion), the second largest in Czech history. This year’s deficit should reach 310 billion koruna. Most economists and opposition parties have criticized the government for proposing such a deficit at a time the country’s gross domestic product is expected to grow by 2.7% next year, according to the Czech central bank. The government said it is necessary to boost investments and its other priorities, such as health care and rises in pensions and public-sector salaries. Babis, one of the richest Czechs, has been under fire for not doing enough to avoid a conflict of interest that arises from his private dealings and his political status. Since he returned to power after his ANO (YES) movement won decisively in October’s election, Babis has moved about 200 of his companies under the Agrofert conglomerate to an independent trust fund to meet the requirements of a conflict of interest law; otherwise, his businesses would not be eligible for state and European Union subsidies.



Babis

His investment in the health care sector has not been affected by the move. The European Commission stated earlier this month that the trust fund does not sufficiently solve the problem, saying Babis remains in a potential conflict of interest, and suspended some payments to Agrofert. The opposition has also criticized Babis for his verbal attacks against independent courts, judges and media. He has formed a governing coalition with two small political groups whose agenda includes reducing support for Ukraine and rejecting some key European Union policies. (AP)

Kosovo lawmakers slam court’s verdicts: Kosovo’s lawmakers on Monday unanimously condemned recent war crimes verdicts by a European Union-backed court against four of its wartime rebel leaders, a rare act of unity in a Balkan country locked in a political crisis. All 99 lawmakers present at the Parliament session approved a declaration that expressed concern over the convictions and urged authorities to act in what it described as defense of Kosovo’s legacy of the 1998-99 war for independence from Serbia. Earlier this month, a court in The Hague, Netherlands found former Kosovo President Hashim Thaci and three other former Kosovo Liberation Army commanders guilty of war crimes and sentenced them to between 13 and 25 years in prison. Kosovo has criticized the verdicts as unjust, maintaining that the Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA, which Thaci had led before entering politics, fought against Serbian oppression. Both residents and politicians fear the court ruling would tarnish the struggle. (AP)

North Korea denies planting mines, accuses Seoul of conspiracy

Zelenskyy’s revelation of secret POW transfer likely play for more support: S.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 1, (AP): South Korea’s spy agency said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s recent revelation of a supposedly secret transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to the South was likely meant to generate public support in this Asian democracy for greater assistance to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy’s disclosure during his UN speech last week of the transfer of the captured soldiers has stunned South Korea and drawn strong protests. Seoul called on Kyiv to apologize and explain the violation of what it said was a nondisclosure agreement about the transfer. Ukraine denied agreeing to any such deal.

The fracas surrounding the revelation has shaken the traditionally good relations between Kyiv and Seoul but it’s unclear if it could lead to something more dramatic.

The soldiers were among thousands sent by North Korea to help Russia repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia’s Kursk border region as part of expanding cooperation between Pyongyang and Moscow. North Korea has supplied conven-

tional weapons to Russia as well.

South Korea’s National Intelligence Service held a closed-door meeting with a parliament committee on Wednesday about the matter.

According to lawmaker Yoo Yeong-ha who attended the meeting, the committee was told there has been no apology or expression of regret from Ukraine - either through official or unofficial channels.

The intelligence service assessed that Zelenskyy likely disclosed the transfer with the intention to rally public support in South Korea in favor of supplying weapons and other assistance to Ukraine, Yoo said.

Yoo did not elaborate or say how the intelligence service made its assessment.

South Korea has sent humanitarian aid and other support to Ukraine but has refrained from sending weapons, in line with its policy of not supplying arms to countries actively engaged in conflict.

According to the intelligence service, the North Korean POWs arrived in South Korea in mid-Septem-



South Korean army soldiers patrol along the barbed-wire fence near the border with North Korea, in Paju, South Korea on Sept 29. (AP)

ber and have no major health issues, according to another lawmaker, Yun Kun-young, who was also present at the meeting. The agency said that while in Ukraine, the soldiers had expressed their desires to resettle in South Korea, according to Yun.

North Korea hasn’t publicly com-

mented on the transfer but has previously claimed major defections of its citizens were the result of South Korea abducting them or luring them to flee.

South Korean officials have said they were concerned about the safety of the two soldiers and their relatives

back in North Korea. Experts say there were also concerns the transfer could trigger protests from the North and undermine efforts to restart Pyongyang’s talks with the United States.

Yun also said the intelligence service estimates that about 9,000 North Korean soldiers were engaged in surveillance operations in the Kursk region.

He also added that the lawmakers were told Russia has given North Korea weapons technologies to support its military modernization plans but has been reluctant to transfer cutting-edge technology related to the construction of nuclear-powered submarines and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The intelligence service has also assessed that the teenage daughter of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has cemented her status as her father’s likely heir after attending an array of different public events and getting more ceremonial treatment, Yun said.

He quoted the service as saying Kim’s daughter - reportedly named Kim Ju Ae and around 13 - made

about 30 public appearances together with her father so far this year, the highest figure in the corresponding period since she first appeared in public in late 2022.

Also:

SEOUL, South Korea: The powerful sister of North Korean leader **Kim Jong Un** rejected South Korean findings that North Korea planted land mines that injured three South Korean soldiers last week and threatened to retaliate if the South fires on North Korean troops fortifying the border.

The incident could further inflame tensions between the Koreans, which have no working military hotlines or other emergency communications channels as North Korea hardens its stance toward Seoul while expanding its military nuclear program.

Three South Korean soldiers were injured in two explosions on Sept 21 near the military demarcation line in the western section of the Demilitarized Zone, a heavily fortified border buffer zone between the Koreans that’s commonly known as the DMZ.



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon speaks during Question Time at Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand on March 31. (AP)

Asia

New Zealand parliament dissolved: New Zealand’s parliament was formally dissolved on Thursday following its final sitting on Sept. 23, ushering in the official campaign period for the Nov. 7 general election.

The ruling National Party and opposition Labor Party officially launched their election campaigns in separate Auckland events on Sunday, kicking off a six-week campaign.

The launches are typically designed to rally supporters and provide an opportunity for parties to unveil new policies addressing New Zealanders’ top five concerns, namely cost of living, healthcare, economy, unemployment and housing, according to the latest Ipsos Issues Monitor, a public opinion survey conducted by market research firm Ipsos.

A 1News-Verian poll released this week projected Labor, the Greens, the Maori party and the Opportunity Party to win a combined 65 seats, compared with 59 for the incumbent coalition of the National Party, ACT and New Zealand First. (Xinhua)

2 dead in vehicle accident near Tokyo: A four-vehicle accident involving trucks occurred on an expressway that crosses Tokyo Bay in Kawasaki, Kanagawa Prefecture, on Thursday morning, leaving two people dead and three others taken to the hospital, local media reported.

Authorities received an emergency call shortly before 7 a.m. local time reporting a multi-vehicle accident on the Tokyo Bay Aqua-Line in Kawasaki, near Tokyo, public broadcaster NHK reported.

The accident occurred inside an underwater tunnel on the expressway and involved three trucks and a tractor-trailer. The tractor-trailer is believed to have crashed into a line of trucks stuck in a traffic jam, the report said, citing police.

The driver of one of the trucks that was rear-ended and a front-seat pas-

senger in the same vehicle were taken to the hospital unconscious. Both were later pronounced dead. (Xinhua)

China expressway accident kills 6: Six people were killed and four others injured after a road accident occurred on an expressway in Huaihua City, central China’s Hunan Province, early Thursday, according to local traffic police.

The accident took place at around 2:07 am at the Huaihua section of the Shanghai-Kunming expressway, the provincial expressway police said in a statement.

A heavy semi-trailer truck, driven by a 57-year-old man surnamed Ren, was heading east to west when it sideswiped a car, then collided with another car ahead. The truck lost control and pushed a third car forward, causing a fire, according to a preliminary investigation.

The accident left six people dead and four injured, and damaged four vehicles to varying degrees. (Xinhua)

Vietnam detains three men: Police in Vietnam have detained three members of a pro-democracy group, including a Norwegian citizen and an Australian national of Vietnamese origin, on terrorism allegations, according to the government and the organization.

The three men said they were members of Viet Tan, a U.S.-based pro-democracy group that Vietnam’s Communist government considers a terrorist organization, Vietnam’s Ministry of Public Security said.

Critics have accused the Hanoi government of carrying out “transnational repression” against dissidents. Vietnam’s communist government tolerates little dissent and tightly controls the media.

Viet Tan said that the men were detained in Cambodia. Vietnamese authorities said they were apprehended by the police after they entered Vietnam on Sept. 18. (AP)

Burundi to accept migrant deportees from United States but details vague

NGOZI, Burundi, Oct 1, (AP): Burundi has agreed to accept people deported by the United States who have no previous connection to the East African country, a spokesperson for the country’s president said Tuesday.

Nancy Ninette Mutoni said Burundi would accept only people who were not facing prosecution and had no links to terrorism. She spoke during an event attended by government officials in Ngozi.

Mutoni did not say when the deportees would arrive or how many people Burundi had agreed to receive. She said preparations were underway to provide accommodations and help the deportees live in local communities.

“Receiving them requires serious planning - where they will stay, what they will eat and how they will live alongside the local population,” Mutoni said.

The Trump administration has expanded third-country deportations as part of its immigration crackdown, sending people to countries where they are not citizens and may never have lived. The United States has sent deportees to several African countries, including Eswatini and South Sudan.



Burundi’s President Evariste Ndayishimiye speaks during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at United Nations headquarters on Sept 23. (AP)

A U.S. appeals court ruling last week threw the program into question. Lawyers for immigrants said a flight carrying about 70 people had been scheduled to travel from Louisiana to Burundi, Rwanda and the Central African Republic but was canceled.

The ruling did not prohibit third-country deportations but required that

people facing removal have a meaningful opportunity to raise concerns about possible persecution or torture. The Trump administration has defended the policy as necessary when deportees’ home countries refuse to accept them.

Also:

HARARE, Zimbabwe: A helicopter with six people on board crashed in a rural part of Zimbabwe on Wednesday and it appears there were no survivors, officials said.

Among the victims was a prominent businessman and his wife, state media reported. The businessman, **Wicknell Chivayo**, was a close ally of Zimbabwe President **Emmerson Mnangagwa**.

The helicopter crashed in the **Marondera** district, southeast of the capital, Harare, police said.

Government spokesperson **Nick Mangwana** posted on X that four passengers, including a high-profile businessman, were on board along with two crew members. “Current information indicates that there were no survivors in this crash,” Mangwana posted.



Local residents search through rubble after what Afghanistan’s Taliban government said was an overnight Pakistani strike on a house in a village in Shaitan district of eastern Kunar province, Afghanistan on Oct 1. (AP)

Pakistani airstrikes in two Afghan provinces kill 10 civilians – Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan, Oct 1, (Agencies): Pakistan carried out airstrikes in two Afghan provinces overnight, both countries said Thursday, with Afghanistan saying 10 civilians were killed, mostly women and children, and that at least 10 were wounded in the bombings.

Pakistan’s Ministry of Information said its strikes were against militant hideouts in two locations and that initial reports suggested 22 militants had been killed. The casualty claims from either side could not be independently verified.

The strikes come amid repeated cross-border clashes between the two countries, while Pakistan has repeatedly carried out airstrikes inside Afghanistan since tensions between the two countries spiraled dramatically earlier this year. The two neighbors have longstanding disputes over militant activity along their border.

The United Nations Mission in Afghanistan said last week that it had documented over 1,100 civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan from cross-border violence so far this year. Pakistan denies striking civilians, and says it targets militants who carry out attacks inside Pakistan. Afghanistan denies harboring militants.

The spokesperson for Afghanistan’s Taliban government, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the airstrikes hit civilian

homes in southern Helmand province and the eastern province of Kunar, destroying three houses. He gave the initial casualty toll as nine women and children killed, and 11 wounded.

“We condemn this act, and consider this an act of aggression and a crime that violates all universally accepted principles,” he said.

Deputy government spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat said 10 people were killed in the strikes, adding that most of the dead were women and children.

Mohammad Hashim, a 30-year-old resident of the village that was bombed in Kunar province, said the strike occurred at around 3 am.

“I heard a woman calling out, asking for the stones to be moved off her; she was trapped underneath,” he said. “We pulled her out, she was injured.” He said that digging through the rubble, he also found the bodies of two men and four children.

Another local resident, 32-year-old Mohammad Habib, said the head of the family, who was among those killed, was a shepherd who was not affiliated with any militant or government groups.

“He was a very poor and humble man. He would let his goats out in the morning without anyone even herding them, and they would go out in the morning and return home in the

evening, and (Pakistan) martyred him,” he said.

Also:

KABUL: A major fire broke out Wednesday evening at **Islam Qala**, a border crossing in Afghanistan’s western **Herat** province bordering Iran, local media outlet TOLONews reported.

Footage of the blaze quickly circulated on social media. One video showed more than a dozen large vehicles, apparently transporting fuel or other energy products, on fire.

Afghan authorities have not yet released confirmed information on casualties or losses caused by the fire.

KABUL: A total of 10 miners were trapped inside a gold mine after a tunnel collapsed in northern Afghanistan’s **Takhar** province on Wednesday, provincial police spokesman **Naqibullah Masroor** said.

The miners were working inside a tunnel in a gold mine in **Chah Ab** district when the tunnel suddenly collapsed Wednesday morning, the official said.

A rescue team had rushed to the site to rescue the trapped miners, the official said, adding that the provincial governor and police chief had also rushed to the site to monitor the rescue operations.

