



Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, ministers; Crown Prince receives PM and ministers



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Kuwait reboots media rulebook

New framework addresses longstanding gaps: KJA

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): The Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) published in its Sunday issue (No. 1811) Decree-Law No. 102 of 2026 enacting the new Media Regulation Law, marking a comprehensive restructuring of the country's legislative framework governing press and digital media.

Article 2 mandates the competent minister to issue executive regula-

tions within six months. Article 3 requires existing media operators to regularize their status within six months of the regulations' issuance or face license revocation.

Article 4 repeals Law No. 3 of 2006 on Publications, Law No. 61 of 2007 on Audiovisual Media, and Law No. 8 of 2016 on Electronic Media, along with any conflicting legislation.

Article 5 mandates implementation of the law by relevant ministers and sets the law's entry into effect six months post-publication.

According to the explanatory memorandum, the legislation represents a qualitative leap in modernizing Kuwait's media ecosystem.

It notes that the law addresses legislative gaps created by rapid technological advancements, while safeguarding constitutional guarantees for press freedom and freedom of expression. It emphasizes that the digital boom has radically transformed broadcasting, publishing, and public influence.

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Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Your Highness the Prime Minister, Kuwait is a land of bounties and compassion

THROUGHOUT history, Kuwait has been recognized as the beacon of generosity, as it immediately helps those in need regardless of their location. It consistently provides support through air bridges linking Kuwait to numerous countries -- Arab and non-Arab, which are affected by crises.

The humanitarian efforts of Kuwait are well-established, and the measures taken by the incumbent government to address issues related to national identity, corruption and other aspects of the ongoing reform movement are fully supported.

These reform initiatives do not face public opposition. On the contrary, refining the national identity has long been a popular demand. Generations of Kuwaitis deeply appreciate the rectification of institutional errors.

Nevertheless, unverified reports circulating on social media demand thorough review, as they affect a large number of citizens who are studying abroad under state scholarships. If these reports are proven true, rigorous deliberation is required. The issue concerns Kuwaiti citizens born and nurtured on this soil, educated in local schools, and are known for high academic achievements due to their aspiration to serve the homeland they revere.

Consequently, re-evaluating such a directive -- only if the abovementioned reports are confirmed -- is necessary to prevent logistical and administrative complications that could disrupt the activities of the scholars and the state institutions.

The nation urgently needs the ex-

pertise these students are currently mastering. This need is pressing in light of the Kuwaitization policy endorsed by all sectors of society. These students deserve continuous support, considering they structured their academic and personal plans around the state-sanctioned guarantees.

If the state consistently extends a helping hand to communities in the furthest parts of the globe, it is all the more paramount to safeguard those raised and educated here, and are dedicated to serving their own country.

Kuwait has always been a vital lifeline in moments of hardship for nations in the Arab world, Asia and Africa, including Yemen, Lebanon and Jordan. Its support legacy is deeply felt in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where citizens still remember its vital role in providing textbooks, supplies and educators to schools, funding hospitals that carry its name up to this day, and helping establish their early television broadcast. Such enduring generosity earned Kuwait the international acclaim as a global humanitarian center, building a foundation of goodwill that inspired the world to rally to its defense during the Iraqi invasion.

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Ministry of Interior photo
Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, pays a hospital visit to retired Lieutenant General Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Fares.

1st Deputy PM checks on Al-Fares

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, visited retired Lieutenant General Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Fares at hospital on Sunday to check on his health and honour his service as one of the founding figures of the Ministry of Interior.

According to a ministry statement, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef was briefed by the treating medical team on Lt Gen Al-Fares's condition and the

care he is receiving. He conveyed, on behalf of all ministry employees, wishes for the retired officer's speedy recovery and continued well-being, stressing the ministry's pride in its retired security leaders and its commitment to their care and ongoing communication.

The statement highlighted Lt Gen Al-Fares's role in building and developing the security institution through a series of leadership posts and his contribution to training successive generations of security personnel.

Day by Day

THOSE who understand human nature advise, "Prioritize winning hearts over winning arguments, for gaining goodwill matters far more than scoring points."

Preserve the bridges you have crossed rather than burning them, for you may need to travel back along them one day.

Condemn the wrongdoing rather than the wrongdoer. Reject the transgression while showing compassion to the transgressor, for mercy ultimately rests with Allah, both before and after.

Challenge the statement while maintaining respect for the speaker. Your objective is to cure the illness, not eliminate the patient.

Grant us forgiveness. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait joins GCC Justice Ministers talks

MANAMA, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait took part in the 36th meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) justice ministers in Manama on Sunday, with a delegation led by Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait.

The ministers focused on strengthening cooperation among GCC justice ministries and advancing joint initiatives to develop judicial and legal systems, enhance coordination and exchange expertise across member states. Central to the discussions was Bahrain's proposal to establish an electronic platform for exchanging judicial announcements and notifications, alongside the work of the committee of directors and heads of judicial and legal training centers and institutes in the GCC.

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KUNA photo
Minister of Justice Counselor Nasser Al-Sumait leads Kuwait's delegation at the 36th GCC meeting of justice ministers in Manama on Sunday.

Role of teachers in AI-driven education takes center stage

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Egyptian Cultural Office organized a seminar titled, "The Teacher: A Timeless Mission in the Era of Digital Transformation," to celebrate Teachers Day.

Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Abu Al-Wafa attended the seminar, with the participation of educators and those interested in the educational sector.

Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the College of Education in Kuwait University Dr. Ohoud Al-Hajri and Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at the College of Basic Education Dr. Reem Al-Tamimi conducted the seminar.

They discussed the role of teachers amidst the rapid digital transformation, relationship between education and artificial intelligence, and requirements for preparing teachers to keep pace with modern developments.

Ambassador Abu Al-Wafa stressed that honoring teachers is a tribute to their noble mission and vital role in human development and shaping the future of nations. He pointed out that while rapid advancements in technology and artificial intelligence changed the educational tools and methods of acquiring knowledge, they solidified the standing of teachers instead of diminishing their value.

He explained that the role of teach-



A section of the attendees.



Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohamed Abu Al-Wafa and Egyptian Cultural Attaché Dr. Amina Abu Al-Makarim honor lecturers.

ers is no longer limited to transmitting knowledge and explaining content, as they are now the key partners in shaping the character of students, promoting critical thinking, creativity and innovation, and raising the awareness of students and developing their ability to utilize modern technology responsibly.

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From vaccines to advice, Kuwait 'preps' travelers

By Mohammed Ghanim

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Ministry of Health has launched a traveler health clinic at the Salwa Specialized Center in the Hawally Health Zone.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a representative of the Hawally Governorate Council, along with senior health officials, department heads, and medical and technical staff.

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Houthis claim 'strikes' on Aramco sites near Riyadh

SANAA, Oct 4, (Xinhua): Yemen's Houthi group said Sunday it launched ballistic missiles and drones at two Saudi Aramco facilities, including the Khurais oil complex southeast of Riyadh, marking a fresh escalation in the rapidly intensifying cross-border hostilities between the two sides.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement broadcast by the Houthi-run al-Masirah TV



Sarea

that the group carried out two separate operations using "a number of ballistic missiles and drones."

Sarea said one operation targeted an Aramco facility in Riyadh and the other struck the company's oil facilities in Khurais, southeast of the Saudi capital, claiming both attacks "achieved their objectives" with precise hits that caused large fires.

The claims could not be independently verified. There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities or Saudi Aramco on the latest Houthi announcement.

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PACI cancels 631 addresses

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) on Sunday announced in the official gazette, 'Kuwait Al-Youm', the cancellation of the registered residential addresses of 631 individuals, in accordance with

the declaration of the concerned property owners or the demolition of the relevant buildings.

PACI urged these individuals to visit its office or use the Sahel application to register their new address and submit the necessary supporting documents within 30 days of the date of the announcement.

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'Six decrees' strip 415 of citizenship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Six decrees revoking Kuwaiti citizenship from 415 individuals, as well as from anyone who acquired citizenship through them by virtue of dependency, have been published in the official gazette, "Kuwait Al-Youm," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Decree No. 155/2026 stipulated the revocation of Kuwaiti citizenship certificates from six individuals, as well as from anyone who acquired citizenship through the certificate holder by virtue of dependency.

Decree No. 156/2026 stipulated the revocation of Kuwaiti

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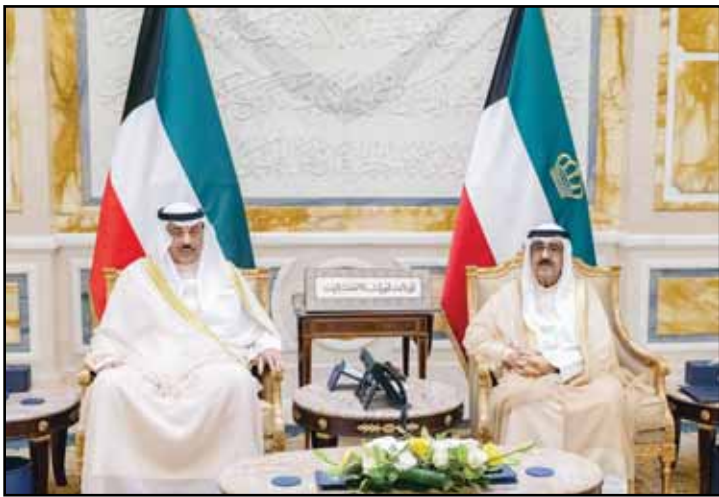


Al Mulla International Finance Company elevates customer experience with strategic branch relocation at Jassim Tower

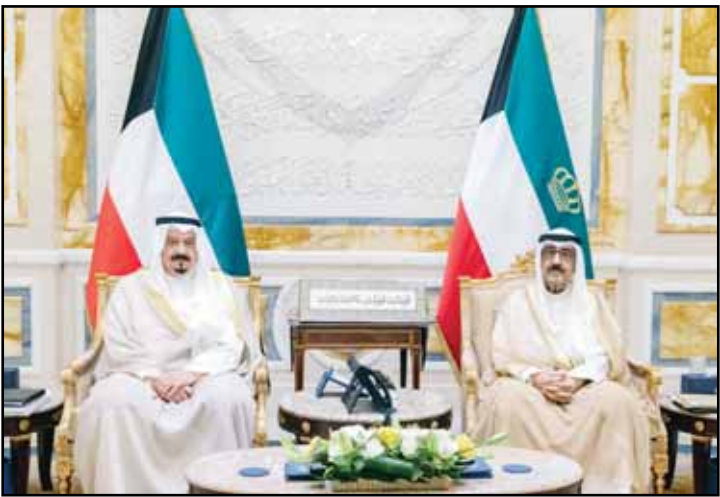


Prayer Timings

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



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



Amiri Diwan photos



Crown Prince Diwan photo

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Kuwait Amir receives Crown Prince, PM, ministers; Crown Prince receives PM and ministers

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received Minister of Interior Sheikh Fa-

had Yousef Al-Sabah, Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Crown Prince

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ah-

mad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince further received Minister of Defense Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

‘3rd phase continuation of Park’s climb journey’

Boon for domestic tourism: Capital Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali affirmed that the opening of the third phase of Al-Shaheed Park is a valuable addition to the urbanization of the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali made the statement when he visited the park, along with Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi, Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor and acting Hawally Governor Sheikh Sabah Badr Al-Sabah, Jahra Governor Hamad Jassim Al-Habashi, Amiri Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Abdulaziz Mishal Al-Mubarak, Chairman of the Management, Supervision and Follow Up Committee (Phase III) at the park Anwar Al-Yatama, and Vice Chairman of the committee Khaled Al-Failakawi.

He pointed out that the project is in line with the commitment to continuously develop public facilities and create modern destinations that combine leisure, culture and community activities in order to reflect the development of the nation and solidify the status of Kuwait as a distinguished cultural and tourism destination.

He praised the efforts exerted by the

Amiri Diwan in supporting the project and overseeing its development stages. He also commended the concerned entities and the technical and administrative teams that contributed to the completion of the new phase, emphasizing that this achievement proves the importance of cooperation among entities in the implementation of national projects that better serve the community and realize its aspirations.

He stated that Al-Shaheed Park has evolved into a prominent cultural, recreational and tourism landmark, as it is no longer just a green space, but a comprehensive destination that combines natural beauty with cultural and national significance. He added the park provides a unique environment for hosting events and activities and fostering community engagement, offering visitors an experience that blends leisure, knowledge acquisition and the enjoyment of nature.

He indicated that the third phase is the continuation of the park’s development journey and enhances its ability to attract more

citizens and residents. He asserted that such projects boost domestic tourism and provide diverse options for leisure and recreation, while raising environmental and cultural awareness.

He said the park serves as a model for projects that strike a balance between environmental preservation and the provision of modern facilities and services, creating an urban recreational space and a destination for families, youths and children.

He emphasized the importance of preserving this national landmark and ensuring the sustainability of its facilities so it can continue to serve the future generations.

He also revealed that the park will host national, cultural and community events, thus, reinforcing its status as a space for interaction and connection and supporting initiatives that enrich the cultural and recreational life in the country.

He then stressed the need to continuously support urban projects that contribute to the improvement of public facilities and the quality of life.

He added that the park stands as a shining example of urban and civic development in the country, in line with the trend toward creating integrated destinations that combine beauty, sustainability and recreation.



Sheikh Abdullah



The honoring ceremony.



New office-bearers of the Forum of Indian Doctors.

Indian Doctors Forum names new office-bearers for '26/'28

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Forum of the Indian Doctors is one of the most reputed and elite expatriate organisations in Kuwait. It has completed 22 years of serving all the expatriate communities in Kuwait by conducting Awareness Programs, Health Screening Camps and Tele-consultations.

On October 2nd, 2026, Forum of Indian Doctors conducted its swearing in ceremony of its new office bearers at Crown Plaza Hotel. Dr Mohan Ram, sworn in as the newly elected President for the tenure of 2026 to 2028.

The other new office bearers are — Dr Jaganath R Chodankar (Male Vice President) and Dr Susovana Sujit Nair(Female Vice President), General Secretary Dr Antony Sebastian D’cruz, Joint General Secretary Dr Mohammad M Qaderi, Treasurer Dr Piyush Bafna, Joint Treasurer Dr Naveen George Thomas, Cultural Secretary Dr Anindita Medhi, Joint Cultural Secretary Dr Jackson Raphael, Community Secretary Dr Sriram Nathan , Joint Community Secretary Dr Preetha Abraham, Membership Secretary, Dr Arshad Patel, Joint Membership Secretary Dr Manu Kurian Baby, Communication Secretary Dr Soumya Ramanna Shetty and Joint Communication Secretary Dr Harshitha Vunnava.

The program started with the national

anthems of Kuwait and India followed by lighting of the lamp by the spouses of former presidents and outgoing lady office bearers. Following this , recitation from the Holy Quran was rendered by Dr Intiaz Nawaz . Welcome address of the program was delivered by outgoing Vice president Dr Susovana. During her address she thanked the former presidents and the election officers’ team (Dr Amir Ahmed, Dr Surendra Nayak and Dr Jibin John Thomas). This was followed by brief remarks by Former Presidents Dr Diwakara Chaluvaiah, Dr Surendra Nayak, Dr. Amir Ahmed, Dr. Abhay Patwari and Dr. Riaz Ahmed Khan.

On behalf of the CEO team and former presidents of forum, Dr Riaz Ahmed Khan announced the list of entire office bearers team. He welcomed each one of them on to the dias accompanied by the applause of members with background music. Dr Mohan Ram gave his presidential address thanking the electoral team and advisory board and expressed his hope for a highly productive tenure ahead. The outgoing General Secretary Dr Philipose George delivered the vote of thanks. The program was hosted by Dr Umar Tak and Dr Sriram. The program concluded with a sumptuous dinner which was enjoyed by one and all.

Ties with Germany spans over 60 years

‘Kuwait investments pillar of economic partnership’

By Bassam Al-Qassab

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Federal Republic of Germany holds a significant position in the relationship of Kuwait with its European partners, supported by a long history of political, economic, investment and cultural cooperation spanning more than six decades – a relationship rooted in trust, mutual respect and shared interests.

Diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Germany were established on May 20, 1964 and the two nations celebrated the 62nd anniversary of such a milestone this year.

The German Federal Foreign Office, in its statements published in March 2026, affirmed that Germany is one of the important trading partners of Kuwait in the European Union (EU).

Kuwait deeply appreciates the supportive stance of Germany during the 1990 Iraqi invasion, a vital moment that strengthened political trust between the two nations and their peoples and paved the way for the intensified concerted efforts in various sectors.

Relations have gained significant momentum over the past two years. The highlight of this period was the joint celebration of the 50th anniversary of the investment partnership between the State of Kuwait and Mercedes-Benz Group in April 2025. Dating back to 1974, this partnership affirms the early presence of Kuwaiti investments in the German economy.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, representing His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, participated in the commemorative ceremony held in Stuttgart.

In October 2025, Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and his German counterpart, Johann Wadepuhl, signed a memorandum of understanding to establish strategic dialogue between the foreign ministries of the two countries. This agreement provides an institutional framework for strengthening coordination and consultation in political, economic and security sectors, among others.

In economic terms, trade between the two nations reached about 1.6 billion Euros in 2024. German exports to Kuwait accounted for about 1.2 billion Euros of this total, consisting of automobiles and spare parts, machinery, electrical equipment and pharmaceutical products.

Updated data from Berlin for 2026 reaffirmed the status of Kuwait as one of the major trading partners of Germany. Kuwaiti investments in Germany are considered the cornerstone of the economic partnership, with government investments estimated at 17.4 billion Euros, while private investments is valued at about 14.6 billion Euros. These investments include stakes in major German companies, such as Daimler and GEA, confirming the vast investment presence of Kuwait in the German economy.

The partnership extends beyond trade and investment to include education and culture, operating within the framework of a cultural cooperation agreement that took effect in 1989. This cooperation covers academic collaboration between German and Kuwaiti institutions, as well as the provision of German-language educational programs at international schools in Kuwait.

Germany remains a major destination for Kuwaitis seeking medical treatment, education and tourism. German tourism data for 2026 revealed that Gulf states recorded about 1.2 million overnight stays in Germany in 2025, underscoring the importance of Gulf markets to the German tourism sector, even if travel flows were affected by regional developments in the first half of 2026.

Thus, Kuwaiti-German relations are advancing toward a new and more structured phase. This evolution builds upon a political legacy dating back to 1964, the 50-year investment partnership with Mercedes, a trade volume of around 1.6 billion Euros, and substantial Kuwaiti investments in Germany.

Furthermore, the new strategic dialogue is paving the way for expanded cooperation in the economic, energy, technology, security and educational sectors, thereby, reinforcing the status of both nations as trusted partners in the relationship between Europe and the Gulf.



KCCI photo

Director General of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Rabah Abdulrahman Al-Rabah receives the British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed at his office.

KCCI, UK seek ways to enhance economic ties

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Director General of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Rabah Abdulrahman Al-Rabah met with British Ambassador to Kuwait Qudsi Rasheed at his office on Sunday, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Head of the Department for Business and Trade at the British Embassy Naz Demir also attended the meeting.

They discussed ways to strengthen economic relations and establish joint investment projects between the two friendly nations, as the United Kingdom is a strategic partner for Kuwait at all levels, particularly in the economic field.

They also talked about methods to familiarize business communities in both countries with the economic climate and to encourage organizing joint economic events in Kuwait.

During the meeting, Ambassador Rasheed confirmed that his country is keen on developing trade and investment relations with Kuwait in various sectors.

He affirmed the vast potential in the two countries, hoping that the private sector will play a pivotal role in transforming this potential into projects, which solidify bilateral cooperation.

Towards the end of the meeting, the guests expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the KCCI for its full support and the services it provides to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.



Sheikh Dr. Salman

MoH undersecretary checks on students in suffocation mishap

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health Sheikh Dr. Salman Khalifa Al-Sabah visited students receiving medical care after suffering suffocation cases at a secondary school, checking on their condition and the level of healthcare being provided.

The ministry said in a press statement that Sheikh Dr. Salman reviewed the medical teams’ follow-up of the cases and was briefed on the care and procedures being provided.

He stressed the need to continue providing all necessary healthcare services and utilizing available resources to ensure the students receive appropriate care based on the medical assessment of each case.

He also directed the concerned health-

care facilities and medical teams to continue monitoring the students’ conditions and provide the highest level of care, while maintaining coordination with the Ministry of Education and other relevant authorities.

The ministry affirmed that it would continue following up on the cases in coordination with the concerned authorities, wishing the students good health and a speedy recovery.

Earlier today, Minister of Education Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabai ordered an investigation into an incident in which several female students suffered suffocation at a secondary school, affirming that all cases are stable.

The Ministry of Education said in a press statement that Minister Al-Tabtabai is directly following up on the students’ health conditions and has instructed the ministry’s relevant authorities to monitor their cases, ensure their safety and coordinate with the concerned authorities to address the incident and take the necessary measures.

Goal ... find solution that pacifies livestock owners

"I was not being unfair to our government when I criticized certain decisions that had proven flawed in the past," Kuwaiti citizen **Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"There is no shame in reversing a mistaken decision, nor is it a mark against the government to seek the counsel of relevant stakeholders on matters where the potential consequences of a decision are uncertain. We therefore urge the government not to rush into decisions without carefully considering their negative consequences, including the resulting harm and financial losses for citizens. I am referring here, first, to the decision prohibiting the sale, assignment, or transfer of government-owned lands, such as farms, livestock pens, and similar properties.



Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber

"Economic activity relies in part on the buying and selling of various assets. There is no fundamental difference between government-owned land and privately owned land when it comes to sales, provided that contracts include clear conditions requiring the lessee to use the land for its designated purpose, with the property subject to repossession if any contractual terms are violated. Buyers and sellers of state-owned land, like those dealing in private land, would continue to use the property for its intended purpose.

"Furthermore, the state itself would benefit from annual lease payments and transfer fees upon the sale of such properties. We therefore hope the government will reconsider its decision and permit sales and assignments, thereby revitalizing economic activity, at least in this sector. The second decision will also result in harm and financial losses for livestock owners. Relocating sheep and camels to sites, some of which are unsuitable for grazing and far removed from essential services and the owners' residences, exposes the animals to a greater risk of theft. Furthermore, the cost of water tanker deliveries will more than double.

"The lack of adequate spacing between livestock pens also increases the risk of disease transmission among animals, thereby jeopardizing the livestock wealth we are duty-bound to preserve. It is worth noting that a fundamental necessity for sheep is the ability to graze and roam freely, feeding on natural pasture and moving about, which are opportunities that are unavailable at the new sites. Even the feed allowance is capped at fifty sacks. Those who require more must wait two weeks or rent a vehicle, adding yet another expense to their already mounting costs (May Allah help them).

"The government is urged to show compassion toward this segment of its citizens and reconsider its decision after hearing their perspectives. The goal should be to reach a solution that satisfies livestock owners while simultaneously meeting the government's regulatory and security requirements.

"We extend our congratulations to the Kuwaiti people, as well as to Kuwait's devoted son, Ali Al-Obeidli, and his family, on his remarkable achievement - winning the grand prize in a global competition involving astrophotographers from around the world. This victory was made possible first by God's grace, followed by the champion's own tireless efforts, years of hard work and sleepless nights, until he finally realized his ambition.

"Just as he has proudly raised his country's flag in international arenas, it is incumbent upon national officials to honor him fittingly, both materially and morally. Some people have heads that benefit no one but the barber. May God protect Kuwait, its people, and its leadership from all evil and harm."

Also:

"Amid the Ministry of Education's rapid efforts to implement its strategic plan for the "Kuwaitization" of teaching positions, a move that recently resulted in the termination of more than 7,000 expatriate teachers to make way for national talent, the education sector faces a fundamental challenge concerning the mechanisms for attracting and supporting young national personnel," Kuwaiti writer **Ahmad Al-Khashnam** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"While the ministry opens its doors to new graduates and prepares them through "Trainee Teacher" programs, a legal and financial issue arises - these individuals are denied the allowances and financial benefits (salary increments) designated for the teaching profession throughout their training period. This decision requires urgent reconsideration to ensure workplace equity.

"The philosophy of pre-appointment training is not new to the state's administrative system; rather, it is a cornerstone on which various ministries and vital sectors rely. A simple comparison with other specialized professions in the country shows that trainee doctors during their internship year, trainee engineers, pilots-in-training, and professionals in technical and sovereign sectors receive their full salaries and allowances without deduction throughout

their qualification periods.

"Administrative history shows no precedent for denying trainees in these sectors their financial entitlements on the grounds that they are "under development." This is because financial compensation is not merely a bonus, but it is a tool for attracting talent and ensuring the trainee's social and psychological stability. Consequently, denying the "trainee teacher" their full salary scale creates a form of "organizational inconsistency" and unjustified disparity between state sectors, particularly given that the teaching profession is no less important or demanding than medicine or engineering.

"Indeed, it serves as the primary source of human resources for these sectors. Denying new teachers their financial entitlements at the beginning of their careers can act as a deterrent, creating an unappealing environment for young Kuwaitis, precisely when the state is seeking to encourage them to enter the teaching profession and address staffing shortages resulting from the "Kuwaitization" plan.

"The public interest calls for trainee teachers to be treated on an equal footing with their counterparts in other ministries. Moreover, investment in a teacher begins the moment they enter the training program. Granting them their full salary scale, without reduction, pending their official appointment by the ministry is both a moral and legal entitlement. We therefore look to the Minister of Education, Sayed Jalal Al-Tabtabaei, who is known for supporting national talent, to give this matter his careful consideration.

"The aim is to realign the current approach in a way that safeguards teachers' rights, preserves the profession's appeal, and supports the success of the Kuwaitization plan through a comprehensive and sustainable vision. In the same context, priority in appointments should be given to existing Ministry of Education employees who have completed their university degrees and wish to change their job titles, whether from administrative, supervisory, or other positions, to that of a teacher."