Lat/Am

US imposes new sanctions on Cuba: The US Department of the Treasury on Wednesday imposed new sanctions on Cuba and revised regulations on Cuban assets as part of its efforts to counter “repression” and in the Caribbean island and “threats” to US national security.

“This week, the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) published new Cuba Sanctions Regulations implementing President Trump’s Executive Order 14404, ‘Imposing Sanctions on Those Responsible for Repression in Cuba and Threats to the United States National Security and Foreign Policy,’” said Spokesman for the Department of the Treasury **Tommy Pigott** in a statement.

“Treasury also amended the longstanding Cuban Assets Control Regulations (CACR) to close loopholes the Cuban regime has long exploited to engage in sanctions evasion, enrich regime insiders, and fund dangerous subversive and military activities which threaten the national security of the United States,” he added.

He underlined that the Trump Administration remains committed to leveraging all available sanctions authorities to drive meaningful reform in Cuba, support the Cuban people’s aspirations for freedom, and hold accountable the individuals and entities that pose a threat to the national security of the US. (KUNA)

3 killed in Bolivia mine collapse: Three miners were killed and two others injured in a mine collapse



Pigott

in southwestern Bolivia, police said Wednesday.

The accident occurred late Tuesday at the Mejora mine, operated by the 9 de Abril mining cooperative on Cerro Rico in the department of Potosi, departmental police commander Franklin Roger Villazon said.

The three miners killed were between 24 and 26 years old. Police said a platform inside the mine collapsed over a stretch of about 100 meters.

Villazon said rescue crew worked through the night into early Wednesday. Local miners later recovered the three bodies, while the two injured workers were taken to the hospital.

Cerro Rico has been mined for silver and other minerals since the 16th century, with mining activities continuing to this day. (Xinhua)

UN chief condemns gang attack in Haiti: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned Monday’s reported gang attack in Gros-Morne, Artibonite department in Haiti, his spokesman said Wednesday.

The horrific attack, which reportedly left at least 11 people dead, is another reminder of the heavy toll that gang violence continues to take on Haitians living in areas under the control or influence of armed gangs, said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman.

The incident also underscored the urgency of strengthening security efforts in Haiti, including through the full deployment of the Gang Suppression Force (GSF), and the need to improve the broader efforts to address the drivers of violence and instability in the country, the spokesman said at a regular briefing.

More than 3,000 people were killed in Haiti between January and June, he said, citing data from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (Xinhua)

Kuwait oil prices down to \$102.24 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went down USD 3.15 to reach USD 102.24 per barrel (pb) in Wednesday's trading, compared to USD 105.39 pb the previous day, according to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Thursday.

In global markets, Brent crude went up 91 cents to reach USD 103.50 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate went up USD 1.04 to reach USD 90.42 pb.

Abu Alhous: Award reflects bank's position as leading partner for financial institutions

KFH wins Global Finance's Best Bank for Financial Institutions in the Middle East award

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won Global Finance magazine's 2026 Best Bank for Financial Institutions in the Middle East award at the 26th annual Treasury and Cash Management Awards. The award recognizes KFH's excellence in providing specialized banking services and its success in building strategic partnerships with regional and international financial institutions.

KFH Group Chief Operations Officer, Abdulla Abu Alhous, indicated the underscores the bank's leading role in delivering genuine value to global financial partners.

Abu Alhous explained that this award expands the bank's record of international accolades, reflecting its Islamic banking leadership and ongoing commitment to providing the highest standards of quality, innovation, and excellence to global customers and partners.

Abu Alhous emphasized that winning Best Bank for Financial Institutions in the Middle East reflects KFH's strategy to strengthen its regional and global presence and develop specialized banking services. He noted this success leverages the bank's advanced technological infrastructure and deep Islamic banking experience, pointing out that KFH maintains strong ties with 191 banks worldwide, underscoring its market influence and role as a key link between regional and international banking services.

Award criteria

The Global Finance Awards are highly prestigious accolades recognizing banks with outstanding performance in treasury and cash management. The publication evaluates recipients based on criteria such as market share, cus-



Abdulla Abu Alhous

tomers service, product innovation, and the ability to meet evolving customer



needs.

The magazine used a multi-tiered assessment process, which included entries from banks and providers and input from industry analysts, corporate executives, technology experts and independent research, to select the best providers of treasury and cash management services.

Evaluation combined subjective and objective criteria including profitability, market share, reach, customer service, competitive pricing, and product innovation. The process also weighed how successfully treasury and cash management providers differentiated themselves from competitors regarding core service provi-

sion.

Global Finance

Global Finance, founded in 1987, has a circulation of 50,000 and readers in 193 countries, territories and districts. Global Finance's audience includes senior corporate and financial officers responsible for making investment and strategic decisions at multinational companies and financial institutions.

Trading value reaches KD 74.5 mln

Boursa Kuwait closes lower, general index falls 65.67 pts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Thursday's trading session with its general index down 65.67 points, or 0.75 percent, at 8,713.71 points.

Total turnover reached 236.8 million shares across 20,679 cash transactions, valued at KD 74.5 million (about USD 228.7 million).

The main market index fell 134.95 points, or 1.48 percent, to 8,959.69 points, with 146 million shares traded in 12,842 transactions worth KD 30.2 mil-

lion (about USD 92.7 million).

The premier market index declined 54.33 points, or 0.59 percent, to 9,113.60 points, as 90.7 million shares changed hands in 8,737 transactions valued at KD 44.3 million (about USD 136 million).

The Main 50 Index dropped 101.17 points, or 0.99 percent, to close at 10,111.43 points, with 82.7 million shares traded in 8,637 cash transactions worth KD 20.15 million (about USD 61.8 million).

KPC-backed Nghi Son to sell 8,000 tons of polypropylene

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The long-term strategic vision of Kuwait's oil sector has enabled overseas refineries affiliated with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) to strengthen their global position and sustain rising production rates with efficiency and competence across all vital sectors.

In this regard, documented information revealed that the Nghi Son Refinery and Petrochemical Company has taken a major and unprecedented strategic step by deciding to sell 8,000 metric tons of polypropylene to international market clients.

This move carries significant economic weight, given the company's ownership structure. KPC holds a major 35.1 percent stake in the company through its international investment arm, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI), which has a strong presence in global markets.

Meanwhile, a high-ranking oil industry source confirmed that these developments at the Nghi Son refinery coincide with an exceptional operational surge.

The refinery, which has a baseline design capacity of 200,000 barrels of crude oil per day, equivalent to 10 million tons annually, has successfully increased its operational efficiency and refining rates to between 120 and 125 percent of its design capacity.

sign capacity.

It was noted that the dynamic activity and accelerated operations at these overseas refineries represent far more than routine business. They clearly reflect the success of Kuwait's international partnerships in pursuing promising and highly profitable investment opportunities in Asia's refining and petrochemical sectors.

Furthermore, they demonstrate Kuwait's robust capability to meet growing global demand for high-value petroleum products.

It was also highlighted that the global petrochemical market is currently witnessing fierce competition to secure sustainable market shares for propylene.

This trend is driven by positive forecasts from research centers predicting continued growth in demand, particularly in Southeast Asia, the engine of global economic growth.

In this context, the Kuwait-backed Nghi Son refinery's plan to supply substantial quantities to its customers is of critical importance. This move strengthens the company's financial position and boosts returns for its partners, foremost among them the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

KPC continues to make steady progress toward achieving the ambitious goals of its 2040 strategic vision, which aims for qualitative expansion in the integrated petrochemical sector.

Tracking modernization efforts

OAPEC Executive Bureau reviews development plans

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1, (KUNA): The Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) held Thursday its 177th Executive Bureau meeting via video conference to review developments in the organization's development project.

The meeting reviewed implementation of the project's second phase, focusing on digital transformation, scientific research and media strategies, as well as preparations for the 13th Arab Energy Conference in Riyadh next year.

Libyan representative Ammari Mohammed Al-Ammari said the organization had moved from planning to implementation through integrated projects aimed at modernizing its work tools and strategies.

OAPEC Secretary-General Khaled Al-Otaibi said implementation was progressing toward the targeted structure, with parallel efforts covering organizational development and digital transformation.

He said the General Secretariat had also developed digital infrastructure, upgraded information resources and transformed the library into an integrated digital library and Arab energy knowledge center.

The meeting concluded with recommendations on several agenda items, while Executive Bureau members reaffirmed support for the Secretariat's efforts to complete the development process and implement related strategic initiatives.



Meeting of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

By National Bank of Kuwait

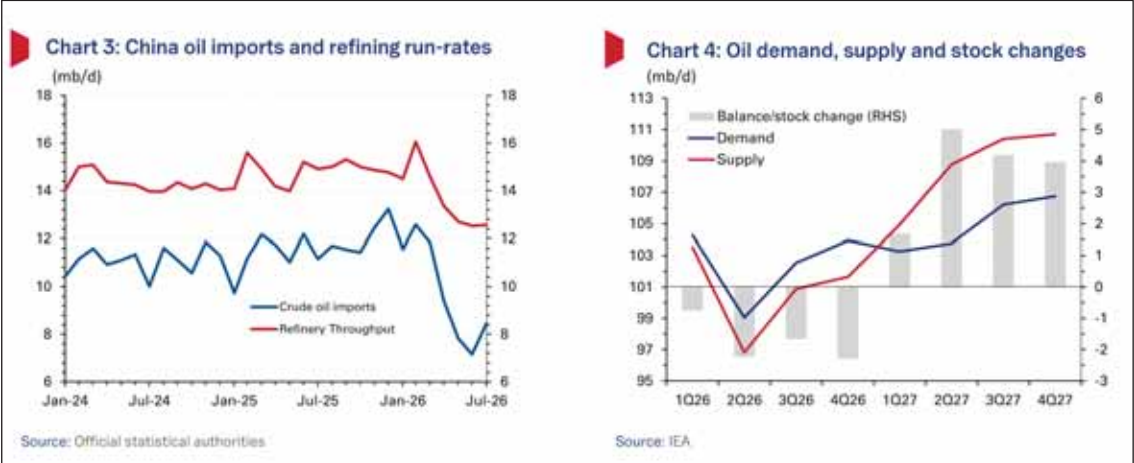
Oil prices were back above \$100 in September amid a spike in geopolitical risk linked to militant attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure and ongoing irresolution to the US-Iran conflict. The entry of the Houthis has opened a second front, limiting export flows through the Red Sea and threatening to tip the global oil market into a deeper deficit while global oil inventories deplete at a record pace and despite regional producer workarounds and higher exports from outside the region. In the absence of a deal to fully open the Strait of Hormuz in the near term, market fundamentals will remain tight and crude oil prices high.

Oil price movements: prices top \$100/bbl on Houthi-linked geopolitical risk, product markets in distress

The global oil market has remained subject to immense pressure in recent weeks, amid continued fallout from the US-Iran conflict and severe disruption to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz (SoH). Oil prices began to rise again after the MOU between the two sides collapsed in July and surged back above the symbolic \$100/bbl level in early September as the Houthis and Iran-aligned militias entered the fray, effectively closing off the Bab el-Mandeb to Saudi oil exports and significantly raising the threat level to the kingdom's energy infrastructure. The key 7 mb/d East-West pipeline had to be taken offline for several days after a pumping station was struck but has since been partially reopened as the kingdom doubled down on repair and workarounds. Saudi efforts to reassure the market and talk of a restart in US-Iran diplomatic negotiations did pull Brent below \$100/bbl briefly. Meanwhile, tanker flows through the Strait under heavy US navy escort continue in defiance of the Islamic Republic.

Nevertheless, the oil futures and physical markets especially continue to signal extreme supply tightness. Brent time spreads (M1-M2) remain in the \$4-5/bbl range—much higher than the 16 mb/d, had been shipped in the August-September period, a massive volume that would bring oil flows to 80% of pre-conflict levels. The IEA has a far more conservative estimate of 7.6 mb/d for August, while anticipating a reduction in total global supply of 5.7 mb/d to 100.7 mb/d on average this year. Significantly, the agency estimates that oil exports from outside the Middle East have surged by a sizeable 2.3 mb/d on average since February, headed by the US (+520 kb/d), Brazil (+470 kb/d), Kazakhstan (+400 kb/d) and Venezuela (+300 kb/d). For 2027, supplies should rebound (+8 mb/d) led by the Gulf exporters.

Despite persistent threats to regional oil infrastructure, workarounds by Gulf producers have proven durable and flows have risen since the breakdown of the US-Iran MoU in July. This is backed up by OPEC production data, which showed regional oil output rising in August for a fourth month in a row. Total DoC output increased to 34.3 mb/d. Among OPEC, Iraq and Kuwait have brought back the most



production from their lows in April, reaching 3.4 mb/d and 1.9 mb/d, respectively, in August.

Oil inventories: record drawdowns have eased the supply shock, but left levels exposed to future crises

The rate of depletion of global oil inventories, at 2.8 mb/d over the last six months but a steeper 3.1 mb/d in August, has been unprecedented, the IEA has stated. Observed global oil stocks have declined by a cumulative 507 mb since the crisis (~8.3bn to ~7.8bn), with IEA member countries drawing down a combined 300 mb from their emergency reserves (out of 400 mb initially promised in March). In the US, SPR levels have fallen to their lowest since 1982 at 285 mb, close to minimum operational tank levels (250-300 mb), below which oil draws become

physically more difficult. Stock draws have been the critical lever in meeting demand and preventing oil prices spiking even higher, helped also by the elevated inventory cover coming into the crisis. OECD oil stocks (on-land commercial and SPR) were down to 3.82 billion barrels by June's close, a drawdown roughly equivalent to at least 2.6 mb/d from end-Q1, as per OPEC data. The focus on crude has masked the decline in middle distillate stocks, which have dropped below five-year average levels, and to the lowest in seven years for European jet fuel stocks.