"Life has taught me that the truest path to success is to be honest with yourself before demanding honesty from others, and to move through life with a single, steadfast face, one that is not altered by self-interest, swayed by circumstances, or reshaped by positions of power." Kuwaiti writer and lawyer **Dr. Abdullah Mohammad Al-Turaiji** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"It has taught me that success, no matter how hard one strives, ultimately remains a matter of divine grace. What God wills comes to pass, and what He does not will does not happen. Whoever places their trust in Him, harbors sincere intentions, and follows the right path will find God opening doors for them that they had never even imagined.

"Life has also taught me that the love of others is both a blessing and a hidden source of strength. Not every achievement is measured in numbers, nor is every success defined by titles or positions. Sometimes, a person's



Dr. Al-Turaiji

greatest possession is the positive mark they leave on people's hearts, finding those who pray for them in their absence and rejoice in their success as they would in their own.

"People may not long remember the position you held, but they will remember a noble stance, a sincere word, a helping hand extended in a time of need, and a heart that knew no treachery. Life has taught me that a true friend is not changed by status. They remain the same whether you are at the peak or have stepped down, whether you hold authority or possess nothing. They do not draw near out of greed, nor do they drift away when your circumstances change. They know you by your name, not your title, and love you for who you are, not for the position you hold.

"How beautiful it is to reach a stage where one realizes that God's greatest blessings are not wealth, status, or fame, but rather sincere and loyal friends, those with whom you need not explain yourself, curate your image, or wear a mask that is not truly yours. They are friends who rejoice in your happiness and grieve your sorrow. They offer counsel when you err, speak well of you in your absence, and cherish the bond you share, even when time and distance keep you apart.

"Ultimately, you realize that life is neither a race for positions nor a battle for self-validation; rather, it is a journey in pursuit of God's pleasure, sincerity of heart, a worthy legacy, and good companionship. If God grants you a sincere heart, a tranquil soul, a good reputation, and friends whom neither time nor status can change, He has bestowed upon you something in this world that money cannot buy. How beautiful success is when it comes through God's grace, bears the fruit of people's love, and is surrounded by loyal friends who remain steadfast through the passage of time."

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty

Kuwait, Italy discuss ways to fight organized crime, drugs

‘We’re keen to boost security ties, eye expertise’



Left: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib and Director-General of Public Security of Italy Vittorio Pisani. Right: Director-General of Public Security of Italy Vittorio Pisani leads the Italian delegation during talks.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior Lt. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib and Director-General of Public Security of Italy Vittorio Pisani discussed ways to enhance security cooperation and exchange expertise, particularly in combating organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime, financial and economic crimes, and border security.

The Ministry of Interior said in a press statement released on Saturday that the meeting took place in Rome during Al-Wuhaib's official visit to Italy, in the presence

of Kuwait Ambassador to Italy Nasser Al-Qahtani.

It added that Al-Wuhaib conveyed the greetings of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, stressing his keenness to further develop bilateral security cooperation and expand coordination and the exchange of expertise and information in a manner that serves common interests.

The meeting also addressed the exchange of expertise in training and professional development, as well as benefiting from modern technologies and solutions to support security operations, the statement said.

It noted that the two sides also discussed developing mechanisms for exchanging information among relevant authorities and enhancing preventive and proactive capabilities to address

emerging forms of crime.

The statement said the two sides discussed the use of modern technologies in monitoring, analysis and detection operations, which would contribute to improving the efficiency of security work and addressing security challenges.

Furthermore, Al-Wuhaib also met with a number of senior officials at the Italian Ministry of Interior, where they discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to enhance cooperation.

The statement added that Al-Wuhaib and members of the accompanying delegation toured several departments affiliated with the Italian Ministry of Interior, where they were briefed on their operations, coordination mechanisms among relevant agencies, and key systems and technologies used to support security tasks and enhance performance efficiency.

Indian expat dead in fall from height at work site

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: An Indian expatriate died after falling from a height at a construction site in Al-Mutlaa, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a report about the fall, prompting security and emergency medical teams to respond to the site.

Upon arrival, paramedics found that the expatriate had succumbed to the injuries sustained in the fall.

Kuwaiti hospitalized: A 1999-born Kuwaiti citizen was hospitalized after being struck by an unidentified vehicle in an accident opposite Sabah Al-Salem, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior's Operations Room received a report about a vehicle-pedestrian accident. Security and emergency medical teams were immediately dispatched to the scene, where they attended to the citizen, who had sustained multiple injuries.

Emergency medical personnel provided the citizen with initial treatment before transporting him to Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital for further medical care.



KFF photo

A KFF inspector shuts one of the establishments.

KFF shuts 34 firms, 115 violation notices issued

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) carried out an inspection campaign in Farwaniya Governorate, resulting in 115 notices, 34 administrative closures and warnings issued to 15 sites over possible closure.

KFF said in a press statement Sunday that the campaign, conducted by Farwaniya Governorate's Prevention Department, is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen field inspections, ensure compliance and reduce violations.

It added that the campaign aims to enhance safety and organization in the governorate's industrial areas.



Map of road closure

Street 7 in Surra closes for asphalt replacement

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: The Ministry of Public Works announced the closure of Street 7 in Block 5 of Surra, starting Sunday until Tuesday, October 13, to facilitate asphalt replacement works, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The ministry called for the public's cooperation during the execution of the works.

37 AC units stolen from the company premises in Jleeb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: A company representative has reported the theft of 37 air conditioning units from one of the firm's properties in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh after finding signs of a break-in, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the representative visited the property and noticed that the front door had been forcibly opened. Upon entering the premises, he found that all 37 air conditioning units stored inside had been stolen.

The representative subsequently filed an official report at Jleeb Police Station, providing documents confirming his role and the company's association with the property.

The Public Prosecution ordered an investigation into the incident. Detectives were assigned to the case, while forensic experts were dispatched to examine the scene and gather evidence to determine the circumstances of the theft and identify the unknown perpetrator.

The incident was registered at Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station as a felony case classified as "burglary."

Why delay transaction?: A Kuwaiti woman employed at a government agen-

cy visited a police station in the Capital Governorate to file a complaint against a member of the public who allegedly verbally abused her over a delay in processing a transaction, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to security sources, the employee explained that the delay was routine and no different from what occurs with other transactions. However, the individual immediately subjected her to a barrage of insults, despite the employee having committed no fault.

A case of verbal abuse has been registered against the individual, and he is being summoned for questioning to investigate the incident and establish the circumstances surrounding it.

Gas leak sparks fire: Early Saturday morning, a firefighting crew from the Hawally Fire Station brought under control an explosion caused by a gas leak that sparked a fire in an apartment in Hawally, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) announced that the crew successfully battled and contained the fire. One person sustained injuries, received medical attention, and was subsequently transferred to the appropriate authorities.

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Kuwait medical, food aid hits millions

Charities reach out to sick, needy in Mideast, Africa

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Kuwait strengthened its global humanitarian role through flexible, multi-dimensional initiatives, with Kuwaiti organizations launching integrated development, medical and relief projects focused on capacity-building and sustainable solutions across the Middle East and Africa.

Insan Charity Association, in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Children’s Heart Association, launched a medical campaign in Tanzania to treat children with congenital heart defects, examining 100 children and performing 14 complex surgeries in Dodoma, while treating non-surgical cases.

Chairman of Insan Charity Association Dr. Othman Al-Khamees told KUNA that the Kuwaiti medical team assessed the cases, performed all scheduled surgeries, provided medication for non-surgical cases, and trained Tanzanian doctors and nurses in pediatric heart care.

Dr. Al-Khamees stressed the importance of combining treatment with capacity building and expanding medical programs to reach more children in need.

Chairman of the Children’s Heart Charity Association and Consultant in Congenital Cardiac Surgery at Kuwait’s Ministry of Health Dr. Faisal Al-Saeedi said to KUNA that sharing Kuwaiti medical expertise with countries lacking specialized services, particularly pediatric cardiology and cardiac surgery, represents an advanced humanitarian model combining treatment, specialized teams, knowledge transfer, and training of local medical staff.

He said the association seeks to expand partnerships with charitable, medical and humanitarian organizations, stressing that joint efforts can enhance the impact of initiatives and provide children with greater access to life-saving treatment.

In the Jordanian capital, Amman, the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) launched “Masar” program to empower small-

business owners through training in management, planning and marketing, helping them turn their ideas into more stable and sustainable enterprises.

IICO Deputy Director-General for Projects Ibrahim Al-Bader told KUNA the program shifts the organization’s focus from project funding toward an integrated model combining financing, training, practical application and impact measurement.

Al-Bader stressed that project success requires more than funding, highlighting the importance of equipping beneficiaries with skills to understand markets, manage resources, make sound decisions, and overcome challenges.

He said the program includes two guides, one for trainers and another offering project owners practical tools and exercises, targeting about 2,000 participants through 80 training sessions across several governorates.

Al-Bader said participation from Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Turkiye and the Islamic Development Bank broadens experience-sharing and helps develop the program, which aims to enable beneficiaries to move from receiving aid to becoming productive and self-reliant.

Refugee

In Turkiye, Al-Najat Charitable Society continued its support for Syrian refugee families through a relief visit ahead of the winter season, providing food, health, educational and clothing assistance to needy families, orphans and patients.

On his part, Director of Salwa Zakat Committee at Al-Najat Charitable Society, Engineer Thamer Al-Sahib, told KUNA that the aid reached 1,133 families comprising more than 5,600 beneficiaries, with assistance distributed according to the families’ living, health and educational needs.

He said the aid included food baskets, clothing for orphan families, school bags and stationery, as well as support for families with infants to help them meet their children’s basic needs.

The health component included financial assistance for families caring for patients and persons with disabilities, in addition to orphan families, helping ease their medical expenses and daily burdens, he added.

Moreover, Al-Sahib said the initiatives reflected the values of solidarity for which Kuwaiti society is known, noting that contributions from philanthropists and donors had enabled the implementation of projects covering food, healthcare, education and clothing under the (Kuwait

by Your Side) campaign.

In Cote d’Ivoire, Namaa Charity, affiliated with the Social Reform Society, inaugurated an integrated residential village comprising homes, a school, a mosque and a groundwater well, providing local families with housing, education, water and other basic services.

Head of Programs and Initiatives, Khaled Al-Shamri, told KUNA that the project represented an integrated development model addressing residents’ needs in several areas and providing infrastructure to help families improve their living conditions on a sustainable basis.

The village includes 67 houses, in addition to a school accommodating around 210 students, contributing to supporting children’s access to education and providing an appropriate learning environment within the beneficiary community, he said.

Furthermore, the project also includes a mosque serving local residents and a solar-powered groundwater well whose water benefits around 5,000 people, providing a sustainable source of water and serving a wider area of the local population, Al-Shamri added.

He noted that combining housing, education, water and community services reflected Namaa Charity’s approach of developing projects with long-term impact, expressing appreciation for the support of donors and philanthropists who contributed to making the project a reality.

In Somalia, Al-Manaber Al-Quraniya Society provided eye care to people suffering from vision loss or impairment through a medical convoy which carried out eye surgeries for 125 needy patients.

The Society’s Director General, Dr. Mohammad Al-Omran, told KUNA that restoring sight went beyond treating a medical condition, giving beneficiaries greater opportunities to learn, work, become self-reliant and resume their daily lives.

The initiative highlights the importance of directing charitable efforts toward urgent healthcare needs, he added.

These Kuwaiti humanitarian efforts, carried out under the directives of the leadership and within the framework of the (Kuwait by Your Side) campaign, reflect the country’s longstanding humanitarian approach to supporting people in need and providing them with the means for a dignified life.

Kuwait’s efforts underscores its continued humanitarian engagement through projects designed to address living, health and educational needs and contribute to longer-term stability and self-reliance in beneficiary communities.



Kuwaiti charities carry out eye surgeries in an African country.

Co-op top job retake test Oct 10

By Fares Ghaleb

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4 : The Ministry of Social Affairs announced that the retake exams for all those who applied for supervisory posts in cooperative societies will be conducted on Oct 10.

According to a message sent to the applicants, the retake exams for the first group will be conducted from 9:00 am to 10:00 am on Oct 10, while the exams for other groups shall continue throughout the day.

The exams venue is the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in Mubarak Al-Abdullah (Gate 2, Hall W5-001).

Applicants must arrive 30 minutes before their schedule and bring their original civil identification card or any other official form of identification.

The exams hall will close at 9:00 am and no applicant will be allowed to enter once the exams have started.

All applicants are retaking the exams in view of the concerns and complaints raised about the previous exams.

Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthlal Al-Huwailah clarified that the exams will be conducted again as per clear and publicly communicated guidelines, ensuring the questions correspond with the specified study materials.

Other Voices

Your Excellency, listen to what this man has to say

By Ahmad alsarraf

“MY name is Jared Coney Horvath. I am a former university professor who held the highest academic titles, and I have since become a cognitive neuroscientist specializing in human learning. I have never received, nor will I ever receive, funding from any source whatsoever.

One of the unfortunate realities our generation must confront is that children today are less cognitively capable than we were at their age. Historically, each generation has surpassed the one before it. That is precisely what we want - for our children to be smarter than us.