Outlook: firmer price in the near term amid ongoing conflict risk and market supply deficits

Anticipating the direction for oil prices in the current circumstances is fraught with uncertainty. It depends almost entirely on a resolution to the

conflict or, at the very least, SoH flows returning to pre-conflict levels. Near-term fundamentals are extremely tight and suggestive of firmer oil prices than the futures markets are pricing—as evidenced by physical crude prices; futures prices may also be underplaying the necessity if not the likelihood of an extended period of substantial global stock rebuilding once Gulf supplies normalize. The stressed refined product markets, with refining capacity stretched and depleted inventories, will likely lead the curve, with room for potentially more price growth in the short term before consumption is negatively affected. We have Brent ranging around \$95/bbl in Q4 (averaging \$90/bbl in 2026) falling to \$80/bbl on average in 2027 linked to expectations of higher supplies and softer-than-expected demand/global economic growth.

Global stocks fall as 10-year Treasury yield nears 5.34%

Bond market swings rattle global stocks, offset AI optimism

NEW YORK, Oct 1, (AP): More swings in the bond market are rattling stock markets around the world on Thursday and offsetting optimism that the artificial-intelligence industry can keep climbing.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.1% and may be heading toward its seventh drop in the last eight days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 64 points, or 0.1% as of 12:49 p.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.2% lower.

The losses were sharper in Europe, where bond yields saw a significant jump overnight. London's FTSE 100 sank 1.7% after the yield on the 10-year U.K. government bond leaped as high as 5.53% before falling to 5.37% and then charging upward again. The CAC 40 in Paris dropped 1.6% following similar swings for the 10-year French government bond's yield.

High yields slow the economy by making it more expensive for everyone to borrow money, while undercutting prices for stocks and other investments.

Yields are on the rise for a range of reasons, including worries about high inflation and oil prices, signals that the U.S. economy remains solid and governments' insistence to continue to spend much more money than they bring in.

Those worries don't look to be going away anytime soon, and oil prices climbed again Thursday to keep the pressure up on inflation. The price for a barrel of Brent

crude added 3.2% to \$101.13 for its latest yo-yo move on uncertainty about when the war with Iran will allow the global oil industry to return to normal.

Further reports also signaled the U.S. economy is powering through its many challenges. Fewer U.S. workers applied for unemployment benefits last week, which could mean fewer layoffs. That followed a report on Wednesday that said the U.S. economy's overall growth was even stronger in the spring than earlier thought.

A separate report on Thursday said growth for U.S. manufacturing also continued in September. Potentially more concerning in that report from the Institute for Supply Management was that increases in prices accelerated, which could mean further pressure on inflation.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury briefly neared 5.34% following the manufacturing report, before pulling back to 5.24% from 5.29% late Wednesday. It nevertheless remains near its highest level since 2002, and it's up from less than 5% just last week and from less than 4% before the war with Iran began.

High yields can hurt real-estate owners in particular. Not only do they raise the cost of borrowing, they can also make investors looking for income leave real-estate stocks and their dividends for bonds.

BXP, which owns office buildings around the country, sank 1.8%. Alexandria Real Estate Equities,

which owns campuses for life sciences companies, fell 3.4%.

Helping to limit Wall Street's losses was strength for technology stocks after Micron Technology delivered a stronger profit report for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

The maker of memory chips for computers said growth is strengthening, and it gave forecasts for upcoming profit and revenue that topped analysts' estimates. CEO Sanjay Mehrotra said it's benefiting from the AI boom, which is driving demand for memory.

Micron's stock fell 1.1%, which some analysts attributed to how much its stock had already jumped before the profit report. It came into the day with a gain of more than 270% for the year so far, towering over the less than 12% rise for the overall S&P 500.

But other AI-related stocks benefited from Micron's optimism about continued demand related to AI. Applied Materials rose 2.7%, and Nvidia added 1.2%.

Outside of tech, Accenture leaped 18.3% after the consulting and services company reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It saw growth around the world, from the Americas to Asia.

In stock markets abroad, Asian indexes did better than the rest of the world thanks to optimism around AI following Micron's profit report. Japan's Nikkei 225 jumped 3.3%, and South Korea's Kospi climbed 1.9%.

An exceptional national evening celebrating Kuwait's history & the sacrifices of its people

Sponsored by NBK, Al-Sour Theatre opens with an epic operetta honoring the nation's defenders



KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, and in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored the opening ceremony of Al-Sour Theatre at Phase Three of Al-Shaheed Park, the largest theatre in Kuwait. The opening was marked by an exceptional national and cultural celebration featuring the major national theatrical production “Al-Sour”, attended by a broad gathering of senior officials and prominent cultural figures.

The ceremony was also attended by a number of NBK’s senior leaders and executives, led by Mr. Isam Al-Sager, Vice Chairman and Group CEO; Ms. Shaikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO; and Mr. Salah Al-Fulaij, CEO of NBK – Kuwait, reaffirming the Bank’s continued commitment to supporting major national and cultural initiatives and its role as an active partner to the State at occasions and milestones that celebrate Kuwait’s history and reinforce its national values.

NBK’s sponsorship of this major national event builds on its longstanding commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen national identity and preserve Kuwait’s cultural heritage, reflecting the Bank’s belief in the importance of culture and the arts in reinforcing the values of belonging and enhancing national awareness among current and future generations.

Al-Sour Theatre represents a significant new addition to Kuwait’s cultural and artistic landscape. As an integrated cultural and architectural landmark, it provides a modern platform for hosting major events, theatrical productions, and artistic performances, further strengthening Kuwait’s leading position as a regional center for culture and creativity.

The major national theatrical production “Al-Sour” formed the centerpiece of the opening ceremony. Inspired by the epic story of building Kuwait’s historic wall, the production evoked the enduring national and human significance the wall holds in the hearts of Kuwaitis and in their collective memory, as a symbol of unity, solidarity, and social cohesion in the face of challenges.

Through an integrated blend of dramatic, musical, and performance scenes, the production vividly portrayed the values of solidarity, belonging, and loyalty that distinguish Kuwaiti society. It also highlighted the close relationship between the leadership and the people throughout the different stages of Kuwait’s national history, and the role this relationship has played as a fundamental pillar in the country’s development and progress.

The production also paid a moving national tribute to members of the armed forces, security services, and frontline personnel, in recognition of their sacrifices and dedicated efforts to protect Kuwait and safeguard its security and stability. The tribute conveyed a message of loyalty and gratitude to those who have set an honorable ex-



NBK sponsors Al-Sour Theatre opening, celebrating Kuwait's heritage.

- The operetta chronicled NBK’s journey as a partner in Kuwait’s development through the decades
- NBK reinforces its national presence at milestones that celebrate and preserve Kuwait’s history
- “Al-Sour” revisited the epic story of building Kuwait’s wall and paid tribute to frontline heroes

Kuwait’s history with modern performance techniques. The production also featured a distinguished group of leading Kuwaiti artists who contributed to establishing Kuwait’s theatri-

cal movement, alongside a group of young artists and emerging national talent, reflecting the continuity of Kuwait’s artistic contribution and the connection between generations in serving national culture and the arts. A wide range of government, military, and civil entities also participated in producing this major national event, reflecting the spirit of partnership and inte-

gration among the various State institutions in contributing to the success of this distinguished national celebration.

The event reflected a high level of collaboration and integration among the government, military, civil, and private-sector entities involved in producing and organizing the celebration, embodying the spirit of national partnership that has long characterized Kuwait’s journey across major occasions and historic milestones.

NBK’s sponsorship of the opening ceremony of Al-Sour Theatre reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to support projects and events that celebrate Kuwait’s history, national symbols, and cultural achievements, while reflecting its role as a national partner present at occasions that preserve the nation’s memory and honor its dedicated citizens.

The opening of Al-Sour Theatre marks an important milestone in Kuwait’s cultural journey, while the national production “Al-Sour” underscored that revisiting Kuwait’s history is not merely a celebration of the past, but an opportunity to draw inspiration from the values that shaped the nation’s journey, pay tribute to the generations that contributed to building it, and look ahead to a future in which the people of Kuwait continue the country’s journey of development, progress, and excellence.

Reflecting on a National Legacy

The celebration featured a dedicated segment highlighting NBK’s history and longstanding national role since its establishment as Kuwait’s first national bank and a partner in the country’s development and nation-building journey over the decades. The segment highlighted key milestones through which the Bank demonstrated its close ties with the State and society, as well as its contributions to supporting a wide range of national, cultural, and social initiatives, reinforcing its standing as one of Kuwait’s national institutions whose journey has been closely linked to the country’s development and modern progress.

The production also revisited a number of moments and milestones that reflected NBK’s commitment to its national responsibility and its role in supporting efforts to advance sustainable development and preserve national identity, reaffirming the Bank as a model of active national partnership in serving Kuwait and its people.

Commemorative Gift

On the sidelines of the opening ceremony of Al-Sour Theatre, NBK’s Executive Management presented a commemorative artwork to His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister, in appreciation of his support and attendance at this distinguished national and cultural occasion.

The gesture came as part of the Bank’s celebration of the opening of this new cultural landmark and reaffirmed its support for national initiatives that contribute to showcasing Kuwait’s history and cultural heritage and reinforcing the values of belonging and loyalty to the nation.

Sinopec co-hosts Mid-Autumn Festival celebration

Chinese Association in Kuwait celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival & National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Beneath the glow of the Mid-Autumn moon, members of the Chinese community in Kuwait came together on Monday evening to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival and the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, sharing a night of culture, friendship and reunion at the Chinese Cultural Center in Kuwait.

Organized by the Chinese Association in Kuwait with Sinopec as co-organizers, the celebration brought together representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Kuwait and the Chinese Cultural Center, Overseas Chinese, Representatives of Chinese enterprises and guests from the community.

The evening featured poetry recitations, Chinese songs, traditional Chinese poetry, martial arts demonstrations, family performances and interactive cultural activities. Through music, poetry and traditional arts, the program offered a glimpse into the richness of Chinese culture



Photos during the event.

while creating a warm gathering place for people far from their homeland.

For many overseas Chinese, the Mid-Autumn Festival is more than a traditional celebration. The full moon symbolizes reunion and carries the feelings of those who are separated from their families and homeland. In Kuwait, that shared sentiment brought people together across distance and generations.

The event also highlighted the longstanding friendship between the Chinese and Kuwaiti peoples. Volunteers from the Association contributed throughout the event, assisting with venue preparation, on-site services and event support.

As the evening came to a close, the gathering carried a simple message: although people may live far from home, the same moon connects hearts across the seas. Participants expressed their hope to continue strengthening China-Kuwait friendship, serving the Chinese community and promoting Chinese culture in Kuwait.

Spreading friendship & brotherhood

Indian Arts Federation celebrates Onavarnam

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Celebrating the grandeur of Kerala's traditional harvest festival, Onam, the Indian Arts Federation (IAF) Kuwait organized Onavarnam 2026 with a vibrant array of cultural programmes at Calicut Live Auditorium, Ajlail Mall, Fahaheel. The celebration, which conveyed a message of love, friendship, and brotherhood, witnessed the enthusiastic participation of families from various areas of Kuwait.

The festivities commenced with an Onam song by Helen Susan, renowned for her performances in IAF Star Voice. IAF General Secretary Leo Kizhakkaveedan delivered the welcome address, while President Sherine Mathew presided over the function. Anil P. Alex, General Secretary of the Kerala Press Club Kuwait, inaugurated the event. In his inaugural address, Anil P. Alex highlighted the power of art in bringing people together in a world increasingly marked by divisions and hostility. He emphasized that cultural organizations do more than organize celebrations; they play a significant role in promoting unity, sharing, and friendship among people.

IAF Chairman Preman Illath delivered the Onam message.

The cultural programme featured a variety of performances showcasing Kerala's rich traditions and cultural heritage, including Thiruvathirakali, a traditional boat-race presentation, and other folk and classical dance forms. Onam songs, dance performances, musical programmes, and

recreational competitions involving children and adults added colour and excitement to the celebrations.

The tug-of-war competition emerged as one of the major attractions of the event, bringing the spirit and enthusiasm of Onam to the forefront. In a closely contested match, the Mangaf team emerged victorious, winning the IAF Ever-Rolling Trophy. Special sports and recreational activities organized for children also received enthusiastic participation.

In her presidential address, Sherine Mathew stated that such gatherings aim to strengthen friendships and family bonds while passing on Kerala's rich cultural heritage to the younger generation. The IAF also expressed its condolences on the demise of Soorya Krishnamoorthy, a renowned Indian cultural organizer and curator.

The event was organized under the leadership of IAF Cultural Secretary Nirmala Devi, Programme Convenor Priya Kannan, Secretary Murali Muruganandan, and office bearers Bony Kurian, Gladson, Joby, Harindran, Dr. Juby, Kuriakose, Shilpa Sivan, and Lijo. The event was further enriched by the graceful compering of Levina Kurian and Dayasree. A sumptuous traditional Onam Sadhya was also served as part of the celebration.

The event concluded on a festive note, reinforcing the spirit of unity, cultural pride, and togetherness among the Malayali community in Kuwait.



Photos during the event.

KCCC oncologist leads awareness session

VVTNS Kuwait holds cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: In a major initiative highlighting the upcoming International Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October and promoting early detection, health education, and community well-being, the Women's Wing of the Velinadu Vazh Thamizharkal Nala Sangam & trust (VVTNS) - Kuwait successfully organized the "Breast Cancer & Uterine Cancer Awareness 2026" campaign on Friday, September 25, at KALA Hall.

The event saw an impressive turnout of hundreds of attendees from diverse sectors of the expatriate community, including representatives from TVK, DMK, AIADMK, PMK, NTK, MJK, NDMK, TVMK, DMDK, TMMK and others along with social organizations like The Frontliners, Aranthai Trust, Kuwait Otunar Sevai Maiyyam, Alibai, Kuwait Tamil makkal sevai maiyyam, Tamil Nurses Association Kalakalappu Friends & Others.

Notably, more than fifty women participated in the dedicated session, highlighting the community's growing commitment to women's health education.

Serving as the keynote speaker, Dr. Susovana Sujit Nair, a leading Medical Oncologist at the Kuwait Cancer Control Center (KCCC), delivered a comprehensive and educational presentation. Dr. Nair

provided clear, detailed insights into various types of cancers affecting women, emphasizing the critical importance of early screening, self-examinations, and recognizing initial symptoms. "Early detection remains the single most effective tool in improving treatment outcomes and saving lives," Dr. Nair emphasized during her talk.

A major highlight of the gathering was an inspiring address by cancer survivor Mrs. Saritha Devi, who served as the motivational speaker for the event. Sharing her personal journey with remarkable grace and fortitude, Mrs. Saritha Devi stood as a true beacon of hope and strength. Demonstrating extraordinary courage and warmth, she engaged in an interactive Q&A session with the audience, addressing their questions directly without a trace of sorrow or hesitation. Her upbeat, open approach transformed sensitive discussions into a source of pure motivation. Her powerful message of resilience deeply moved the audience, leaving attendees with an overwhelming sense of positivity and encouragement.

Dr. S.M. Hythar Ali, Founder and Chairman of the MA HYTHAR Group, graced the event as the special guest. In his address, he commended the initiatives

taken by the VVTNS Ladies Wing in organizing crucial health awareness and educational camps for the expatriate community living in Kuwait. Emphasizing the importance of prioritizing personal wellness, he urged the audience to adopt a balanced lifestyle and healthy eating habits based on the medical guidance provided by Dr. Susovana Sujit Nair.

The event brought together representatives across political and social spectrums, showcasing strong unity for a shared public health cause. Organizers (Nellai Maraikayar, Nabil Qasim, Muthuramalingam, Manikandan, Iyyapan, Ithayathullah, Saidai Geejo, Noushad Ali, Jaikumar, Anandaravi, Bamani Basha & Rajkumar) expressed their sincere gratitude to the guest speakers, community leaders, venue coordinators at KALA Hall, and all attendees whose active participation made the initiative a resounding success. The Women's Wing of VVTNS Kuwait consisting of Unnamalai, Shakilabanu, Ayesha, Famitha, Dhanalaxmi, Shanti, Chandra(India) Sabeena, Chandra (Srilanka) reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to hosting similar welfare programs, aiming to build a healthier and more informed community in Kuwait.



Photos during the event.



Photo during the event.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: The Kerala Islamic Group (KIG) Kuwait organized a graduation ceremony for students who completed their studies at Al Madrasa Al Islamia and English Madrasa for Islamic Studies during the 2025-26 academic year.

The ceremony, held at the Awqaf Ministry Auditorium in Riggaa, was inaugurated by Sattam Khalid Al Musayyin, Manager of the Foreign Relations and Hajj & Umrah Affairs Department at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs (Awqaf). KIG President Anwar Sayeed presided over the function.

Graduating students from eight KIG-affiliated madrasas in Abbasiya, Fahaheel, Farwaniya and Salmiya received their certificates during the ceremony.

PWF celebrates friendship at Desi Breakfast for women

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Pakistan Women's Forum (PWF) hosted a lively Desi Breakfast bringing ladies together for a morning of friendship, fun and entertainment.

The program included a Pakistan Quiz, singing last letter word game, Women-to-Women Empowerment, Best Look/Best Dressed, Lucky Draw and Photo Corner. The ladies participated enthusiastically, creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere.

The gathering provided an opportunity to connect, share laughter and create memorable moments, reflecting PWF's spirit of "Women Supporting Women."

It was a beautiful morning of chai, conversation, laughter and togetherness, celebrating friendship and community among Pakistani women in Kuwait.



Photo during the event.

Al-Shaheed Park

Al-Shaheed Park turns page with Phase III



Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Al-Shaheed Park entered a new chapter Wednesday as His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah inaugurated Phase III and its centerpiece, Al-Soor Theater.

Senior officials, project leaders, and sponsors gathered for a ceremony blending heritage and modernity—marked by the national anthem, Quranic recitation, and a sweeping artistic performance, “Al-Soor,” that traced Kuwait’s journey through themes of unity and solidarity.

Speeches praised the Amir’s vision for sustainable development and lauded national teams behind megaprojects that include the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Centres. The evening concluded with a tour of the phase’s cultural, tourism, and recreational spaces.

Amiri Diwan photos

Turn one overgrown plant into several new ones

How, when and why to divide garden perennials for better blooming

NEW YORK, Oct 1, (AP): If your spring and early-summer perennials are overgrowing their spaces, blooming less, producing smaller flowers or flopping over (possibly with a hole in their centers), they’re telling you they want to be divided.

Crowded plants often struggle because they must compete for limited water, nutrients and sunlight, and the diminished airflow between them also increases their risk of contracting mold and fungal diseases.

To avoid their inevitable decline, it’s best to divide them every three to five years. As a bonus, the practice will reward you with free plants for your garden.

Not every perennial, however, appreciates division. Plants with woody crowns or deep taproots, like lavender, Russian sage, butterfly weed and Baptisia, downright resent it.

As a rule of (green) thumb, gardeners should divide late-summer and fall bloomers in the spring, just after they emerge from the ground, and spring- and early-to-mid-summer bloomers in the fall, when the plants no longer need their energy stores for active growth and flower production.

In colder climates, fall divisions should be completed four to six weeks before the ground freezes to allow sufficient time for each replanted segment’s roots to establish before dormancy.

Watch the weather report and plan the task for a cool, cloudy day. Water the plant deeply one or two days prior to give it a hydrating boost and moisten the soil.

Cut plants down, if necessary, to better expose their crowns, or the junctures where their top growth meets their roots. That will also make them easier to work with.

Plunge a garden fork into the soil, about a foot away from the base of



An overgrown sedum with a hole in its center, a telltale sign that a plant is in need of division, appears on Long Island, N. Y., on Sept. 22, 2026, (AP)

the plant. You can use a spade instead, but I prefer a fork because it minimizes damage to the root ball.

Apply pressure to the tool’s handle to raise a section of the clump, then remove the fork, step over to the next section of root, and insert and raise it in the same manner. Repeat all around the plant until you have loosened the entire root system and can easily lift it out of the ground.

Gently remove enough soil from the roots to enable you to better see the base of the plant’s shoots.

Small plants with loose roots can often be pulled apart by hand, but this won’t likely be the case if they are already overgrown and crowded, which is why we’re here in the first place.

So, grab a second fork and place it back-to-back with the first into the center of the root clump. Pull the handles in opposite directions toward the outside of the plant until the clump separates into two pieces.

Very large clumps can be divided into three or even four plants, as long as each section has healthy roots and at least three strong shoots above it.

To minimize the shoots’ exposure to the dehydrating air, dig holes for your new plants immediately. Better yet, prepare the holes before digging up the plants, if possible.

Make each hole wider than the clump, but only deep enough to ensure the top of the root ball lands at or very slightly above the soil line when planted.

Cover with soil and tamp firmly to remove air pockets, then water well, but don’t fertilize.

Apply a layer of mulch over the bare soil around plants to retain water, discourage weeds and reduce soil temperature fluctuations over winter.

In spring, your new, free plants will begin their second acts as healthier, more vigorous plants with plenty of room to grow.



Victoria Monét poses for a portrait in New York on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026. (AP)

Singer returns with 22-track set

Monét’s ‘Frequency of Love’ seeks ideal sonic vibration

NEW YORK, Oct. 1, (AP): Victoria Monét won’t take it personally if you call her upcoming album a comeback, even though it has only been a three-year break.

“It should be normal to take time to create your next album. I know we live in a world where we want everything fast,” the three-time Grammy winner said in an interview with The Associated Press. For inspiration, she said she had to let life take its course.

“I’m OK with people asking for more music or feeling like, ‘Dang, I missed her.’ Or this is a comeback, because that makes me feel like there was a gap in time where they noticed that I was gone,” the artist said.

The “On My Mama” singer returns Friday with “Frequency of Love,” a 22-track studio project that follows her Grammy-winning “Jaguar II,” which she made in 2023.

The new album is powered by singles like the house-flavored “Reach Out,” yacht R&B-inspired “Juicy” and “Let Me,” which is a slow jam that already reached No. 1 on Billboard’s adult R&B airplay chart. Some of the new work features heavyweights Bruno Mars and SZA, as well as R&B hitmakers Bryson Tiller, Leon Thomas and Chloë Bailey.

“I’m really, really, really passionate about love. ... A lot of it was just reflective of what I was going through or feeling while dating,” said Monét, who originally considered creating a yacht-R&B album. “The album covers many bases, including love for my daughter, love for the world, what I want to see for it.”

“Frequency of Love,” executive produced by Camper, takes listeners on a sonic excursion beyond romance, with several interpolations of classic ‘90s R&B songs skillfully peppered throughout.

“Almost,” which includes a reference to Brandy’s “Almost Doesn’t Count,” is a sensual take on feeling sexually unsatisfied, while “For You” reimagines Kenny Lattimore’s classic romantic ballad. “Care for Somebody (Interlude)” is Monét’s

rendition of a song she first encountered as a child while watching Halle Berry in “Introducing Dorothy Dandridge” with her grandmother.

Michael Jackson’s musical growth between “Off the Wall” and “Thriller” inspired Monét’s creative process. While she’s quick to halt any comparison to the commercial and critical acclaim of one of music’s most prolific artists, she aimed to channel the same risk-taking artistry.

“I did not make ‘Thriller,’” Monét said. “I just made my version of what I would make with that mindset.”

The singer, 37, is keenly aware of heightened expectations. But she was slightly unprepared for some negativity that followed her 2024 Grammy wins for best new artist, best R&B album and best non-classical engineered album.

“I think there was a flip from me being an underdog that everyone wanted to support,” she said. “If I get millions of supporters, I can also have millions of haters. But who am I paying attention to? And that’s what the album for me is about.”

Recently serving as a special guest on the European stretch of Bruno Mars’ “The Romantic” tour, Monét is gearing up for her own “Frequency of Love” dates, visiting 27 North American cities starting in late October.

After beginning her career penning songs for Ariana Grande, Blackpink, Chloë x Halle and Selena Gomez, Monét is still interested in writing collaborations and working with “unexpected” artists. She also dreams of writing scripted TV and film projects, including a comedy.

A creative at heart, Monét also recently graduated from the Institute of Culinary Education as its top student. During class, she’d listen to music associated with the country of the dish she was preparing. Often bringing meals to her production team during recording sessions, she says the vibes of the international music, and the camaraderie that food and fellowship can bring, would influence some of the sonic tones of her songs.

Variety

LONDON: Supermodel Naomi Campbell won a legal challenge Thursday to overturn a five-year ban on serving as a charity trustee in England and Wales.

A three-judge tribunal found that Campbell, 56, had been “deceived” by Bianka Hellmich, a fellow trustee in the anti-poverty charity Fashion for Relief, which hosted fundraising events in Cannes and London.

Two years ago, the Charity Commission, which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales, found “multiple instances of misconduct and/or mismanagement” at the charity. This included using charity funds to pay for her stay at a five-star hotel in Cannes, as well as spa treatments, room service and cigarettes. As a result, it imposed the ban on Campbell.

In its ruling, the tribunal confirmed there had been “serious misconduct and mismanagement,” but concluded that the “failures in the management of the charity’s finances and the misuse of its funds” resulted from Hellmich’s conduct. These, it added, were “concealed” from the supermodel.

The judges found that Hellmich “used forged documents” and also deceived professional advisers and the Charity Commission.

The judges also said that while Campbell shared responsibility for the charity failing to file its accounts on time, this did not mean she was unfit to be a charity trustee.

During the four-day hearing in June, Campbell said her “only mistake” was trusting Hellmich, who she alleged forged her signature and lied about her credentials as a charity lawyer. (AP)

Media

Deal marks major industry shift

Judge clears Paramount-Warner merger deal

CHICAGO, Oct 1, (AP): A federal judge has granted Paramount’s settlement agreement with 12 states that sued over the company’s takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery, allowing the companies to soon close their \$81 billion mega merger.

In a Wednesday order, U.S. District Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín ruled that the proposed consent decree was a “fair, reasonable, and good faith approach to address the competitive harms” alleged by the states’ lawsuit. Paramount, which was bought by Skydance just last year, previously called the antitrust challenge the last hurdle ahead of closing its Warner merger.

The companies now expect to complete the deal on Oct. 6. Shortly after Martínez-Olguín’s ruling Wednesday afternoon, Paramount also announced Ynon Kreiz - who is toy giant Mattel’s current chief executive - will soon join as co-CEO alongside David Ellison.

In a statement, Ellison said Paramount’s merger with Warner marks a “transformational moment for our industry” and that he and his new co-CEO will lead a business that is “creator-first, tech-forward and built to scale globally.”