The main reason for this was school, where each generation spent more time developing its cognitive abilities. We relied on education to strengthen these abilities, until Generation Z, the demographic group born roughly between 1997 and 2012, came along.

Its defining characteristic is that it is a generation of digital natives, raised in the age of the internet, smartphones, and social media. They have never known a world without digital technology.

This is the first generation in modern history to fail to surpass the previous generation on almost every cognitive measure - memory, literacy, arithmetic, executive function, and overall IQ - despite spending more time in school than previous generations.

What happened around 2010, when education and cognitive development became disconnected? It could not be the schools themselves, as schools appear to have remained largely similar. Nor could it be biological factors, as there has not been enough time for significant changes to occur. The answer appears to lie in the tools used within schools to guide the learning process.



alsarraf

Looking at data from 80 countries, we find that 11 have adopted digital technology extensively in schools, resulting in a significant decline in performance.

Students who use computers for approximately five hours a day at school for learning purposes score more than two-thirds of a standard deviation lower than students who rarely or never use technology at school.

This applies across all 80 countries. In the United States, there is a program called the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Comparing NAEP data from any state before and after the extensive adoption of technology, we find a clear difference. The data initially stabilizes for a period, then begins to decline.

What we really want to understand is why. To determine the reasons, we need academic research, evidence of the underlying mechanisms, and an explanation for what we are seeing. Fortunately, we have academic research dating back to 1962 showing essentially the same result over six decades - when technology enters education, learning declines.

In fact, children using computers are often simply skimming. So, instead of determining what we want for our children and directing education toward those goals, we are re-defining education to better suit the device.

This is not progress; rather, it is a surrender to reality. Even in schools, screen size does not matter, whether it is a phone or a laptop. It doesn't matter who purchased it, whether it is school-approved, or whether it carries an “education” label. All of this can harm learning and negatively affect our children’s cognitive development at a time when we need them to be smarter than us.

We must stop relying entirely on machines. We need to return to traditional education, the traditional blackboard, and give the teacher a greater role in the educational process.”



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Kuwait reboots

The memorandum affirms that freedom of opinion, expression, press, printing, and publishing remain constitutionally guaranteed within the boundaries of public order, morals, national security, and individual rights.

Minister Al-Omar stated that the enactment of the Media Regulation Law marks the beginning of a new

The association also expressed hope that the views and observations of local press institutions regarding the law and its executive regulations would receive due attention from the executive authority, in a manner that contributes to strengthening Kuwait's press sector and preserving its longstanding legacy.

Role of

He also commended the role of Kuwaiti academic and educational in-

The seminar witnessed the remarkable engagement of the participants, particularly the Kuwait University students, who presented their comments and raised questions. This participation enriched the discussion on the present and future of the teaching profession, as well as the teacher's role in utilizing modern technology to develop the educational process.

'Six decrees'

The second article of each decree mandated that the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior implement the provisions and stipulated that the decrees take effect from the date of their issuance and be published in the official gazette.

From vaccines

She said, "Just as travelers make sure to prepare their passports, tickets, and itineraries, we want them to include their health in their preparations as well. Our goal is for them to

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Health provides traveler health services through nine clinics distributed across the country's various governorates, ensuring easy access to the necessary health and preventive services for travelers.

Kuwait joins

Kuwait's participation underscores its commitment to deepening Gulf judicial and legal integration, supporting joint GCC action and improving its mechanisms to serve member states and their citizens. The Kuwaiti delegation included Justice Ministry Undersecretary Awatif Al-Sanad and several senior ministry officials.

PACI cancels

It warned that failure to do so will result in the penalty stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982 -- fine not exceeding KD100 per person.

Houthi claim

Yemen's conflict began in late 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital Sanaa and much of northern Yemen, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in March 2015 in support of the internationally recognized Yemeni government.

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America

Tennessee’s prisons chief resigns: The head of Tennessee’s prison system is resigning, Gov. Bill Lee announced Saturday, the first major staff shake-up since Christa Pike’s stunning failed execution left her unconscious and on a ventilator at a hospital.

Frank Strada, commissioner of the Department of Correction, will step down this month, Lee said. Some of the governor’s fellow Republicans and other elected officials had been urging a change in leadership.

It was the second time since May that Tennessee has not been able to execute a prisoner who was seemingly moments away from death.

The governor also announced that former US Attorney Ed Stanton would lead a review of what happened in Pike’s death chamber. Stanton previously was named to conduct a review after Lee called off a different execution in 2022; he found in that case that Tennessee had not complied with its own lethal injection process.

Strada said in a statement that resigning was “in the best interest of Tennesseans” while Stanton’s review is conducted. The state failed to execute Pike despite administering two doses of a lethal drug, pentobarbital. (AP)



Strada

□ □ □

2 dead after shooting near LA campus: At least two people were killed and dozens of others detained after a shooting broke out Friday night at a strip mall near a university campus in Los Angeles, local media reported.

The shooting occurred shortly after 11 pm (0600 GMT) at University Plaza, a popular shopping center located about one block from California State University, Northridge, the New York Post reported Saturday.

Police responded after receiving reports of a large gathering and heard gunshots upon arrival, the report said.

Following the shooting, dozens of people were detained outside a building at the plaza. According to the report, many of those detained had been inside a nearby lounge at the time of the shooting.

Los Angeles Police Department Lt. Guy Golan described the pair of victims as a man and woman, both of whom are believed to be between the ages of 18 and 25, according to local TV station KTLA. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Crews find ‘debris field’ from plane: Searchers found a “debris field” off the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, from an air ambulance that was carrying six people when it vanished over the Atlantic on Saturday during a flight from Bermuda to Boston, the US Coast Guard said.

Four Canadians and two Bermudian nationals were aboard, and their next of kin were notified as the search continued, the Coast Guard said in a statement. It added that one of its cutters would keep searching the water overnight and into Sunday.

According to the Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration reported that the Gulfstream G100 lost contact very early Saturday morning. Air traffic audio indicates that it may have been “coming in blind” when a storm loomed ahead shortly before it vanished.

The pilot reported electrical problems and declared an emergency as the jet approached the coast, according to air traffic control audio posted by LiveATC.net. “Roger, you said you’re coming in blind. Is that what you said?” a controller can be heard asking the pilot. (AP)

Judge temporarily blocks border wall construction in Texas’ Big Bend region

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): A federal court in Texas on Friday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from building a border wall and other infrastructure across the state’s Big Bend region, in a victory for opponents who have pushed back against a key campaign promise by President Donald Trump.

Landowners, businesses and environmentalists in the region have united to oppose the planned projects, which are part of a \$46 billion effort by the Trump administration to line the southern border with a mix of 30-foot-tall steel walls, vehicle barriers, roads and surveillance technology.

Judge Kathleen Cardone said in her ruling that the plaintiffs were “likely to succeed on the merits of at least one of the claims in suit, that there is a likelihood that they will suffer serious, irreparable harm without an injunction, and that the balance of the equities and the public interest weigh in their favor.”

US Customs and Border Protection defended the project in a statement Friday.

“We stand by our assessment and remain confident in our legal authorities to secure the border while preserving the unique landscape of the



Big Bend National Park, Texas, is seen on Sept 19. (AP)

Big Bend region,” the agency said. “We are working with the Department of Justice on next steps.”

The Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The judge’s ruling includes Big Bend National Park, where opposition to the wall prompted the administration to briefly pause construction.

Opponents of the border wall project have argued that the 500-mile-long Big Bend region of Texas is so remote and the landscape so rugged that it serves as its own deterrent to

illegal immigration and that the administration violated the law when it issued a swath of waivers allowing it to bypass numerous regulations in order to speed up border wall infrastructure projects.

The lawsuit brought by an environmental organization, advocates for a historic church in Ruidosa and a river guide argued that the Department of Homeland Security was wrong to circumvent regulations meant to protect the environment, culture, and archaeology of regions like the Big Bend area.

Plan turns into defensive fight ahead of November midterms

Senate GOP moves cash from purple NC to red Kansas as battle for majority shifts

TOPEKA, Kansas, Oct 4, (AP): Senate Republicans’ top campaign spending organization is pulling back in North Carolina and pouring money into Kansas, a striking shift that shows how the party’s plan to keep its majority has turned into an increasingly defensive fight ahead of November’s midterms.

The decision by the Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with top Senate Republicans, was disclosed Friday by four people with direct knowledge of the situation who insisted on anonymity to discuss internal strategy.

The shifting resources signal a lack of confidence that Michael Whatley, a former Republican National Committee chairman who was President Donald Trump’s choice to run for Senate in North Carolina, can beat Democratic former Gov. Roy Cooper.

“I am worried about him,” Trump told reporters Friday as he was departing for a campaign rally in Alabama. “I hope he wins.”

The moves offer a stark sign of how dramatically the Senate map has shifted just a month before midterm elections that will determine control of Congress. Republicans entered the cycle believing they had more opportunities to flip Democratic-

held seats than they had incumbents at serious risk. Now they are dumping money into states where Trump won comfortably two years ago.

Kansas Sen. Roger Marshall, a Republican seeking a second term, is facing a challenge from Democratic nominee Adam Hamilton, the leader of the nation’s largest United Methodist Church. The Senate Leadership Fund has reserved nearly \$8.2 million in advertising to support Marshall over the next month, according to AdImpact, a significant investment in a state Trump won by nearly 16 percentage points in the last presidential election.

Marshall has reserved another \$2.3 million and is supported by another \$500,000 from other groups. By comparison, Hamilton has reserved just \$590,000 in advertising, and he’s receiving only a little more than \$556,000 in outside help.

Marshall won his first Senate race by more than 11 percentage points in 2020, the year Democrat Joe Biden defeated Trump for president. However, higher fuel costs and other economic concerns have made the state more competitive than Republicans had expected.

“Kansas farmers - including Republicans - are devastated by the war in Iran driving up diesel prices,” said



US Sen Roger Marshall gestures as Vice President JD Vance speaks on Sept 14, in Olathe, Kansas. (AP)

Jeanna Repass, chair of the Kansas Democratic Party.

Former Kansas Gov. Mike Hayden, a Republican, announced Friday that he was endorsing Hamilton. He is the second Republican former governor of Kansas to back the Democrat, after Bill Graves endorsed Hamilton on Sept. 23.

Lauren French, a spokesperson for the Senate Majority PAC, the Democrats’ spending arm, said in a statement that “Republicans are scrambling because they know” Hamilton can win.

Marshall’s campaign did not provide comment directly responding to the new spending on his behalf.

Sen. Tim Scott, who chairs the National Republican Senatorial Committee, acknowledged Wednesday that “Kansas is a very competitive state.” He said he expects Marshall to win but it will be “closer than I want it to be.”

A Democrat hasn’t won a Senate

race in Kansas since 1932 and hasn’t come within 10 points since 1974.

Last week in Topeka, scores of people packed into a coffee shop to see Hamilton. Dozens more waited outside on the sidewalk.

Ryan Verthein, a 40-year-old Topeka resident who repairs guitars and vintage electronics, plans to support Hamilton and considers himself a Democrat after years as an unaffiliated voter.

He’s concerned that Republicans could drag Hamilton down with political attacks.

“The negativity in Republican campaigning has done really well for them the past many years,” he said.

Ellen Johnson, 42, the lead organizer for Indivisible Topeka, a group involved in anti-Trump rallies, tends to like more progressive candidates than Hamilton, but he won her over.

“I have high hopes for him,” she said.

Democratic state Rep. Alexis Simmons of Topeka said she believes that Hamilton can win, saying “my skepticism is gone.” She was energized by what she saw as a strong performance during Hamilton’s debate with Marshall on Sept. 12 at the Kansas State Fair.

“He’s responsive to the public and has done a good job of reflecting

Kansas values of hard work, humility and kindness in his policies,” she said.

The Senate Leadership Fund had planned to spend \$18 million in North Carolina over the next month, according to reservations tracked by AdImpact. The group has already spent about \$32 million there.

Trump campaigned with Whatley last month, saying higher fuel prices were “a very inexpensive price to pay” for preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Though gas prices are near historic highs, they remain below the nationwide record set in 2022.

Trump won North Carolina by just over 3 percentage points in 2024. Republicans have held both of the state’s Senate seats since 2015, even as Cooper won two terms as governor and served from 2017 to 2025.

Jeff Allen, campaign manager for Cooper, said in a statement that they remain focused on “building a campaign to earn every vote.”

Whatley’s team defended his chances.

“We feel confident we have the resources to highlight Career Politician Roy Cooper’s 40 Years of Failures and win in November,” campaign spokesman DJ Griffin said in a statement.



People walk along the Sant Sebastia Beach during red alert for extreme weather in Barcelona, Spain on Oct 3. (AP)

Heavy rain triggers flood warnings, travel restrictions across Spain

Authorities in northeastern Spain restricted non-essential travel and suspended most commuter rail services on Saturday as extreme rainfall threatened flooding, while flash floods in central-eastern Spain killed one person and forced the evacuation of around 90 people.

Catalonia activated its flood emergency plan, with restrictions

covering 20 administrative areas until 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday.

The weather danger level is expected to reach the highest one early Sunday. Rainfall could exceed 90 liters per square meter in three hours and 200 liters over 24 hours in some areas.

Emergency alerts were sent to mobile phones across affected ar-

reas, while most services on Catalonia’s Rodalies commuter and regional rail network were suspended.

Catalan regional President Salvador Illa urged “maximum caution” as authorities warned of severe thunderstorms, strong winds and possible waterspouts or tornadoes. (Xinhua)

Merz visits Kyiv as Russia steps up attacks on Ukrainian cities

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 4, (AP): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrived in Kyiv Sunday in a show of support as Russia escalated its attacks on Ukrainian cities.

The aerial war has intensified, with Moscow menacing cities across Ukraine with hard-to-intercept ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones, while Kyiv has been striking Russia’s oil industry and businesses.

Merz said he traveled to the Ukrainian capital on his second trip as chancellor to demonstrate his country’s solidarity with Ukraine. Germany is Ukraine’s largest donor, sending Kyiv more than €43.3 billion (\$48.8 billion) since the war began, along with equipment and weapons.

“If Russia is not stopped, its war machine will sooner or later turn against us,” he said in a statement Sunday, adding that he told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy: “You can continue to count on our help.”

Merz said the partnership between the two countries was “not a one-way street,” pointing to German and Ukrainian companies jointly developing technologies that benefit



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, (center left), and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pay tributes at the memorial of fallen Ukrainian soldiers at the Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine on Oct 4. (AP)

both sides. “This makes us safer and stronger,” he said.

In a post on X, Zelenskyy thanked Germany and said the two countries would make “important agreements” during the visit to strengthen Ukraine’s defenses and those of the rest of Europe. “Russia must be stopped together,” he wrote.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii

Sybiha said the agenda would focus on “strengthening Ukraine, our defense and resilience, and our shared European security.”

Merz and Zelenskyy visited a building of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in central Kyiv that was damaged in a Russian attack on Monday, as air raid sirens sounded across the capital.

Farage ‘ignored’ over safety threats: deputy

LONDON, Oct 4, (AP): Anti-immigration Reform UK party leader Nigel Farage was ignored when he complained of threats to his safety, his deputy said Saturday after the man accused of killing former British politician Ann Widdecombe was charged with plotting a terror attack against Farage.

Richard Tice said Farage had discussed the risks to his security many times over the years and the charge amounts to a wake-up call. “What’s particularly upsetting for those of us in and around him is sometimes he’s not being believed, not being listened to,” Tice told the BBC.

Joshua Kerry, 28, was charged with one count of preparation of terrorist acts, including against Farage, the Crown Prosecution Service said Friday.

Authorities did not release additional information about the charge, but counterterrorism police in August said they had reopened a probe into an alleged firebomb attack at Farage’s south London home.



Britain’s Reform UK party leader Nigel Farage speaks at the Reform UK First 100 Days rally, in Doncaster, England on Oct 1. (AP)

Europe

Bosnia voters cast ballots: Voters in Bosnia cast ballots Sunday in a general election in which most are focused on everyday problems, while some mainstream politicians in the Balkan nation have whipped up war-era tensions that have kept the country divided since its brutal 1992-95 conflict.

Around 3.4 million voters are choosing the three members of the country’s multi-ethnic presidency, lawmakers for the national Parliament, and heads of institutions for the country’s two entities: the Muslim-majority Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Republika Srpska, which is dominated by ethnic Serbs.

Bosnia has a complex web of governing insti-



Dodik

tutions that were created by a US-brokered peace agreement in 1995 in an effort to manage the ethnic divisions between Muslim Bosniaks, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats that gave rise to the war.

On Sunday morning, Associated Press journalists reported seeing multiple polling places where voting could not begin on time due to difficulties with new digital voting technology, a measure introduced to address earlier concerns over vote tampering.

Polls will close at 7 pm.

Taking center stage in the contest is a staunchly pro-Russian politician who, despite not appearing on the ballot, has dominated the campaign and inflamed divisions that have sparked fears of renewed instability.

Milorad Dodik, the separatist and nationalist former president of the Serb-majority Republika Srpska, has been banned from holding public office after being convicted of defying decisions by the international envoy overseeing the 1995 peace agreement. (AP)

S.Korea abolishes state prosecution service after 78 years, launches new agencies

Seoul’s anger with Kyiv over POWs may be driven by worries about ties to N.Korea

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 4, (Agencies): South Korea’s president threatened to take unspecified punitive steps against Ukraine if it refuses to apologize over its revelation of a supposedly secret transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea.

Seoul and Kyiv are embroiled in a diplomatic dispute, with Seoul strongly protesting against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s disclosure of the transfer during his UN speech last week. South Korea accuses Ukraine of violating a nondisclosure agreement on the transfer, but Kyiv has denied agreeing to such a deal.

The arrival of the North Korean soldiers in mid-September could also spell trouble for South Korea’s liberal government, which hopes to improve ties with Pyongyang. But despite an escalation in its rhetoric, many experts say Seoul isn’t likely to take any drastic steps because maintaining good relations with Ukraine is in its national interests and will support its partnerships with other Western nations.

The soldiers had been among thou-

sands of North Korean troops sent to support Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war against Ukraine. They were captured in early 2025, and South Korea offered to take them if they were willing to resettle in the South.

Here is a look at the latest Seoul-Kyiv rift surrounding the transfer of the soldiers:

The North Korean soldiers’ transfer could complicate Seoul’s push for talks with Pyongyang, because North Korea has previously reacted with fury to defections of its citizens and accused the South of kidnapping them.

“Our government’s policy is restoring severed dialogue with North Korea and easing tensions ... So it wanted to handle the POW issue in a low-key manner,” said Moon Seong Mook, an analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for National Strategy.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has said his government has been making efforts to coordinate a resumption of talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, hop-



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung delivers a speech during the Armed Forces Day at a military base in Gyeong, South Korea on Oct 1. (AP)

ing that would help restart its own talks with the North and boost peace on the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has so far shrugged off Trump’s latest overture - scaling back a military exercise with South Korea in August that Kim views as an invasion rehearsal.

But recent mine explosions at the Korean border that injured three South Korean soldiers threaten to derail South Korea’s reconciliation bid. Blaming North Korea-planted mines for the blasts, South Korea has demanded North Korea apologize and halt its border fortification efforts. On Friday, Kim’s sister and senior official, Kim Yo Jong, called the South Korean request “utterly pathetic,” saying the North intends to cut ties with the South permanently.

In his post on X on Friday, Lee accused Ukraine of making him look like “a liar” because it contradicted his earlier claim about the nondisclosure agreement.

Lee said his government will take “additional measures” if Ukraine refuses to admit the existence of the nondisclosure agreement and apologize publicly. “This is a matter of national dignity ... so we can’t overlook it,” Lee wrote.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba on Thursday called the latest spat “a diplomatic misunderstanding.” He told reporters that he had been communicating with his South

Korean counterpart daily, saying that “I very much want this situation to be resolved in the short term.”

South Korean officials say Zelenskyy likely hoped his revelation would generate public support in South Korea for providing Ukraine with much-needed missile defense and other weapons systems.

Also:

SEOUL: South Korea officially abolished the state prosecution service Friday, ending its 78-year history since its establishment in 1948, while launching new agencies separately in charge of investigation and prosecution.

Under the revised acts, the newly launched public prosecution office will operate under the justice ministry, focusing entirely on indictments and maintaining public prosecution.

The newly established serious crimes investigation agency will be run under the interior ministry and be tasked with directly investigating seven major crime categories and conducting supplementary investigations for crimes targeting vulnerable groups.

Lat/Am

Grenada to hold elections on Nov 5: Grenada will hold general elections on Nov 5, according to a release on its government’s Gazette.

The notice issued Saturday also set Oct 15 for the formal submission of candidate nomination documents.

Local media reported that Grenadian Prime Minister **Dickon Mitchell** would formally announce the election date on Monday.

The Caribbean country’s last elections were held in June 2022. (Xinhua)



Mitchell

1 killed, 2 injured in Peru forest fire: A large forest fire left one person dead and two others injured in southern Peru, a regional emergency official said Saturday.

The fire in the populated community of Yanahuara in Urubamba province, Cusco region, killed an elderly person whose identity had not yet been determined, Miguel Oscco, head of the regional emergency operations center of Cusco, told local radio station RPP.

The two injured people, who suffered second-degree burns, were rushed to the Cusco Regional Hospital for treatment, according to Oscco.

The fire remained out of control as intense solar radiation, strong winds and dry vegetation hampered firefighting efforts, Oscco said. (Xinhua)

2 arrested in Mexico school attack: Authorities

arrested two 18-year-old brothers for a deadly attack Thursday that left one person dead and three others injured at their former middle school in Torreon, a city in northern Mexico’s Coahuila state.

Federico Fernandez, the state’s attorney general, told local media the two suspects entered Secondary School Number 13 in the city’s La Union area and attacked administrative staff and students, reportedly with knives.

The school’s deputy director died from her wounds and the three people injured received medical attention, Mexico’s Security Cabinet said in a statement on X.

Preliminary reports indicate the young men were driven by ill “feelings toward the school,” said Fernandez, adding authorities are still investigating to determine the circumstances and motive of the attack. (Xinhua)

Bolivia’s top prosecutor detained: Bolivia’s Attorney General Roger Mariaca and Santa Cruz’s chief prosecutor Alberto Zeballos were detained with authorities providing no immediate explanation.

Police intercepted the two at the Viru Viru International Airport in Santa Cruz after they arrived from the capital Sucre, according to preliminary reports. Official sources later confirmed the detentions to local media.

Authorities had not publicly disclosed whether warrants had been issued, what offenses were under investigation, or who had ordered the detentions.

The operation came two days after the United States announced visa restrictions against Mariaca, Zeballos and other Bolivians. Washington accused Mariaca of corruption linked to drug trafficking, allegations he denied. (Xinhua)

Japan’s air force starts recovery of crashed Global Hawk drone

TOKYO, Oct 4, (AP): Japan’s air force said it began recovery operations Friday for a US-made long-distance surveillance drone that had crashed into the sea last month, as the country puts greater emphasis on drones in its defense planning.

The uncrewed RQ-4B aircraft, known as Global Hawk, went missing off the northern coast of Tottori prefecture in northwestern Japan in mid-September. The Japan Air Self-Defense Force said it has determined that the drone had crashed and later spotted what appeared to be the fuselage on the seabed about 200-300 meters (650-980 feet) deep.

The aircraft was one of three Global Hawks in Japan’s air force. Capable of conducting long-range missions at a height of 60,000 feet (18 kilometers) and operating continuously for up to 36 hours, they allow Japan to monitor areas on the Asian mainland, including North Korea and China.

The air force has released limited details. JASDF Chief of Staff Takehiro Morita told reporters earlier this week that Japanese defense officials were working closely with its maker,



A Global Hawk, long-distance surveillance drone of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, is shown to the media at its base in Misawa, Aomori prefecture, on Jan 2023. (AP)

Northrop Grumman, and the U.S. military in the investigation.

There has been no indication of foul play and officials said the cause of the crash was under investigation.

Friday’s work began with the ar-

rival of a mother ship that deployed a remotely operated underwater vehicle to obtain the drone’s exact location and other details, while also recovering debris, JASDF said. Salvaging larger parts of the aircraft is expected later in October.

Millions of Brazilians cast ballots

Lula, Bolsonaro face off in tense presidential election

SAO PAULO, Oct 4, (AP): Brazilians vote Sunday in a high-stakes presidential election pitting incumbent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva against Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, ideological opposites who are each seen as having a shot at an outright victory.

If no candidate gets more than 50% of the vote, the top two vote-getters will head to a runoff on Oct 25 in Latin America’s economic powerhouse. Ten other candidates are expected to garner much smaller numbers of votes on Sunday.

Bolsonaro, 45, is the son of far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro and an ally of US President Donald Trump. Lula, who at 80 is one of the world’s oldest heads of state, is running in his seventh presidential election and has strengthened Brazil’s ties with Beijing.

Trump allies have found support in recent years in some Latin American countries, including Argentina, Colombia and Peru.

Almost 159 million Brazilians are eligible to vote in this tense political showdown.

Where Bolsonaro has leaned into his ideological alliance with Trump, Lula has criticized Washington. He has often spoken about risks of US intervention in the Brazilian elections after the Trump administration imposed high tariffs against Brazilian exports, revoked the visa of the country’s ambassador in DC and sanctioned a Supreme Court justice who chaired the probe that ended up resulting in the sentencing of Jair Bolsonaro, Lula’s predecessor.

Flávio Bolsonaro has touted his proximity to the White House and insisted Brazil needs to strike better deals with the Trump administration, including the rare minerals economy. Brazil estimates its deposits to hold up to 21 million tons, second only to China. Bolsonaro also has campaigned on releasing his father from his 27-year prison sentence for attempting a coup and bringing him back to politics.

Bolsonaro denies he’s being helped by the US government. “That narrative won’t stick, sorry,” he said at a September campaign event.

Brazilians will also elect 27 state governors, members of state legislatures, all 513 federal congressmen and 54 of the country’s 81 senators in Sunday’s vote.

Thomas Traumann, a political consultant based in Rio de Janeiro, says last-minute mistakes by either candidate or by their allies could make all the difference for undecided voters.