A Paramount-Warner marriage will bring together two of Hollywood’s last five legacy studios. HBO Max, a library full of titles including “Harry Potter” and cable networks such as CNN will also find themselves under the same roof with CBS, the likes of the “Top Gun” franchise and the Paramount+ streaming service.

That further concentrates power in an industry already run by just a handful of major players. And many critics of the deal have decried the states’ settlement, arguing the terms are too weak.

Paramount touted clearances for its Warner acquisition from regulators worldwide over recent months, including the Trump administration’s Justice Department in the U.S.

But in July, top prosecutors from



The Paramount Pictures water tower is seen in Los Angeles on December 17, 2025. (AP)

12 states - led by California Attorney General Rob Bonta - sued to block the merger altogether. They alleged a Paramount-Warner combination would “extinguish competition” in Hollywood and lead to fewer choices for consumers, particularly movie theatergoers and cable customers.

Last week, the states agreed to settle those claims through new commitments from Paramount, including pledges to increase film production in the U.S. over the next five years, grant millions of dollars to a fund aimed at supporting workers displaced by the merger and establish new editorial monitoring of CNN and CBS.

Martínez-Olguín didn’t greenlight the terms right away - maintaining at a Thursday hearing that the court isn’t merely a “rubber stamp” on a settlement of this kind and that she, like many others, had questions. The judge granted outside critics of the settlement (including members of the Block the Merger coalition and the League of United Latin American Citizens) a brief window to share their opposition. She also instructed Paramount and the states to respond to concerns raised by Democratic

Sen. Cory Booker.

By Wednesday’s order, however, she concluded that the hopes for settlement terms to go further “do not rise to the level of legal violations upon which the Court can reject the parties’ negotiated resolution.”

The Writers Guild of America, which had filed its own suit shortly after the states in July, also reached a settlement agreement with Paramount last week - concluding that it couldn’t continue its legal fight alone.

The Block the Merger coalition on Wednesday maintained the states’ settlement was a “toothless” deal.

“In years to come, we’ll be able to point to this failure to put consumers over the monied interests of corporate consolidation as the tipping-point moment for media in this country,” Block the Merger said in a statement. But, the group added, “if there is one discernible benefit to the approval of this corporate takeover, it’s that people are now wide awake and paying attention - and their anger is not going to fade away.”

Before agreeing to settle, Bonta previously said the states would only consider “robust” structural

The rich, creamy flesh varies by variety

Malaysia wants the world to taste durian its way



A customer poses beside a giant durian display at a durian stall in Petaling Jaya, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, June 22, 2026. (AP)

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1, (AP): Malaysia is pushing to take durian, whose powerful smell delights its lovers and repels its haters, beyond its roadside stalls and family orchards to convince fans of the spiky fruit that its varieties are worth seeking out.

Devotees savor durians like wine. For Malaysian ones, the taste of their rich and creamy flesh varies widely across types. Some are prized for their sweet custard and fruity notes, others for a hint of bitterness, an alcohol tinge or even a peanut butter flavor.

Malaysians’ efforts to elevate the industry can be found in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, at a center devoted exclusively to the fruit and the growing variety of products made from it.

At the Kuala Lumpur Durian Ex-

perience Centre, near the landmark Petronas Twin Towers, visitors venture into a replica durian orchard to discover the fruit’s culture and history. In another room, a theater show draws laughter. Downstairs, visitors enjoy platters and egg tarts crafted from it.

Launched this summer after an investment of nearly \$2 million, the two-story center spans about 1,900 square meters (20,450 square feet) and is open daily. Its durian shop welcomes guests from morning to midnight.

Its founder, Edison Ang, said the center targets both local customers and tourists, especially those from China, the world’s biggest durian importer. He said Chinese palates have long been influenced by Thai durian culture.



A worker livestreams while selling durians at a durian stall in Petaling Jaya, on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, June 22, 2026. (AP)

“What we actually hope for now is not to get people who don’t eat durian to start eating durian,” he said. “Instead, we hope consumers who are already eating durian from other countries will switch to Malaysian durian.”

In 2025, China imported 1.87 million tonnes of fresh durian worth \$7.5 billion, with volume jumping over six times in the past decade, according to its customs data.

Thailand’s earlier entry helped it secure over half that market by value in 2025. Malaysia, which began exporting fresh durian to China in 2024, was dwarfed. But for the first half of 2026, the value of China’s fresh durian imports from Malaysia quadrupled compared with the same period last year, pointing to rapid growth.

Unlike their rivals, Malaysian

growers typically do not harvest early, instead collecting only naturally ripened fruit caught in nets or ropes as they fall.

That’s the industry’s biggest advantage and also its biggest weakness, Ang said, as sellers have to race against time because the fruit’s shelf life is at most two to three days. Any delays would affect its quality. When his stock was held up for several days during customs checks, his refund rate climbed, he said.

Durian sales are also sensitive to economic conditions, said Leeron Yee, founder of DKing, whose business covers both export and domestic markets. When the Chinese economy performs well, his business improves, but if the buying power of Chinese consumers falls, he needs to find alternative markets, he said.

‘85% of US wildfires are caused by human activities’

Extreme heat taking a toll on firefighters as wildfires stretch crews to limit

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



By Julian L. Gallegos
Purdue University

When a wildfire threatens a community, most people don’t think to ask whether the firefighters coming to help slept enough the night before, recovered from the previous day’s shift or have enough energy left for another day on the fire line. They simply expect firefighters to show up.

But that workforce is increasingly being stretched to its limits.

The US national fire preparedness level has been at 5 for weeks in summer 2026, its highest level, suggesting firefighting resources are fully committed and some regions may need emergency staffing measures to meet the demand. Crews were battling more than 90 large fires in late August, and firefighters in the Southwest and Texas faced daytime temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) at times.

In conditions like this, the unrelenting heat, stress and smoke take a toll on firefighters’ bodies.

Training, fitness and protective equipment allow firefighters to work in these extraordinary environments. But as a nurse practitioner, firefighter and founder of Purdue University’s FIRE Lab, I know too well that none of that makes the human body’s capabilities limitless.

Wildland firefighters face heat from the environment, the fire and their own bodies.

Hiking steep terrain with heavy equipment, clearing brush and cutting fire line to stop fires from spreading creates internal metabolic heat. Sun and high air temperatures add environmental heat, while flames and smoldering fuels contribute radiant heat.

The body responds by sending more blood toward the skin to release that heat while continuing to supply oxygen to working muscles. The heart works harder to support both jobs.

As fluid losses increase, the volume of blood circulating through the body can fall, the heart rate rises, and the work of fighting fires feels harder.

Field studies show how this strain can become severe. In one study of 221 wildland firefighters on the job, 61% reached a core temperature of at least 100 F (38 C). About 50% reached a physiological strain index of 6 or greater on a 0-to-10 scale that combines heart rate and core temperature to measure how hard the body is working to cope with heat. Among those whose body temperatures crossed 100 F, the majority remained above that temperature for more than 30 minutes.

A core temperature of 100 F does not by itself mean heat stroke, but it signals substantial physiological strain. Staying hydrated helps the body sweat and keep blood circulating, but even a fully hydrated firefighter can overheat when the body gains and produces heat faster than it can release it.

Heat strain may begin with fatigue, headache, dizziness, weakness or nausea and progress to heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Severe hyperthermia can affect the brain, heart, kidneys and liver.

Wildland firefighters can also face rhabdomyolysis, a breakdown of skeletal muscle that can contribute to kidney injury. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health reported 62 severe cases among wildland firefighters from 2010 to 2020 and cautioned that the true number was probably higher.

Heat adds to fatigue when firefighters must anticipate fire behavior and make rapid decisions.

A 2025 field study found that wildland firefighters averaged 13.8-hour shifts on days when they were fighting fires and got around 6.7 hours of sleep. Poorer sleep and longer shifts were associated with reduced cognitive function, which can affect a firefighter’s ability to make split-second calls, such as when to retreat from an escalating fire.

The effects of heat and exhaustion can also add up. A firefighter can finish a shift hot, smoke-exposed and physically depleted, sleep in a warm camp and return to the line before fully recovering. Repeating that pattern across days and fire seasons may place ongoing strain on the heart, lungs and kidneys.

Smoke adds another health risk. Wildland firefighters commonly work in smoke without the kind of protection that firefighters use when fighting blazes inside buildings.

A 2019 exposure-modeling study estimated that, depending on the number of fire days worked over a career, cumulative smoke exposure could increase

a wildland firefighter’s risk of dying from lung cancer by 8% to 43% and dying from cardiovascular disease by 16% to 30%. These are estimates, but they show why career-long exposure deserves attention.

Kidney health is another emerging concern. A 2025 study of 39 wildland firefighters found temporary decreases in kidney function and changes in kidney-injury biomarkers during one midseason fire incident. More research is needed to determine whether firefighting over seasons and years can lead to persistent kidney damage.

These findings raise an important occupational health question: What happens when heat, dehydration, smoke, sleep disruption and extreme physical exertion accumulate not only across one incident but across an entire career?

The heat isn’t going away, but there are ways wildfire management agencies can reduce the risk to firefighters.

First, firefighter health should be an important part of national wildfire readiness policies. Having adequate staffing so firefighters aren’t overworked and have meaningful enough recovery time to rehydrate, cool down and sleep between shifts are important. So are conditions that allow real sleep between shifts.

Monitoring firefighters’ health can also help catch early warning signs, such as kidney stress or burnout.

The public can also help by reducing the likelihood of high-stress fire situations.

The National Interagency Fire Center estimates that about 85% of US wildfires are caused by human activities. Some of those can be avoided by fully extinguishing campfires, checking local fire restrictions, avoiding spark-producing activities on dry, windy days when fire risk is high, and maintaining vehicles and trailers so metal does not drag and ignite vegetation.

If you live in wildfire-prone country, creating defensible space and reducing combustible material around your home can reduce the fuel for fires. Evacuating promptly in an emergency also reduces the likelihood firefighters will have to put themselves in high-stress situations to rescue you.

We all expect firefighters to be there when the worst happens. Making sure they can do their jobs and stay healthy will allow them to continue to show up. (AP)

Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City learns to live with floods but warming raises stakes

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam, Oct 1, (AP): It is the flood Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City has learned to expect.

Forecasters warned on Sept. 27 that high tides could combine with heavy rain to increase the risk of flooding in Ho Chi Minh City, one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable cities. As heavy rain combined with the tide on the evening of Sept. 30, the Saigon river and smaller waterways spilled onto the roads of Vietnam’s commercial capital.

Life went on. Floodwater lapped at diners’ feet as they ate their food at roadside shops. Street vendors sat under plastic raincoats beside their wares, while customers in ponchos rode up, bought what they needed and headed back into the water.

Residents of low-lying neighborhoods in the city have long learned to live with the water. Some, like 63-year-old Vo Dang Thi, have

raised the floors of their homes to keep the water out. But familiarity does not make the flooding less disruptive, and climate change is making the city’s exposure worse.

“In cities such as Ho Chi Minh City, climate change is increasingly amplifying flood risk because it is interacting with rapid urbanisation and land subsidence,” Benjamin Horton, a professor of earth science at City University of Hong Kong, said in an email to The Associated Press.

A warming climate is raising sea levels and bringing heavier downpours. In mid-September, heavy rain caused flooding in several provinces in northern Vietnam.

The changes can overwhelm drains in Vietnam’s largest municipal area, especially in densely populated areas, Horton said.

Nearly half of Ho Chi Minh City’s land is less than 1 meter (3.2 feet)

above sea level and its drainage and canal system was built during the French colonial time, when the population was about 2 million. The system has since been expanded, but a study by the U.K.-funded Global Future Cities Programme found it has struggled to keep pace with rapid growth.

At the same time, parts of the city were sinking because of ground-water extraction, leaving low-lying neighborhoods even more vulnerable to flooding. Pumping water from beneath the city can cause the ground to compact and sink as water is removed from underground layers, Horton said.

This means residents of vulnerable areas are at risk from floodwaters that can inundate homes and businesses, disrupt transportation, damage infrastructure, contaminate water supplies and increase public health risks, he said.



People ride motorbikes through floodwater caused by rain and high tide, on Pham Huu Lau Street in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on Sept 30. (AP)

Swiss glaciers lose over 5% of ice volume in 2026 as heat waves, low winter snow accelerate thaw

ZURICH, Switzerland, Oct 1, (Agencies): Glaciers in Switzerland - the home to the most in the Alps - lost 5.5% of their ice volume this year, the second-biggest percentage drop on record due to heat waves and low winter snowfall, experts report.

“Alpine glaciers have no chance of surviving in the long term under such conditions,” the GLAMOS Swiss glacier monitoring service and Swiss Academy of Sciences said in a statement released Thursday.

The trend has worsened in recent years: Over the past five years alone, the volume of ice in Switzerland has declined by nearly a fifth, the experts say.

The report testifies to the latest concerns that global warming is wreaking havoc on Europe, the world’s fastest-warming continent.

“The warming that we are experiencing now can be attributed 100% to anthropogenic climate change. It’s as simple as that,” said Matthias Huss, who heads GLAMOS. “Without human emissions or fossil fuels we wouldn’t have any warming at the moment.”

The record retreat of glacier ice in Switzerland came in 2022, when summer heat, low winter snowfall and an unusual smattering of reddish dust blown in from the Sahara darkened the glaciers and caused them to absorb more heat.

Huss said the snow cover in winter was important for two reasons.

“On the one hand, it protects the bare ice from melting. The longer you have snow, the longer you avoid the loss of old ice,” said Huss in an interview at the Federal Polytechnic Institute ETHZ, where he is a glaciology professor.

“On the other hand, the snow is important also for generating new food for the glacier. The more snow you have, the higher the potential to keep some of the snow at high elevation and to form new ice,” Huss added.

The great thaw in Europe’s legendary Alps is not alone: Experts say global warming helped to destabilize a Himalayan slope that collapsed in August and unleashed catastrophic and deadly flooding across Nepal. Satellites have shown vast shrinkage of glaciers in places like Greenland and Antarctica over the last half-century or so.

In Switzerland, in absolute terms, volume lost has been less than that in 2003, but the percentage decline this year is greater. That’s because the total volume today is roughly a third of that 23 years ago. Back then, the relative loss was 3.5% of total



General view of the Fiescher Glacier near Fiesch, Switzerland, June 14, 2023. (AP)

ice volume in Swiss glaciers.

Such accelerated ice melt has had an impact in Switzerland - the loss of 2.2 trillion liters (581 billion gallons) from July to September amounts to four times the annual consumption of water in the country of about 9.1 million people. Switzerland gets more than half of its electricity from hydropower.

But the impact of accelerated glacier melt ripples far beyond: Switzerland is the water tower of Europe, and feeds some of the continent’s most important rivers: the Danube, Po, Rhine and Rhone.

The experts say the “extreme melting” faced by Switzerland’s glaciers this year included a decline in the average thickness of individual glaciers between 2-1/2 and 4 meters (about 8-13 feet) - and a reduction of up to 10 meters (33 feet) on the tongue of some glaciers.

The expert teams have fanned out to assess runoff and crevices caused by the running water through the glaciers, in part by dumping red dye into the streams to track the water flows.

The Allalin, Clarident, Rhone and Aletsch glaciers - Aletsch being the largest in the Alps - were among the glaciers to experience their biggest melt on record this year.

“We just need to stabilize the climate by reducing CO2 emissions and this will help the glaciers,” said Huss, of GLAMOS, though he added that it is “almost too late” to save

those in the Swiss Alps.

“For the ice in the polar regions like the ice sheets, there it’s not yet too late,” he said. “There, we can make a difference and we need to make a difference in order to limit sea level rise, for example, a factor that is a fundamental threat to billions of people living along the coast.”

Also:

MELBOURNE: Scientists have called for urgent research into East Antarctica’s Wilkes Subglacial Basin, a vast ice-filled region key to predicting future sea-level rise and containing enough ice to raise global mean sea levels by an estimated 3 to 4 meters.

A review published Wednesday in Nature Reviews Earth & Environment found that major gaps in observations meant scientists could not confidently predict how rapidly the region could change or what climate thresholds might trigger large-scale retreat, according to a statement from Australia’s University of Tasmania (UTAS).

“The Wilkes Subglacial Basin is arguably the last unexplored place in Antarctica,” said lead author UTAS Professor **Matt King**, chief investigator at the Australian Center for Excellence in Antarctic Science (ACEAS).

The Wilkes Subglacial Basin spans about 1,400 by 400 km, with much of its bedrock more than 2,000 meters below sea level, making its

ice sheet vulnerable to ocean-driven melting and self-sustaining retreat, researchers said.

“Warm seawater increasingly coming in contact with and melting the ice sheet from below could lead to accelerated and potentially unstoppable ice loss on a massive scale. It’s all downhill from there,” said co-author **Zhao Chen** from the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership and ACEAS.

This process, known as marine ice-sheet instability, has long been a concern in parts of West Antarctica. Researchers now recognize that major regions of East Antarctica share similar characteristics.



OSLO: Denmark’s government released its annual climate program on Wednesday, warning that the projected margin for meeting its 2030 emissions reduction target had narrowed sharply.

The country is still expected to meet its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent from 1990 levels by 2030. The projected margin has fallen to 0.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, down from 1.5 million metric tons in last year’s assessment, the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities said.

Climate, Energy and Utilities Minister **Samira Nawa** warned that even a few delays could wipe out the remaining margin, making closer monitoring of implementation essential.

China brings childcare closer to families

BEIJING, Oct 1, (Xinhua): As demand for formal childcare continues to grow among Chinese families, young parents are looking for more affordable, convenient and trustworthy services.

China’s National Health Commission (NHC) has said efforts are under way to make childcare more accessible, affordable and quality-assured. The country’s 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-2030) calls for faster development of affordable childcare, including more publicly provided places and a wider range of services.

For many families, the first hurdle is price. In 2023, childcare cost an average of 1,978 yuan (about 293 U.S. dollars) per child a month nationwide, excluding meals. In first-tier cities, monthly fees topped 5,500 yuan, pricing out many families.

In Baiyin, northwest China’s Gansu Province, the city’s First People’s Hospital runs a childcare center where full-day care costs 750 yuan a month, including three meals and two snacks a day.

Baiyin received 100 million yuan in central government funding in 2024 to support affordable childcare. First-time users can also apply for vouchers allowing their children to try a nearby center free for two weeks.

Similar efforts to lower costs are under way elsewhere. Nine provinces have introduced childcare subsidies since 2021, while 1,315 county-level regions have offered support ranging from construction and operating subsidies to family vouchers. Over the same period, average fees for full-day childcare fell 29 percent nationwide.

Broader family support is also

expanding. Since 2025, families have been eligible for 3,600 yuan a year for each child until the age of three. Parents can also deduct 2,000 yuan per child each month from taxable income for children under the age of 3.

Location matters too, especially for families with very young children. Ma Liejian, vice president and member of the Secretariat of the All-China Women’s Federation, has called for qualified kindergartens to extend services to younger children and for communities to offer full-day, half-day, hourly and temporary childcare close to home.

In Beijing, 562 public kindergartens have added nursery classes this year, creating more than 10,000 new places for children aged 2 to 3 and giving more families access to childcare closer to home.

Baiyin is following a similar approach. As of April 2025, the city’s Baiyin District had 15 registered childcare providers, 13 of them nursery classes in kindergartens, offering a total of 1,360 places.

Changsha, capital of central China’s Hunan Province, is building a “15-minute childcare service circle” using community space, kindergarten classrooms and workplace facilities.

Proximity alone, however, does not solve the problem for parents whose working hours fall outside a conventional childcare day. Yang Fan, vice dean of Renmin University of China’s School of Population and Health, said more flexible services, including hourly and holiday care, could better meet the needs of parents in flexible employment or shift work.



Caregivers interact with children at a childcare center in Baiyin, northwest China’s Gansu Province, July 14, 2026. (Xinhua)

Gray and Canada lead Dream into semifinals

Ogunbowale scores playoff-record 45 for Wings

WASHINGTON, Oct 1, (AP): Alisha Gray scored 22 points, Jordyn Canada had 13 of her 19 points in the fourth quarter, and the Atlanta Dream advanced to the semifinals of the WNBA playoffs for the first time since 2018, beating the Washington Mystics 93-75 in Game 2 of their first-round series on Wednesday night.

Atlanta, which had lost in the first round in each of the last three seasons, will host Game 1 of the semifinals on Sunday against New York, which swept Minnesota to become the first No. 8 seed to eliminate a No. 1 seed in the league's 30-year history.

Canada made 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions in the fourth quarter, and she added a jumper from the free-throw line on Atlanta's next trip for an 89-70 lead with 2:58 left.

Canada also had 11 assists and seven rebounds. Rhyne Howard finished with 15 points before fouling out with 6:03 left in the fourth quarter. Angel Reese also had 15 points and Naz Hillmon added 10.

Sonia Citron scored 25 points for Washington. Kiki Iriafen had 15 points and 16 rebounds and became the first player in franchise history to have a first-half double-double in a playoff game.



Dallas Wings' Arike Ogunbowale jogs back down court after sinking a basket during the second half of a WNBA basketball first-round playoff game against the Golden State Valkyries in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Atlanta led 41-28 with 1:26 left in the first half before Washington closed on a 7-0 run, capped by Citron's shot in the lane just before the buzzer. The Mystics were hurt by 11 first-half turnovers.

Washington went on a 14-2 run starting in the third quarter to get within 65-62. But Atlanta scored the next 13 points, capped by a 3-pointer by Canada, to rebuild a double-digit lead at 78-62.

The Mystics were making their first playoff appearance since winning the 2019 WNBA championship.

Wings 108, Valkyries 100 OT

In Arlington, Arike Ogunbowale was standing near Paige Bueckers

waiting for the star guard to make a move on her dribble with the Dallas Wings trailing by three as the final seconds of regulation - and their season - ticked away.

Bueckers waved toward her back-court mate, but she wasn't telling Ogunbowale to get out of the way. She was telling her to get open.

After all, Bueckers knew who the hot hand was - and it wasn't the 2025 No. 1 overall pick and Rookie of the Year who is in her first playoff series.

Ogunbowale took a pass from Bueckers on the left baseline, dribbled toward the corner and hit an off-balance corner 3-pointer, sending the game to overtime and her on the way to a WNBA playoff-record 45 points as the Wings won a thriller, forcing a Game 3 in their first-round series.

The deciding game will be Friday night in San Francisco, where the Valkyries won the series opener by 24 points.

Golden State is trying to advance in the playoffs for the first time in the franchise's second season. The Wings are trying to reach the semifinals for the second time in six post-season appearances since moving to the Dallas area in 2016.

Ogunbowale opened the extra period of Game 2 by banking in a 3, then hit another one to put Dallas ahead for good at 103-100 with 1:46 remaining. The four-time All-Star easily topped her previous playoff best of 24 points after scoring 10 points on just seven shots in the series opener.



Atlanta Dream guard Rhyne Howard (10) shoots a three-point basket past Washington Mystics guard Cassandre Prosper (18) during the second half in Game 2 of a WNBA basketball first-round playoff series in Washington. (AP)

‘Ten years in the making’

Fury, Joshua all smiles as long-awaited fight looms

LONDON, Oct 1, (AP): Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua had mostly smiles and friendly banter to exchange as they finally took the stage together to promote the heavyweight fight that boxing fans have waited a decade for.

The punches will come later, on Dec. 11 in Cardiff when the two former two-time world champions square off for the first time, and on UK soil to boot.

“Ten years in the making,” Joshua said at a press conference in London, the first time the two fighters squared off since the fight was announced last week. “We’re here now ... it had to happen at some stage and there’s no better time than now.”

It is being billed as the biggest fight in British boxing history. The only question is whether it comes too late to settle the dispute over who is the better fighter.

Fury is 38 and has come out of retirement a handful of times already. Joshua turns 37 in two weeks and his only fights since losing his IBF world title clash with Daniel Dubois in 2024 were against YouTuber Jake Paul and Kristian Prenga.

“People say is it too late? (Expletive) too late,” Fury said. “It’s the icing on the cake.”

Both men praised Turki Alalshikh, the chairman of the Saudi General Entertainment Authority and president of the Saudi Boxing Federation, for finally making the fight happen.

Alalshikh said he wanted to stage it at Wembley Stadium in London but settled for Cardiff because he couldn’t get permission to have the iconic venue stay open until 2 a.m.

“In the end, Wales delivered,” Alalshikh said. “And still it is UK.”

The prize money for the fight has not been announced, but British media reports have put the collective purse at close to \$200 million.

“They’re getting extremely well paid,” said Frank Warren, the promoter in Fury’s camp.

Tickets go on sale Oct. 9.

And the fighters are saving their heavy punches for the big event. The press conference was mostly full of smiles and laughter as the two exchanged a few verbal barbs about a famous sparring session more than 10 years ago, when Joshua was still an amateur.

A few hundred fans had been granted tickets and a vast majority were loudly in Joshua’s camp.

But it was Fury who did most of the talking, although he mainly had good things to say about his opponent.

“He’s been a role model and a poster boy for British boxing for years. I find myself defending my archrival to fans I meet in the street,” Fury said. “That aside, obviously we’re here to fight, and fight we will.”

That’s all boxing fans - especial-



Tyson Fury, left, and Anthony Joshua, right, pose together after a press conference in London, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026, to promote their upcoming fight which will take place at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff. (AP)

ly in Britain - have wanted to see for so long.

“I know in pubs, people have had proper fights about who’s going to win between me and Tyson,” Joshua said. “I know family members have fell out with each other about who’s going to win ... I’m just happy to be here, fighting, and fulfilling my destiny before I depart this world.”

Fury also pointed out the vastly contrasting physiques and styles of the two fighters.

“I stand here today as the most awkwardly built world heavyweight champion in the history of sport,” Fury said. “I’m a bald, fat, bearded, ugly, slow and ponderous, all of the above.”

At which point Joshua cut in: “It’s true.”

Fury then continued: “And we’ve got this guy here. He’s carved in stone like an Olympian, from marble. But every time he gets cracked on the jaw he falls over.”

Fury had less nice things to say about Eddie Hearn, the promoter in Joshua’s camp, and briefly tried to stoke a bit of animosity by making fun of his ring opponent having referred to himself as “the landlord” in the buildup.

“Now it’s come time to collect the rent, and I’m not (expletive) paying,” Fury said. “Because I’m No. 1.”

The two fighters also bickered over why Fury’s name is first in the “Fury vs. Joshua” promotional material for the bout - which will be shown on Netflix - and whether the fight should be staged in Britain.

But they never seemed close to getting physical as they squared up on stage, and Fury is already preparing to take his opponent out for a beer after the bout.

“I don’t know if you’re a a drinking man, but I hope that after this fight we can have a pint of Guinness together. Win, lose or draw,” Fury said. “Have a fight first, then have a beer. How does that sound?”

Replied Joshua: “I don’t know if I can trust you.”