“Polarization in Brazil created a trap. There’s no third candidate. You only have two options, and they fight each other in an atmosphere that becomes worse and worse,” Traumann said. “It is much more a competition of accusations than a competition of proposals.”

Four years ago, Lula beat Jair Bolsonaro by 2.1 million votes - a margin of just under 2 percentage points. At the time, Brazilians were upset with the then-president’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic, his repeated threats against democracy, his attacks on the electronic voting system, and the poor shape of the nation’s economy as inflation was on the rise.

Now, the incumbent faces a tough battle due to an affordability crisis and a corruption scandal that ensnared the same justice who led the investigation into Bolsonaro.

Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo, says some voters have grown weary of Lula, who is seeking a fourth nonconsecutive term as president. He is one of the oldest presidents on the continent, along with Trump and Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega, both of whom also are 80.

“Many in the Lula campaign were not expecting such a difficult election a few weeks ago, and it is clear to them that the present election is a tough battle and the next ones, without Lula, could be even more so,” Melo said.

Bolsonaro has seen his political career tainted by several corruption accusations, the latest of them involving a disgraced banker paying him millions of dollars, allegedly to produce a movie on his father’s life. More recently, he has been under fire from Roman Catholics who fear he might make too many concessions to his evangelical base.



Opposition presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro waves to supporters during a campaign rally a day ahead of the country’s general election, in Campo Grande, Rio de Janeiro state on Oct 3. (AP)

Imran Khan supporters to march on Islamabad to demand release

ISLAMABAD, Oct 4, (AP): Hundreds of supporters of imprisoned former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan are set to begin a days-long march toward Islamabad on Sunday to demand his release after talks between the government and the opposition fell through.

Khan is current Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s main political rival and has been imprisoned since 2023 on corruption and other charges that he and his party say are politically motivated. He remains popular.

The march will leave Lakki Marwat district in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Khan’s party holds power, with overnight stops planned along the route. Sohail Afridi, the province’s chief minister and a Khan supporter, announced the plan on X. Authorities have erected roadblocks, using containers, at the entrance to Islamabad and inside the city.

Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI, and the federal government were in talks to postpone the



Supporters of Pakistan’s imprisoned former prime minister Imran Khan’s party take part in a rally in Hyderabad, Pakistan on Aug 5, 2025, demanding his release and marking second anniversary of Khan’s arrest. (AP)

march but failed to reach a resolution two days ago. Gohar Khan, the party’s chairman, said negotiations remained deadlocked after two rounds.

Sharif urged postponement, citing a surge in militant attacks in

the northwest, where the Pakistani Taliban have stepped up attacks. His government has accused PTI of sympathizing with the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan.

Four-vehicle crash kills 20 and injures 5 in central Nigeria: official

ABUJA, Oct 4, (Agencies): Twenty people were killed and five others injured in a crash involving four vehicles in Nigeria’s central Plateau State, a road safety official said Saturday.

The incident occurred along the Hawan-Kibo-Jos road, a major highway in the country’s central region, on Friday afternoon, Osondu Ohaeri, national spokesperson for the Federal Road Safety Corps, told Xinhua by telephone.

Citing a preliminary investigation, Ohaeri said the crash was caused by “brake failure and loss of control.”

A total of 25 people were involved in the incident, he said, adding that the five injured had been taken to a local hospital for treatment.

Some witnesses said a passenger bus lost control while descending a hill in the area and rammed into other vehicles, including a truck.

Fatal road accidents are common in Nigeria and are often attributed to speeding, overloading, poor road conditions and reckless driving.



A view of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Sept 9, 2025. (AP)

Also:

KAMPALA, Uganda: Ethiopian federal forces have taken the airport in **Mekelle**, the capital of the northern **Tigray** region, according to people in the city who spoke to The Associated Press on Saturday, reversing a takeover by Tigrayan fighters that

prompted the suspension of commercial flights last month.

It wasn’t immediately clear when federal forces recaptured **Alula Aba Nega** Airport. Those who provided the information declined to be identified for fear of retribution amid uncertainty over who controlled the city.

S&P GCC Composite Index decreased by 3.7% in Sept 2026

Markaz: Kuwait equities remain resilient despite ongoing trade disruptions & global rate hike wave

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Financial Center “Markaz” noted in its October 2026 Monthly Market Review that Kuwait’s equity market remained resilient, registering a milder decline than its regional peers during September. Global and regional investor sentiment weakened, weighed down by the Fed’s first rate hike in over three years, surging global bond yields and the Central Bank rate hikes, amid stalled U.S.–Iran peace efforts and continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Kuwait’s All-Share Price Index declined 1.3% in September, with the Main market Index declining 1.5% and the Premier Market Index falling 1.3%. From a sectoral perspective, Insurance and Healthcare were the only sectors to post positive returns, gaining 11.0% and 4.5%, respectively during the month. International Financial Advisors Holding was the top-performing Premier Market stock in September, surging 36.7% after change in ownership stakes, which saw Arzan Financial Group increasing its shareholding in the company. Kuwait Real Estate Company followed with a 3.7% gain, benefiting from the continued recovery in Kuwait’s real estate sector, with property sales increasing for a third consecutive month in August.

Kuwait’s non-oil private sector grew for a second straight month in August, with the S&P Global Kuwait PMI rising to 53.6 from 50.8 in July, its highest level since February, driven by robust gains in output and new orders. Domestic credit increased 0.9% m/m in August (+5.1% y/y), supported by a rebound in lending to banks and financial institutions, alongside continued growth in household (+0.7% m/m, +4.7% y/y) and business credit (+0.4% m/m, +6.6% y/y), while resident deposits rose 0.7% m/m (+8.4% y/y). The Central Bank of Kuwait maintained its discount rate at 3.50%, diverging from most GCC peers due to the flexibility provided by the dinar’s basket peg. On the fiscal front, Kuwait enacted a sovereign sukuk law allowing Islamic debt instruments to form part of its government financing framework, which is expected to broaden access to sharia-compliant funding and accelerate debt market development.

GCC equity markets declined in September, with the S&P GCC Composite Index down 3.7%, as investor sentiment was weighed down by a less supportive interest rate environment and heightened geopolitical tensions. The Federal Reserve’s first rate hike since 2023 prompted most GCC central banks, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, to raise rates by 25 bps, reinforcing the region’s sensitivity to U.S.



monetary policy and increasing borrowing costs. Saudi Arabia’s Tadawul Index fell 6.2%, weighed down by geopolitical concerns, with blue-chip stocks such as Ma’aden and SNB declining 8.2% and 8.0%, respectively. In contrast, UAE markets outperformed, supported by strong non-oil sector activity. Dubai’s index gained 2.1%, led by Emaar Properties (+7.2%) and Emirates NBD (+3.1%), with the latter also reviving efforts to acquire India’s IDBI Bank. Abu Dhabi equities rose 0.6%, supported by banking stocks including ADCB (+10.7%) and FAB (+0.2%). Meanwhile, the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) joined the SWIFT network, enhancing post-trade connectivity and improving international investor access to the UAE capital market.

Across the GCC, non-oil PMIs strengthened in Saudi Arabia (53.8 in August, from 53.1 in July, a six-month high) and the UAE (55.3 in August, from 52.7 in July, the strongest reading since December 2024), supported by improving demand, project activity and sentiment. In Saudi Arabia, revised data from GASTAT showed real GDP contracting 4.7% y/y in Q2 2026, its first annual decline in two and a half years, as a 24.8% drop in oil activity outweighed modest non-oil growth of 0.9% y/y. Saudi Arabia also returned to international debt markets during the month with a USD 3.25 billion sukuk issuance that drew over USD 16.5 billion in orders. Qatar posted its largest quarterly fiscal deficit in a decade in Q2 2026 as LNG exports declined. However, Fitch affirmed Qatar’s AA rating and removed it from Rating Watch Negative while maintaining a Negative Outlook during the month.

Global and U.S. equity markets weakened in September, with the S&P 500 declining 0.5%, the MSCI World Index falling 1.3%. Markets were pressured by stronger-than-expected August payrolls data and a firmer inflation print, before the Fed raised rates by 25 bps to 3.75%-4.00% during September and signaled a continued tightening bias through its hawkish dot plot, reinforcing expectations of another rate hike in October. Fed Chair Kevin Warsh described the move as withdrawing “a dose of accommodation.” Equities

later found support from continued AI-related optimism, particularly around new consumer AI offerings from companies such as Meta. However, rising bond yields and U.S. President Trump’s rejection of Iran’s proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz weighed on sentiment toward the month’s end. The ECB increased its deposit rate by 25 bps to 2.50%, the Bank of Japan raised rates to 1.25%, its highest level since 1995, and the Bank of England held rates at 3.75%. Emerging market equities also weakened, with the MSCI Emerging Markets Index falling 0.8%, led by a 4.8% decline in Chinese equities (MSCI China) in September 2026.

U.S. Treasury yields rose sharply in September as a hawkish Fed, higher energy-driven inflation risks, and persistent government debt issuance triggered a broad bond sell-off. The 10-year yield rose 56 bps to 5.29%, while the 30-year yield increased 42 bps to 5.64%. The 10-year yield reached its highest level since 2007, and the 30-year yield touched levels last seen more than two decades ago. The move was reinforced by the Fed’s updated projections and Chair Warsh’s view that financial conditions remain insufficiently restrictive, prompting markets to price in a more extended tightening cycle, with nearly 100 bps of cumulative policy tightening expected over the next year.

Brent crude oil prices rose 14.4% in September to USD 103.5/bbl., remaining above USD 100/bbl. for much of the month as escalating risks to supply kept prices high. Drone strikes on Saudi Arabia’s East-West pipeline and Houthi advances near Bab el-Mandeb boosted prices early in the month, while the postponement of GCC–Iran talks and President Trump’s rejection of Iran’s conditional proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz reduced prospects for near-term de-escalation. Meanwhile, Gold prices fell 6.6% during the month to USD 4,156.0/oz, reaching their lowest level since early August, as higher real yields and a stronger U.S. dollar reduced the appeal of non-yielding assets.

Global investors will focus on U.S. inflation, labour market data, and the October FOMC meeting for signals on the Fed’s tightening path, while bond market volatility signals remain a key driver of equity valuations. Global equities will also be guided by the Q3 2026 earnings season, testing whether AI-driven demand and tech strength can offset the impact of higher interest rates. In the GCC, markets will be shaped by oil prices, U.S.–Iran negotiations, and prospects for trade resumption through the Strait of Hormuz, which will continue to influence investor sentiment.



KIB’s \$300 mln sukuk wins two IFN awards.

KIB’s sustainable sukuk wins two IFN accolades

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it has won two prestigious accolades from Islamic Finance News (IFN) for its USD 300 million Tier 2 Sukuk issuance: the “IFN Kuwait Deal of the Year 2025” and the “IFN Regulatory Deal of the Year 2025,” underscoring the transaction’s significance and the Bank’s strong standing in the Islamic capital markets. The two awards were presented during the IFN Awards ceremony, recently held in Dubai. Receiving the awards on behalf of KIB were Mohammad Al-Duwailah, General Manager of Treasury Department at KIB, and Jamal Al-Barrak, CEO of KIB Invest.

The IFN awards were presented following a rigorous evaluation process conducted by an independent panel, with submitted transactions carefully assessed before one outstanding deal was selected in each category. The recognition reflects KIB’s continued commitment to excellence and innovation in Islamic finance, as well as the high standard of service that has strengthened the trust of its clients and partners across the region.

Commenting on the awards, Al-Duwailah said: “We are proud to see our landmark transaction recognized across two distinguished IFN award categories. The awards recognize the strength of the transaction, and the team behind it, further demonstrating KIB’s ability to access international capital markets through innovative Islamic financing instruments. We remain focused on maintaining a prudent and forward-looking approach to capital management that supports the Bank’s long-term growth ambitions, while advancing our commitment to delivering financial solutions aligned with environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles. This achievement encourages us to continue exploring innovative Shari’ah-compliant instruments that enhance our financial resilience and enable us to respond effectively to evolving market opportunities.”

KIB completed the USD 300

million sustainable Tier 2 Sukuk issuance in 2025 as part of its Tier 2 capital. The transaction integrated international Basel III standards with Shari’ah principles and sustainability considerations. The Sukuk generated strong demand from investors, with the order book reaching USD 2.1 billion at its peak, representing more than seven times the issuance size.

From his side, Al-Barrak said: “At KIB Invest, we are proud to have supported KIB as a Joint Lead Manager and Bookrunner on this important issuance, further strengthening our role as a trusted strategic partner to leading financial institutions across regional and global capital markets. The two IFN awards are a testament to the strength of the collaboration and the successful execution of this landmark transaction, which demonstrated strong investor confidence and achieved the highest oversubscription rate for an issuance by a financial institution in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region during 2025. This exceptional level of demand highlights the depth of investor appetite for high-quality Shari’ah-compliant issuances.”