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Oct 1: Kuwait’s senior volleyball team will conclude its Cairo training camp today with a fifth and final friendly against Petrojet as preparations continue for the Arab Volleyball Championship in Amman.

The championship is scheduled for October 5-15, with Kuwait set to travel to Jordan on October 4.

The Blues have played four friendlies during the camp, facing El Gaish twice, Arab Contractors and

Petrojet. The matches have allowed the coaching staff to assess the players’ readiness while fine-tuning their technical and tactical approach.

Argentine head coach Julian Alvarez and his Kuwaiti assistant Zaid Al-Kadhmi have also focused on improving the team’s physical condition and building understanding between experienced players and the younger members of the squad.

The coaching staff hopes the camp will leave the team in peak condition ahead of the tournament and ready to produce a strong showing in Amman.



Players preparing the final friendly match.

Marsh scores third successive half century

Australia denies SAfrica clean sweep in rain-hit third ODI

POTCHEFSTROOM, South Africa, Oct 1, (AP): Australia avoided a 3-0 clean sweep against South Africa after winning a rain-affected third and final cricket ODI by 45 runs via the DLS Method.

South Africa, which had already sealed the series with victories in Durban and Johannesburg, ended up on 145-4 in 28 overs. The rain started at 8.30pm local time with the home team well behind on DLS and the umpires then called the game off at 9.30pm.

Australia had earlier posted 322-9 on the back of captain Mitchell Marsh’s third successive half century and Alex Carey’s 74 off 88 balls.

Fast bowler Xavier Bartlett then continued to shine with the new ball and leg-spinner Adam Zampa hit the right lengths as both grabbed two wickets.

South Africa made five changes with the century-makers at Johannesburg - captain Temba Bavuma and David Miller - rested.

Quinton de Kock, who scored 14 and 15 in his last two innings, fell for a five-ball duck in Bartlett’s



Australia's captain Mitchell Marsh plays an LBW during the third one day international cricket match between South Africa and Australia, in Potchefstroom, South Africa. (AP)

first over and stand-in captain Aiden Markram, who had won the toss and elected to field, was out lbw for 15 as South Africa slipped to 30-2.

Ryan Rickelton (71 not out) and Matthew Breetzke (25) then put on 72 for the third wicket.

Pat Cummins, playing only his third ODI since winning the 2023 World Cup in India, was welcomed by Rickelton with a pulled six over mid-wicket.

Zampa troubled the batters with his sharp leg-spin and googlies.

Rickelton successfully overturned an lbw decision off the Australian bowler but Zampa continued to pose problems.

Zampa struck in the 18th over when Carey carried out a smart stumping to remove Breetzke. Tristan Stubbs, one of the changes made by South Africa, perished for 14 when he misread Zampa’s googly and was out lbw.

The Australian bowlers kept pressing and allowed Rickelton and Corbin Bosch to add only 20 runs in six overs before the rain arrived.

Earlier, Marsh’s ultra-aggressive approach in the powerplay led to his 56 and provided Australia with another brisk start of 78, while opening partner Travis Head scored a better than run-a-ball 24.

Carey and Oliver Peake (48) then consolidated with a 73-run fourth-wicket stand.

Bosch dragged South Africa back in the death overs with the wickets of Carey and Cameron Green. The all-rounder ended up with 4-60 while Gerald Coetzee and Lizaad Williams picked up two wickets each.

Thompson’s legacy secured long ago

Klay has plenty of motivation entering 1st season with Heat

BOCA RATON, Fla., Oct 1, (AP): Klay Thompson’s legacy was secured long ago. He was part of four championship teams with Golden State, is one of the best shooters the NBA has ever seen, holds the league’s single-game record for 3-pointers made and is surely headed to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

He wants more.

And that’s why the Miami Heat pounced quickly when the 36-year-old Thompson was bought out by the Dallas Mavericks over the summer. They’re convinced that Thompson still has much to offer and will flourish on a new-look Heat with Giannis Antetokounmpo teaming up with Bam Adebayo.

“I want to be able to look back one day and say I gave it everything I had,” Thompson said Tuesday after his first training camp practice with the Heat, held at Florida Atlantic University. “And I think being with the Heat, it gives me that opportunity. They’re wholly committed to winning. And I’ve said this before: winning trumps any individual performance I’ve ever had. To be a part of a season of chasing that goal is special.”

Thompson’s resume is almost beyond compare.

He’s made at least 200 3-pointers in a season 11 times; that’s second-most in NBA history behind his former Golden State teammate and “Splash Brother” Stephen Curry, who has 12

such seasons. With 2,899 career 3s, he’s only 74 behind former Heat guard Ray Allen for No. 3 on the all-time list - and 101 away from the 3,000-made milestone, something only Curry and James Harden have surpassed.

And here’s one that not everyone might expect: Thompson - even without being a full-time starter - is also the only player in the NBA with at least 200 made 3s in each of the last four seasons. He made 202 last season in Dallas, despite playing a career-low 21.7 minutes per game.

“What Klay’s done in this league, I think should be celebrated and respected in our locker



Miami Heat guard Klay Thompson sits on the sideline during the NBA basketball team’s training camp in Boca Raton, Fla. (AP)

room - which it is,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “We can take from those experiences. And I think also he can be excited about this possibility of a new experience to be able to create hopefully something similar, but in a different way and a different locker room and different culture.”

The general perception is that Thompson will play a role similar to what Allen played in the Heat era that featured LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. If defenders help off Thompson, it’s likely that they’ll pay by leaving one of the best shooters in the world - someone who doesn’t need much time to get a shot off - open. And if they don’t help off him, that’s just going to make life easier for Adebayo, Antetokounmpo and everyone else in Heat colors.

“We’ve got former champions,” Heat guard Davion Mitchell said. “They know what it takes to win.”

Thompson is about to enter his 14th season, not counting two missed because of injury. He’s a career 41% shooter from beyond the arc, is a five-time All-Star and has made at least 10 3s in a game on nine different occasions.

And this summer, in a workout that led to a viral video from famed skills coach Chris Brickley, Thompson made 72 consecutive shots from beyond the arc.

“It’s a good feeling,” Thompson said, “but I would rather make 10 in a row in an NBA

Burgan ends ‘historic’ Club World Cup on winning note



Burgan players celebrate with coaches after beating Morocco’s Montada Derb Sultan to finish 7th at the Club World Cup.

Kuwaiti side beats Morocco’s Montada Derb Sultan for 7th spot

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

CAIRO, Oct 1: Burgan wrapped up its historic Club World Cup debut with a seventh-place finish after defeating Morocco’s Montada Derb Sultan 29-25 in Cairo. Kuwait international goalkeeper Ali Safar was named player of the match.

Burgan entered the tournament as Asian champions after winning the continental title in Kuwait in July — the first major Asian trophy in the club’s history.

Drawn in Group B alongside Germany’s Fūchse Berlin, Egyptian giants Al Ahly and Hungarian side Veszprém, Burgan lost all three group matches before ending its campaign on a winning note against Derb Sultan.

Despite the results, the tournament gave Burgan valuable exposure against some of the world’s top teams and different playing styles. The experience is expected to benefit the players and coaching staff as they prepare for the resumption of domestic competition.

Burgan is awaiting the completion of the



Hussein Siwan and Hussein Habib with Al-Anzi.

2025-26 season, which was suspended in March because of regional developments, before turning their attention to the 2026-27 campaign, scheduled to begin this month.

The club will look to use its World Cup experience to strengthen its domestic challenge after establishing itself among Kuwait’s leading handball sides last season.

Al-Sulaibikhat has added goalkeeper Mishal Al-Shatti on a free transfer and Abdulrahman Al-Anzi on loan from Kazma as it prepares for the 2026-27 season.

The signings are part of the club’s efforts to strengthen the squad and improve its readiness for the upcoming domestic campaign. Al-Sulaibikhat recently held an overseas training camp in Doha.

The club is also preparing to complete the suspended 2025-26 season while getting ready for the new campaign, with the management and coaching staff targeting stronger performances and results.

Al-Anzi welcomed the move to Al-Sulaibikhat, saying he was looking forward to a new experience and the opportunity to gain more playing experience while contributing to the team.

The player, who has previously represented Burgan and Kazma, described the move as an important step in his career and said he hoped it would help him develop his game and strengthen his confidence.

He thanked Al-Sulaibikhat for their confidence and Kazma’s management and handball department for facilitating the loan, adding that he hoped to repay that trust with strong performances next season.

Kuwait Police Sports Federation opens new show jumping season

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Police Sports Federation will host the first local show jumping competition of the 2026-27 season, with action getting underway at 1:30 pm at its arena in Subhan.

The event, held under the auspices of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, will feature riders from several local clubs competing over fences ranging from 60 to 130 cm.

International judge Ibtisam Al-Arouri will head the judging panel, alongside Lama Abdul-Aal. International rider Abdulrahman Al-Fuzai will design the course, while Dr. Yahya Al-Hedban will serve as arena judge.

The Police Sports Federation stages several local and international equestrian events throughout the year, covering both show jumping and dressage.

Federation President Brig. Gen. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Yousef invited equestrian fans to attend the competition, saying the event follows the success achieved during the previous season.

He thanked First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef for his continued support for sport and his efforts to promote Kuwait’s sporting movement.

Brig. Gen. Sheikh Mubarak said



Federation President, Brig. Gen. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Yousef.

the federation remains committed to supporting Kuwaiti riders and hosting equestrian competitions. He also highlighted its hosting of last season’s local show jumping league final, describing it as an example of the strong cooperation between the Police Sports Federation and the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.

Al-Musallam, Asadov discuss aquatic sports development

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Oct 1: World Aquatics President Hussein Al-Musallam met Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Asadov in Baku to discuss Azerbaijan’s hosting of a World Cup event and ways to strengthen sporting cooperation and advance the development of aquatic sports.

Al-Musallam praised Azerbaijan’s preparations for the competition and thanked the government for its efforts to ensure a successful event. He said sport plays an important role in promoting peace and bringing people closer together.

The World Cup will take on a new format this year with a three-stop “Silk Road” tour, beginning in Baku from Oct. 1-3. The series will then move to Tashkent from Oct. 8-10 before concluding in Astana, Kazakhstan, from Oct. 15-17.

More than 180 of the world’s leading swimmers are expected to compete, with \$1 million in prize money on offer, a figure that could increase if records



World Aquatics President Hussein Al-Musallam meets Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Asadov in Baku.

are broken.

Al-Musallam also underlined the importance of swimming, citing its wide-ranging physical and health benefits and its value for people of all ages.

‘Case is a disciplinary proceeding, not a criminal investigation’

City sanctions could range from fines to expulsion

LONDON, Oct 1, (AP): Manchester City faces an uncertain future after the decorated English soccer club was found guilty of systematically breaking the Premier League’s financial rules for nearly a decade.

The verdict, delivered by an independent disciplinary commission, leaves open an array of sanctions including a fine, points deduction or even expulsion from the Premier League. City could also face possible compensation claims from rival teams, while its ownership - the Abu Dhabi-controlled City Football Group - is coming under increasing scrutiny.

The club has rejected the verdict in a case that dates to 2018 and mainly covers its financial dealings from 2009-18, and promises a relentless campaign to clear its name.

Here’s a look at what’s next in one of the biggest scandals in English soccer history:

City can appeal the verdict and has insisted it will.

“The Club is innocent of the accusations made by the Premier League and a comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence exists in support of all of its positions,” City said in a statement. “The Club will therefore be relentless, and where necessary proactive, in any and all appropriate regulatory and legal forums.”

To make its appeal, City would need to send an email to the chair of the independent commission’s three-person panel, who would then appoint a new appeal board - also consisting of three people, one of whom “shall have held judicial office,” according to the Premier League handbook.

The board will then schedule a hearing that should finish within 12 weeks after the appeal is filed and not exceed five consecutive days.

City’s punishment will be addressed in a separate, confidential hearing with the independent commission.

The Premier League statement didn’t mention whether sanctions can be imposed before the decision of the appeal is reached, only that it was the league’s intention that the process is concluded “as soon as possible.”

According to the Premier League, the independent commission could issue a reprimand, fine, suspension, points deduction or, in the worst

case, expel the club from the competition. Clubs have been expelled from lower leagues in England but never from the Premier League.

A club that is expelled from the Premier League could apply for membership in the English Football League, which runs the three divisions below the Premier League: the Championship, League One and League Two. The EFL’s regulations say it “could be asked to accommodate any former Premier League Club(s) in League Two.”

The biggest points deduction handed to a Premier League team was 10 to Everton in 2023, for overspending in one three-year financial period. That deduction was later reduced to six after an appeal. City’s breaches are much more widespread and included a refusal to cooperate, unlike Everton.

Separately, the Independent Football Regulator - a body established by the British government last year to set governance standards in English soccer - could intervene in the City case.

The new regulator is independent of soccer authorities and has the power to remove club owners if they are found unsuitable.

“The independent commission’s decision raises serious issues,” IFR chairman David Kogan said on Wednesday.

“The IFR has powers to assess the suitability of owners, direc-



In this file photo, Manchester City’s Ilkay Gundogan holds up the trophy after winning the Champions League final soccer match between Manchester City and Inter Milan at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, Turkey. (AP)

tors and executives and we will use these powers where appropriate, in the interests of protecting the sustainability, honesty and integrity of English football where there is clear evidence of wrongdoing by individuals,” he said.

Kogan said the IFR was awaiting further developments in the ongoing proceedings between City and the Premier League.

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he would be “really concerned” to lose City’s current ownership.

“They’ve been such a huge partner in the building of modern Manchester,” Burnham, who was formerly the mayor of Manchester, said to the BBC. “Obviously, the building of Manchester City into the global force that it is.”

Asked if he would be willing to listen to the United Arab Emirates government about the matter, Burnham said: “I am not getting directly involved in the process. I’ve not spoken to anybody directly about that. I have to keep my distance from it. It would be wrong for me to do anything else. It’s an independent legal process that has to play its course through.”

The Man City case is a disciplinary proceeding, not a criminal investigation. However, some have suggested that British authorities also should look at matter.

“If accounts have been falsified

and auditors have been misled, then it is potentially a criminal matter,” Lord Cruddas, a Conservative peer, told the BBC. “The auditors will call in the police, directors are personally liable for any fraud of a UK company even if it is foreign-owned.”

According to the Fraud Act of 2006, individuals can face up to 10 years in prison if they are found to have dishonestly made a false representation with the intention of making a gain or avoiding a loss.

There have been no reports of any criminal investigation in the case.

Ethiad Airways, City’s main sponsor, was considering legal action against the Premier League for the way the investigation findings were communicated, Sky News reported late Wednesday.

Sky News quoted an Ethiad statement saying “we stand with the club,” adding that the Abu Dhabi-based airline said it would “seek the relevant legal counsel on the options and recourse available to protect its interests . . . at no time did the Premier League reach out to or engage with Ethiad in the process associated with the commission’s opinion.”

No club has publicly announced its intention to make a compensation claim based on the impact of City’s rule-breaking. However, the BBC has reported that a number of clubs had started seeking advice over whether they would have a case for financial compensation, before the verdict had been announced.

A precedent was set this year when Everton was ordered to pay more than 35 million pounds (\$47 million) in compensation to Burnley, which successfully argued to a disciplinary commission that it would have survived relegation - at Everton’s expense - in the 2021-22 campaign had its rival been given its six-point penalty for the financial breaches that season.

In City’s case, top teams could argue they lost out on titles or Champions League qualification - worth tens of millions of dollars each season - because of City’s conduct, and weaker teams could claim defeats to City’s expensively assembled squads contributed to relegation or lower finishing positions in the league standings, and therefore reduced prize money.

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NEWS



Kuwait Club players dribble the ball as his opponents defend.

Sports

KOC makes winning Zain Futsal Premier League debut



KOC team celebrates with officials and fans.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) made a winning debut in the Zain Futsal Premier League, beating Al-Sulaibikhat 5-0 in their opening game of the 2026-27 season. The emphatic victory gave KOC their first three points and moved them to the top of the standings after the opening round.

The match was attended by KOC CEO Office Director Majed Al-Anzi and Public Relations and Media Group Director Mohammed Al-Basri. The result marked KOC's first appearance in the Kuwaiti Premier Futsal League and provided an impressive start to the company's maiden campaign.

Al-Basri congratulated the team on the victory and praised the players for their performance, while also commending the administrative staff, particularly team president Saud Al-Hajri. He expressed hope that KOC would maintain its fitness and technical standards and build on the strong start in the coming rounds.

Kuwait Club edges past Railways, faces Hekmeh in WASL semifinals

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Kuwait Club booked a place in the West Asia Basketball League (WASL) semifinals after edging India's Indian Railways 106-101 in their final Group A game. The victory sent Kuwait Club into the last four for the third time in the competition, with the team finishing second in Group A on five points behind Al Riyadi, who topped the group with six. Indian Railways finished third, while Saudi Arabia's Al-Ittihad came fourth.

Kuwait Club will face Lebanese side Hekmeh tomorrow in the semifinal in Beirut. The other semifinal will feature Al Riyadi against the winner of the late clash between Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula and Iran's Gorgan. Despite reaching the semifinals, Kuwait Club coach Dusan Stojkov admitted he was unhappy with his team's performance against the Indian side. The semifinal appearance is the first of Stojkov's coaching career. "Personally, qualifying is great, but I am even happier for my team and my club," Stojkov said. "It means a lot to us."

India & Pakistan to clash for gold

Wang ends Eala Asiad title hopes

NAGOYA, Japan, Oct 1, (AP): Cricket heavyweights India and Pakistan will meet in the Asian Games gold medal match after winning their semifinals on Thursday.

Pakistan beat Bangladesh by six wickets in a match reduced to 13 overs each innings because of a wet outfield. India handed a crushing 124-run defeat to Sri Lanka in the second semifinal, with four Sri Lankan batters failing to score.

Political tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors will likely be in focus once again when the cricket rivals contest Saturday's final in Japan.

One of the sport's traditions has been dispensed with in recent matches between India and Pakistan, with players not shaking hands before or after their contests.

Cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan brought the two countries to the brink of war last year, with the acrimony also spilling onto the cricket field.

Indian cricketers have avoided handshakes with Pakistan players, and have refused to accept the trophy and medals from a Pakistani official at more than one tournament.

The Indian men's team beat Pakistan three times in the Asia Cup, including the final, but Suryakumar Yadav's team refused to accept the trophy from Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi and didn't shake hands with Pakistani players in any of the three games.

The Indian women's team didn't shake hands with the Pakistan team in during a match at the continental championship, and also refused to accept the trophy from Naqvi when it won the women's Asia Cup in the United Arab Emirates.

China captured two sport climbing gold medals and secured an all-Chinese women's tennis final at the 2026 Asian Games on Thursday.

In the men's speed climbing final, China's Chu Shouhong scaled the wall in 4.714 seconds to claim gold, while Zhang Yuetong edged home favorite Ai Mori to win the women's boulder title.

Mori, who competed at the 2024 Paris Olympics, scored 84.8 points to Zhang's 85.0 at Portmesse Nagoya. South Korea's Seo Chae-hyun finished third.

In tennis, top-seeded Philippine star Alexandra Eala saw her bid for gold end in the semifinals as China's world No. 85 Wang Xiyu fought back for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Eala, the world No. 18 and the first player from the Philippines to win a WTA Tour title, was seeking to become the



Wang Xiyu of China competes during the women's singles semifinals of tennis against Alexandra Eala of the Philippines at the 2026 Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Nagoya, Japan. (Xinhua)

first Philippine woman to win the Asian Games singles crown. The 21-year-old instead took bronze, having also been eliminated from the women's doubles competition earlier in the Games.

Wang, who trailed 5-0 in the first set, said she took inspiration from compatriot and Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen.

Zhang, competing in her fourth Asian Games, repeatedly gained the upper hand in long baseline exchanges to secure her place in the final.

Following the match, Zhang spoke of the significance of representing China on National Day.

In the men's canoe single (C1) final, Zhang Zhicheng maintained his strong form from the preliminaries, completing the course without penalties in 98.09 seconds to win gold.

In sailing, China's Liu Tian and Wen Zaiding successfully defended their Asian Games title in the men's 49er class.

China's men's volleyball team advanced to the semifinals with a 3-0 victory over Thailand, while the men's hockey team defeated Bangladesh 7-1 to set up a fifth-place playoff against Japan on Saturday.

In beach volleyball, Xia Xinyi remained on course for a fourth consecutive Asian Games title after she and partner Yan Xu reached the women's final.

On the men's side, Qatar's Cherif Samba and Ahmed Janko also advanced to the final as they seek a third consecutive Asian Games title.

Best of the Rest

Argentina beats Bolivia 4-0:

Two goals in each half gave Argentina a comfortable 4-0 victory over Bolivia in the team's first match since Lionel Messi announced his international retirement.

Lautaro Martínez opened the scoring in the 19th minute, Nicolás Paz doubled the lead in the 29th, Cristian Romero added a scored in the 54th and José Manuel "Flaco" López sealed the win in the 86th.

It was a reassuring performance for the Albiceleste, who were returning to action for the first time since their World Cup final defeat to Spain in extra time.

The 39-year-old Messi stepped away from international duty last month, but he will don the iconic No. 10 jersey one last time next Tuesday in a farewell match against Benin in Buenos Aires. (AP)



St. Louis routs Red Bulls: Simon Becher and Tomas Ostrak each scored late in the second half as St. Louis City SC beat the New York Red Bulls 3-0.

St. Louis (13-6-8) extended its unbeaten streak to 17 matches in MLS play.

New York (9-12-6) entered having conceded just two goals in its last four games, with Ethan Horvath recording three shutouts. The Red Bulls had won their last two games.

Rafael Navarro opened the scoring just five minutes into the game when he redirected Conrad Wallem's header across the goal.

Becher capitalized on a New York turnover deep in its own half to make it 2-0 in the 87th minute.

Ostrak sent in a rebound in stoppage time. (AP)

Al-Sulaibikhat clinches the inaugural youth boxing title



Al-Otaibi crowns Al-Sulaibikhat with tournament title.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 1: Al-Sulaibikhat Club claimed the title at the inaugural Youth Boxing Tournament, held at the Kuwait Boxing Federation's hall in Sabah Al-Salem. Al-Nasr finished second, with Qadsia third, as the tournament showcased several promising young talents.

Al-Sulaibikhat's gold medalists were Basel Mohammed, Athbi Jassem, Ali Abbas, Turki Eid and Ahmed Naji. Al-Nasr's gold medalists were Abdulrazzaq Mohammed, Mohammed Suwaid and Nasser Sulaiman, while Mohammed Fa-

heed, Abbas Hassan and Barak Meshaal won gold for Qadsia.

Kuwait Boxing Federation President Abdullah Khaled Al-Otaibi presented the winners with their medals and congratulated the clubs and boxers on their performances. He praised the technical level of the young competitors and the skills they displayed, saying they offered encouraging signs for the future of Kuwaiti boxing.

Al-Otaibi highlighted the importance of youth tournaments in identifying talent and developing athletes from an early age, help-

ing build a new generation capable of representing Kuwait and achieving success in future competitions.

He also praised the participation of female referees at the tournament, describing it as an important step in strengthening women's role in Kuwaiti sport. He said their involvement demonstrated their ability to officiate bouts efficiently and professionally, while stressing the need to support female officials and provide them with opportunities at local and international competitions.

20 years after infamous WC final headbutt, Zidane faces Italy again as France coach

PARIS, Oct 1, (AP): Deep into extra time in the 2006 World Cup final, France star Zinedine Zidane planted a firm headbutt right into the chest of Italy defender Marco Materazzi. The force sent Materazzi flying backward and Zidane's stellar career ended with a red card.

Zidane faces Italy again on Friday, this time in a suit as France's coach. The Nations League game at Stade de France will be his first at home since taking charge of Les Bleus.

Although 20 years have passed, the headbutt incident remains one of soccer's most iconic and talked-about moments.

After the two briefly exchanged words, Zidane jogged forward to join the play. He suddenly stopped, turned around and stooped his head to push it into Materazzi.

As the Italian players reacted angrily, Zidane adjusted his captain's

armband before speaking to Argentine referee Horacio Elizondo, who brandished a red card high in the air in front of a stunned crowd in Berlin.

In July, Elizondo told Italian newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport that neither he nor his two assistants had seen the incident. Elizondo was only alerted to it by the fourth official, long before video reviews existed in soccer.

As the images were replayed on French television, the late soccer commentator Thierry Gilardi expressed the disbelief of millions watching the drama unfold back home.

"Oh Zinedine, not that. Not that, Zinedine. Oh no, not that," Gilardi pleaded. "Not today, not after everything you've achieved."

Head bowed, Zinedine walked solemnly past the Jules Rimet World Cup trophy he had raised eight years

earlier when France won the World Cup. With Zidane gone, Italy won the ensuing penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. They were the main protagonists of that tense final.

Materazzi's early foul on winger Florent Malouda led to Zidane scoring with an audacious Panenka-style penalty.

As he stepped up, Zidane avoided eye contact with Gianluigi Buffon, the world's best goalkeeper at the time, thus negating Buffon's options to read what he would do. He sent Buffon the wrong way with a brilliantly-disguised scuffed shot, with the ball hitting the underside of the crossbar and bouncing over the line.

Zidane almost scored again but his injury-time header was superbly tipped over by Buffon. Soon after, Zidane was in the dressing room as the last game of his career ended in shame.



In this file photo, France's Zinedine Zidane gets a red card from referee Horacio Elizondo of Argentina after head-butting Italy's Marco Materazzi in the chest during extra time in the final of the soccer World Cup between Italy and France in Berlin. (AP)

Speculation abounded as to what made ZZ blow his top.

"He triggered something by mentioning my sister Lila," Zidane told sports daily L'Equipe in 2022. "Sometimes it's in moments like those that you might do something wrong."

Materazzi said teammate Gennaro Gattuso had scolded him for not marking Zidane on an earlier header.

"Shortly thereafter in a similar situation I held (Zidane) by the shirt a little in order so he couldn't jump," Materazzi explained. "I said sorry twice. Then he said, 'If you want my shirt I'll give it to you later,' and I said something to him. But nothing worse than what we used to say as kids playing on the beach in Bari."

Zidane's two goals in the 1998 World Cup final win against Brazil made him an overnight superstar, with his face famously beamed on

the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. A Ballon d'Or award followed and, two years later, his inspired performances led Les Bleus to glory at the European Championship.

Despite the red card, his popularity remains undiminished and hundreds of fans cheered him outside the French soccer federation's headquarters when he was appointed France coach after the World Cup, replacing Didier Deschamps.

France players Esteban Lepaul and Manu Koné have spoken with admiration about Zidane's training sessions.

Zidane has won his first two games in charge away from home, 1-0 against Turkey and Belgium. Italy's rebuilding under returning coach Roberto Mancini began with a 2-0 home loss to Belgium, but there is optimism following a 4-1 win at Turkey.