The Sukuk received a BBB+ credit rating from Fitch and was listed on the London Stock Exchange. The transaction was managed by a consortium of leading international and regional financial institutions, with Citigroup and Standard Chartered acting as joint global coordinators, alongside ASB Capital, Arqam Capital, HSBC, Kamco Invest, KFH Capital, KIB Invest and QNB Capital as joint lead managers and bookrunners.

It serves to note that the annual IFN Awards have, for more than two decades, served as one of the prominent global platforms recognizing excellence and achievement within the Islamic finance industry. The awards celebrate leading institutions and landmark transactions that contribute to the continued development and advancement of Shari’ah-compliant financial markets worldwide.

Kuwait’s QSR market poised to reach \$5.32 bln by 2035

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Sthelff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait’s quick-service restaurant (QSR) market is entering a new phase of expansion, driven by shifting consumption patterns, the rapid digital transformation of food ordering, the proliferation of delivery services, and local brands’ ability to develop concepts and menus tailored to Kuwaiti tastes.

According to data published by ResearchAndMarkets.com earlier this month, Kuwait’s QSR market was valued at approximately USD 2.23 billion in 2025.

Forecasts indicate that the market will reach USD 5.32 billion by 2035, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.38 percent. This growth is expected to be fueled by the demand for convenient dining options, changing consumer preferences, urbanization, fast-paced lifestyles, and the continued digitization of food ordering and restaurant interactions.

These indicators are particularly significant in the Kuwaiti market, which combines high technology adoption rates, a thriving dining-out culture, strong purchasing power, and a high density of food and beverage outlets.

Consequently, the QSR sector has evolved beyond the mere concept of “fast food” to become an integral part of daily consumption habits.

Despite this robust growth, the expansion of the QSR market does not mean that operating a business has become easier.

Rapid expansion brings a range of pressures and challenges, including high rents for prime locations, particularly in high-traffic areas, shopping malls, and commercial and entertainment districts. These costs can affect operating expenses, profit margins, and the long-term viability of new brands.

The challenge becomes particularly pronounced when a restaurant’s business model relies on dine-in services alongside pickup and delivery. In such

cases, operators need locations and facilities capable of generating sufficient sales volumes to justify the associated real estate costs.

In response to these pressures, some modern business models have prompted a rethinking of the traditional location concept, leading to the emergence of cloud kitchens, central kitchens, and compact pickup outlets.

Furthermore, the restaurant sector relies heavily on expatriate labor, making workforce management, including recruitment, training, and retention - a persistent challenge.

This issue is particularly critical in the QSR segment, where operations require rapid service, consistent quality, and strict adherence to food safety and hygiene standards. Consequently, high staff turnover increases costs associated with recruitment, training, and rebuilding teams.

The Kuwaiti market is also characterized by a wide range of consumer choices, from global restaurant chains and local brands to niche concepts and cloud kitchens.

While this diversity benefits consumers, it also intensifies competition among operators and increases the cost of attracting and retaining customers, particularly given the growing reliance on digital campaigns and social media advertising.

In addition to these challenges, the commissions and costs associated with digital orders and delivery applications, which are integral to the QSR ecosystem, pose a significant hurdle for establishments.

Research and statistics indicate that commissions can range from 20 percent to 30 percent of the order value, depending on the agreement, platform, and service involved.

Consequently, managing the sales channel mix - balancing direct orders, proprietary apps, and third-party platforms - has become a critical issue for restaurants.

A guide for non-UK resident owners of UK residential property

Understanding the mechanisms for restructuring offshore ownership of UK property

By Hamad Najeeb Al-Waqyan

Ownership of UK property through offshore structures has historically been used by non-UK residents for a range of commercial, investment, succession planning, and asset-holding purposes. Over time, significant developments in the UK tax regime and related regulatory landscape have affected the way such properties are held through offshore companies, trusts, and other non-UK structures. As a result, arrangements that once offered administrative, succession, or tax advantages may no longer achieve the objectives for which they were originally established.

In light of these developments, owners of UK property held through offshore structures may wish to consider whether their existing arrangements remain appropriate for their objectives. This article examines the principal mechanisms available for restructuring such ownership.

Prior to April 2017, acquiring UK residential property through an offshore company, often held by a trust, was a common and established route for non-UK residents and international investors who were not domiciled in the UK. The shares in the offshore company were treated as foreign assets and therefore fell outside the scope of UK inheritance tax (IHT). The Finance (No. 2) Act 2017 removed that advantage: shares in an offshore company deriving their value from UK residential property are now treated as UK assets and fall within the scope of IHT.

From 6 April 2025, IHT has been based on residence rather than domicile. For owners who are not long-term UK residents, only UK-situated assets are generally within scope, and UK residential property held through a company remains one such asset. These structures therefore no longer provide protection from IHT, while continu-

ing to involve costs such as the Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings (ATED), as well as ongoing company and trust administration fees. As a result, many families have begun considering whether to de-envelope or otherwise restructure their existing arrangements.

The appropriate route depends on how the property is held. In broad terms, there are two scenarios: a trust that holds a company which owns the UK property, or a company that owns the UK property directly.

Route 1: Trust holding a company that owns UK property

Holding UK property through a trust and a company is often inefficient. A discretionary trust, and most trusts created after 22 March 2006, fall within the “relevant property” regime, which brings two principal charges:

■ **Ten-year anniversary charge:** a periodic charge of up to 6% of the value of the trust above the available nil-rate band (NRB) of up to £325,000.

■ **Exit charge:** a one-off charge of up to 6% triggered when assets leave the trust, including on its closure. It is calculated by the number of complete quarters that have passed since the last ten-year anniversary or, if there has not yet been one, since the trust was created.

Where the main purpose of the structure was simply to own a property, the trust adds cost and complexity without delivering a corresponding benefit. Closing the trust is therefore often the first step to consider in simplifying the structure. Because the exit charge grows with each quarter since the last anniversary, it is generally advisable to act while that period is still short.

While deciding to whom the shares should pass on closure, the exemptions available under UK law should be considered, such as the spousal exemption. A



Hamad Najeeb Al-Waqyan

transfer out of the trust is also a disposal by the trustees for capital gains tax purposes, so the tax cost of each option should be modelled before a decision is made.

Route 2: Company owning UK property

Where a company owns the UK property directly, the usual approach is to wind up the company, which brings ATED and the company’s running costs to an end, and to hold the property in personal names. Holding the property personally leaves it within the scope of IHT, so many families then gift it onward, for example to their children.

Such a gift is a “potentially exempt transfer” (PET). It becomes fully exempt from IHT if the donor survives for seven years following the transfer. If the donor dies within seven years, IHT may be due,

with taper relief reducing the tax if the donor survives three years after making the gift. Two cautions apply. Firstly, if the donor continues to use the property without paying full market rent, the gift may be ignored for IHT purposes (a “gift with reservation of benefit”). An exception may apply where the donor gives away only an undivided share of the property, both donor and donee occupy it, and the donor receives no more than a negligible benefit from the donee in connection with the gift (Finance Act 1986, s 102B(4)). The donor may continue to meet all the running costs, but the donee must not pay more than their own share. Secondly, the gift is also a disposal for capital gains tax and may attract SDLT if there is a mortgage. The following allowances are also relevant:

■ Every individual has a nil-rate band of £325,000, frozen until April 2031; IHT is charged at 40% on value above it.

■ Any unused nil-rate band can be transferred between spouses on the first death.

■ The £3,000 annual gift exemption also applies.

Taxes to consider when de-enveloping
Two taxes require particular attention when de-enveloping a property: Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT).

Capital Gains Tax. Non-UK residents are subject to UK tax on gains from UK property, including gains on shares in a company that derives at least 75% of its value from UK land (where the seller holds an interest of 25% or more). On de-enveloping, gains can arise at two levels: in the company on the property itself, which is charged to corporation tax at rates of 19% to 25% depending on profits, and on the shareholders on their shares or the liquidation proceeds. For individuals, gains are taxed at 18% or 24%. For non-residents, gains are generally measured from market value at a rebasing

date rather than original cost (5 April 2015 for direct disposals of UK residential property, such as the company’s disposal of the property, and 5 April 2019 for indirect disposals, such as the shareholders’ disposal of their shares), or from a later acquisition date. The overall charge depends on the structure, so it should be calculated before any step is taken.

Stamp Duty Land Tax. SDLT is payable in England and Northern Ireland on the acquisition of residential property at rates that rise to 12%, with a 5% surcharge for additional dwellings and company purchases, and a further 2% surcharge for non-UK residents. The top rate can therefore reach 19% on the part of the price for properties valued above £1.5 million. However, where a property is transferred debt-free from a company to the owners of its shares, SDLT will not generally apply. If the property is subject to a mortgage that the shareholder takes on, SDLT may be due on the debt assumed. Scotland and Wales have their own taxes (LBTT and LTT respectively), with different rates.

Conclusion

These are the two principal routes available for families seeking to unwind offshore property structures. The right approach, and its timing, will depend on the structures in place, the value and history of the property, the level of any borrowing, and the family’s circumstances, including the owners’ residence status and the tax position in their country of residence. Given the interaction between IHT, CGT and SDLT, professional advice should be obtained before any steps are implemented.

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If you wish to seek more information or assistance in such matter, please contact the author at: H.alwagayan@nenlawfirm.com

Driving excellence and continuous improvement

Al Mulla International Finance Company elevates customer experience with strategic branch relocation at Jassim Tower



KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Anchored in a steadfast commitment to continuous improvement and operational excellence, Al Mulla International Finance Company has announced the strategic relocation of its branch to a modern, upgraded facility on the basement level of Jassim Tower. This initiative reflects the company’s forward-looking corporate vision to continually evolve its operational touchpoints, ensuring it not only meets but consistently exceeds the growing expectations of its clientele.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Mr. Talal Anwar AlMulla, Chairman of AlSoor International Holding Company and Chief Executive Officer of AlMulla Group; Ms. Danah Anwar AlMulla, Chairman of Al Mulla International Finance Company; and Mr. Khaled Abdulaziz AlMuraikhi, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Al Mulla International Finance Company.

This milestone aligns with the company’s corporate philosophy of perpetual development and service innovation. By transitioning to this purpose-built space, Al Mulla International Finance Company reinforces its focus on customer-centricity, offering an accessible, comfortable, and state-of-the-art environment engineered to streamline transactions with unmatched ease and efficiency. The location was meticulously chosen to provide optimized accessibility while upholding the benchmark quality and institutional standards synonymous with the company.

Ms. Danah Anwar AlMulla, Chairman of Al Mulla International Finance Company, stated:

“The relocation to our new branch is an extension of our vision to continuously develop our services and strengthen our proximity to our customers. We believe that the quality of the experience we provide is just as important as the quality of our products and services. This move reflects Al Mulla International Finance Company’s commitment to listening to our customers’ needs and responding to them through practical and thoughtfully designed solutions that place their comfort and convenience at the core of our priorities.”

Mr. Khaled Abdulaziz AlMuraikhi, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Al Mulla International Finance Company, remarked:

“The relocation to our new branch represents an important step in our ongoing efforts to provide our customers with a more convenient and flexible experience. In selecting the new location and designing the branch environment, we focused on creating a seamless, comfortable experience that enables our customers to complete transactions efficiently, in an environment that reflects the level of service we continually strive to deliver. We will continue to develop our channels and services to meet our customers’ needs and further strengthen their trust in us.”

He added: “Alongside the development of our branch network and tra-



Al Mulla Finance unveils modern branch at Jassim Tower.

ditional channels, we are also continuing to enhance our digital channels, including the Al Mulla Finance Digital Portal and the Al Mulla Finance Application. This forms part of our approach to delivering an integrated experience that allows customers to access our services through the channels that best suit their needs, whether through our branches or digital platforms, while enhancing ease of use, efficiency, and flexibility.”

Through this strategic expansion, Al Mulla International Finance Company reaffirms its ongoing mission to advance both physical and digital service pathways in tandem with changing customer dynamics. The new branch at Jassim Tower is fully operational and welcomes clients during standard business hours, offering a comprehensive suite of financing solutions and expert advisory services.

KNPC local fuel sales rise to 8.12 bln liters in 2025/’26 FY

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait National Petroleum Company’s (KNPC) local marketing activity recorded a notable increase during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, according to official data.

The increase highlights the pivotal role of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in supporting the local market and meeting the energy needs of the nation’s essential sectors. KPC remains committed to providing sustainable resources that support development and industrial initiatives, strengthen national economic resilience, and meet rising demand.

Total actual fuel sales rose to approximately 8.12 billion liters, exceeding the projected sales target of 8.01 billion liters and marking an increase from the previous year’s sales of 7.92 billion liters.

A review of the official report on fuel products sold in the local market showed that gasoline was the country’s most consumed fuel product. Actual sales reached approximately 5.17 billion liters, compared with the planned 5.25 billion liters and 5.11 billion liters recorded the previous year.

In contrast, gas oil (diesel) recorded a significant increase, notably exceeding the planned target. Actual sales reached approximately 2.90 billion liters, compared with the planned 2.65 billion liters and 2.71 billion liters recorded the previous year.

Meanwhile, actual kerosene sales stood at approximately 51.8 million liters, against a planned 110 million liters, the same target set the previous year.

Analyzing the implications of these figures, a well-informed oil source explained that they demonstrate the efficiency of domestic marketing plans and their flexibility in meeting growing demand for key products, particularly gasoline and gas oil (diesel), which are essential to local transportation and operations.

Fluctuations in sales figures reflect

the country’s prevailing development trends and levels of economic activity.

The rise in gasoline sales during the fiscal year ending March 31 is directly linked to sustained growth in actual consumption, driven by demographic growth and rapid population expansion, particularly with the opening of new residential cities, which has resulted in longer daily driving distances.

Furthermore, the source attributed the exceptional growth in gas oil (diesel) sales, which exceeded initial projections, to the accelerated pace of major development projects. These include infrastructure and construction initiatives, such as waterfront developments and new housing projects, which rely heavily on heavy machinery and power generators.

The growth also reflects a resurgence in the logistics and road freight sectors, as well as the transportation of goods between entry points and industrial zones, all of which indicate robust domestic commercial activity.

Commenting on the decline in kerosene sales, the source attributed the drop primarily to a structural shift toward cleaner and safer alternatives.

This transition includes reduced reliance on kerosene in artisanal sectors, small-scale industries, and households, which are increasingly switching to electricity or liquefied gas. It also reflects the adoption of modern, energy-efficient technologies by factories and bakeries, significantly reducing kerosene’s traditional market share.

Summarizing the figures and their implications, the source concluded that the surge in KNPC sales in the domestic market demonstrates the effectiveness of its planning and operational capabilities. Achieved under the strategic guidance of KPC, the performance also serves as an indicator of the comprehensive economic recovery and development momentum taking place in various sectors and levels of the country.

Highlighting key challenges amidst the evolving digital transaction landscape

National Bank of Kuwait organizes cyber fraud and financial crimes awareness seminar for KOTC staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: As part of its ongoing efforts to promote banking literacy and raise awareness about cybersecurity and the risks of financial fraud, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a specialized awareness seminar for employees of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) covering the latest methods of electronic fraud and financial crimes associated with banking transactions, as well as ways to prevent them and enhance the security of digital transactions.

The seminar addressed key challenges and risks posed by the rapidly evolving digital transaction landscape, highlighting the latest financial fraud tactics and cyberattacks targeting individuals and institutions. It also provided practical guidelines and preventive recommendations to empower users to protect their data and bank accounts, while enhancing the security of their digital transactions.

Under the strategic partnership between NBK and KOTC, this initiative reflects both parties’ commitment to fostering a culture of security and financial awareness within the workplace, further enhancing employee readiness to tackle the growing challenges of the digital world and contributing to a more secure and resilient environment against cyber risks.

By leveraging its position as a key banking partner to Kuwait’s oil sector, NBK continues to launch specialized awareness initiatives and programs for its customers and strategic partners, in an effort to raise awareness about



NBK’s cyber fraud and financial crimes awareness seminar.

- The Bank is committed to keeping its strategic partners updated on the latest developments regarding financial fraud and prevention methods.
- Awareness and knowledge serve as the first line of defense against cyber fraud.
- This partnership reflects the mutual commitment of both parties to fostering a culture of security and financial awareness within the workplace.

the latest trends in financial crime and cyber fraud, while empowering individuals to recognize emerging spam tactics, counter them effectively, and mitigate their potential impact.

This initiative also falls within the Bank’s efforts to support national efforts aimed at fostering financial literacy and digital awareness. It aligns with the objectives of the “Let’s Be Aware” campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association, which

seeks to raise banking and financial awareness across various segments of society and promote safe practices when using digital banking services and channels.

Moreover, NBK firmly believes that awareness serves as the first line of defense against fraud. Consequently, the Bank is committed to organizing specialized educational programs and awareness sessions in collaboration with its strategic partners. These initiatives aim to equip employees with the knowledge and tools necessary to recog-

nize financial fraud risks and safely utilize electronic banking services, particularly given the rapid pace of technological advancements and the emergence of artificial intelligence, which have led to increasingly sophisticated and complex methods of committing financial fraud.

Additionally, this seminar reflects NBK’s commitment to fostering financial literacy and digital awareness across various segments of society through initiatives and educational programs that promote secure banking practices and reinforce concepts of protection against cyber-fraud.

NBK is keen to utilize its capabilities and specialized expertise to enhance financial and digital awareness within the community, and it is dedicated to sharing its insights regarding banking security and cyber-fraud, which further underscores its role as a trusted partner in embedding a culture of digital safety and strengthening confidence in modern banking services.

It is worth noting that NBK is a key supporter and partner of initiatives aimed at raising financial awareness and promoting banking literacy across various segments of society. As a leading financial institution in the region, it continues to organize specialized events and programs that foster awareness of banking-sector issues, while also enhancing its employees’ capabilities in combating fraud and financial crime and maintaining ongoing awareness regarding cybercrime risks through its digital channels and social media platforms.

Accessible financing with flexible terms & preferential profit rates

KFH launches Zafafi financing for newlyweds

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers Zafafi financing product, one of the best accessible financing solutions available with flexible terms and special preferential profit rates, aimed at facilitating marriage-related expenses and promoting family stability. The new product comes as part of the Bank's commitment to providing more innovative banking solutions that meet customers' aspirations and market needs while enhancing its competitiveness.

Executive Manager Personal Finance Products at KFH, Abdulaziz Alsaeed, affirmed that the launch of Zafafi product represents a qualitative addition that enriches the Bank's portfolio of products and services designed to support young people, fulfill their aspirations, encourage marriage, and help them establish families. This aligns with the noble principles of Islamic Sharia, which encourage marriage, and supports the State's efforts to build a unified family-oriented society.

Alsaeed explained that Zafafi is one of the best consumer financing products offered to newly married male and female KFH customers. It is designed to help finance their needs, including furniture, home appliances, vehicles, and other consumer-related purchases, through accessible financing with flexible terms and special preferential profit rates.

He added that under Zafafi, either the husband, the wife, or both newlyweds may apply to KFH for consumer financing to cover their needs, up to 25 times the net salary, with a maximum financing amount of KD



Alsaeed: "Zafafi" offers an integrated financing experience that caters to the needs of young people and provides practical solutions that suit their life and aspirations

25,000 over a period of up to five years.

Alsaeed further noted that KFH grants Zafafi customers a grace period of up to six months from the financing disbursement date before the first installment becomes due. This feature is intended to provide greater ease and financial relief to customers. In addition, the installment deferment service allows customers to postpone one installment per year, giving them the flexibility to choose the month they wish to skip payment each year throughout the financing tenure, according to their personal needs and circumstances.

He emphasized that the Bank also provides Zafafi customers with exclusive offers in cooperation with a select group of suppliers in the local market. These offers cover a wide range of the latest consumer products and include various promotions and discounts.

Alsaeed pointed out that newly married KFH customers wishing to benefit from the accessible financing offered through Zafafi can apply through KFH branches located across Kuwait. Financing applications can also be submitted via KFH Online.

He concluded by highlighting KFH's commitment to support financial inclusion and its leading role in offering the best advanced banking solutions and services to various customer segments, particularly young people, for whom KFH provides a comprehensive suite of products and services tailored to their varied needs.

In strategic collaboration with KU for fourth year running

Zain Kuwait powers innovation, learning, & future skills at the Kuwait National Robotics Competition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Zain Kuwait is powering the Kuwait National Robotics Competition (KNRC) as a Strategic Partner for the fourth consecutive year, continuing its close collaboration with Kuwait University's Computer Science Department at the College of Science. The 2027 journey continues the program's mission to develop national capabilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and create practical pathways that prepare Kuwait's younger generations for an increasingly digital and knowledge-driven economy.

The announcement was made during a press conference held at Kuwait University, attended by the Acting Dean of the College of Science, Dr. Haider Behbehani; the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, Bashar Abdullah Al-Salem; Zain Kuwait's Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation Specialist, Sarah Al-Hubail; the representative of the Ministry of Education, Nouriyah Al-Mutairi; as well as representatives from the competition's partners and supporters.

During the conference, the new KNRC season was unveiled, along with its expanded program of competitions, training experiences, workshops, and technology-focused activities. Building on three successful seasons, the initiative continues to bring together the education, youth, and private sectors around a shared ambition: giving Kuwait's next generation the opportunities to learn by doing, experiment with emerging technologies, solve real-world challenges, and transform ideas into working solutions.

KNRC is jointly organized by Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Education, in strategic partnership with Zain Kuwait and Al-Sayer Group. The competition is also sponsored by Warba Bank, Kuwait Technical College (ktech), Kuwait College of Science and Technology (KCST), and The Scientific Center. The collaboration reflects an integrated model that brings together the education sector, youth institutions, and the private sector to help shape Kuwait's future.

Over the previous years, the partnership has brought the world of technology closer to thousands of students across different educational stages, creating opportunities for them to explore robotics, programming, engineering, and applied innovation through hands-on learning.

By combining competitions, workshops, training tracks, and practical experiences, KNRC has helped participants strengthen their analytical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and technical capabilities, while encouraging them to experiment, create, and build greater confidence in their ability to contribute to Kuwait's future digital and knowledge economy.

For the 2027 season, Zain is expanding the ambition of its partnership beyond traditional upskilling. The company aims to help create a culture of continuous learning and reskilling, where technology becomes a common language that connects generations and reflects its broader approach to transforming KNRC from a competition into a wider platform for education, experimentation, and meaningful engagement with technology.

By bringing young people together with educators, experts, professionals, mentors, and families, Zain seeks to create spaces where emerging talent can benefit from experience, while older generations remain engaged with fast-evolving technologies, new skills, and new ways of thinking.

Zain Future Makers

For the first time, Zain will enter the KNRC journey with two dedicated teams of employees' children under the new 'Zain Future Makers' program, creating a direct pathway for the next generation of the Zain family to learn, build, compete, and represent the company at the National Championship and beyond.

The program will feature a Junior Team for children aged 6-12 and a Youth Team for ages 13-17, with five



Sara Al-Hebail delivers Zain's speech.



From the press conference.

participants in each team. The selected Future Makers will embark on a dedicated training journey with specialists and under the supervision of Zain's KNRC Champions, developing their technical, creative, collaborative, and problem-solving capabilities throughout the competition journey.

Through Zain Future Makers, the company is extending its innovation mindset beyond its operating model and into the next generation. The initiative reflects Zain's belief that its future engine is ultimately people: young innovators, creators, builders, and problem-solvers who are given the confidence and practical opportunities to experiment, learn from failure, work together, and turn ideas into reality.

Zain Innovation Award

Zain will also introduce the Zain Innovation Award as part of the 2027 championship, a dedicated recognition for university students participating in KNRC. The award will celebrate projects that demonstrate an outstanding combination of innovation, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and an ability to connect ideas, technologies, and real-world needs.

Through the award, Zain aims to encourage university students to look beyond technical execution and think more deeply about the impact, relevance, and potential applications of their ideas. It also embeds Zain's approach to innovation within the competition by encouraging participants to connect knowledge across disciplines, challenge conventional thinking, and develop solutions capable of creating meaningful value.

'Girls Powered' returns

The 'Girls Powered' initiative will once again form part of the KNRC journey, reinforcing Zain and Kuwait University's shared commitment to encouraging more girls and young women to explore robotics, programming, and STEM disciplines.

Through practical and interactive learning experiences, 'Girls Powered' is designed to strengthen participants' technical capabilities while building confidence, teamwork, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Previous editions brought girls into hands-on robotics and programming experiences under the supervision of Kuwait University faculty, creating an accessible environment for them to experiment with technology and see themselves as future participants and leaders in STEM.

The initiative also reflects the wider objective of creating more inclusive pathways into fields that continue to play an increasingly important role in the future job market, inspiring girls and young women to enter and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

From robotics to drones and applied technology

The 2027 KNRC journey will continue to expose participants to a wide range of practical technology experiences, including robotics and drone-based challenges, supported by training, workshops, and competitive stages that encourage participants to apply technical knowledge in real environments.

Rather than focusing solely on theoretical learning, KNRC places experimentation at the heart of the experience. Participants are encouraged to design, program, test, adapt, and collaborate, developing capabilities in analytical thinking, engineering prototyping, programming, teamwork, and problem-solving. This applied-learning model has been a core element of KNRC's approach across previous editions.

Through KNRC 2027, Zain continues to invest in human capital and applied learning pathways that enable national talent to contribute to Kuwait's digital transformation, knowledge economy, and the ambitions of the Kuwait Vision.

America in focus: US economy faces inflation, job pressures

THE economy, inflation and how those forces could impact the lives of Americans were front and center over the past week. Trips to the grocery store and gas station are more painful than they were last year, and rising costs are impacting the decisions of both households and businesses.

Here's a snapshot of prominent economic data and news that occurred over the past week and what it potentially means for you.

Americans' confidence in the economy sank to the lowest level in more than a decade this month as prices remain elevated and wages stagnate amid the ongoing Iran war.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index tumbled 6.7 points to 81.9 in September, down from 88.6 in August. That's the lowest reading in the board's survey since April 2014 and below the lowest level reached during the pandemic.

Respondents' views of their present situation fell by 7.9 points to 109.3. Their short-term outlook also slid, falling 5.9 points to 63.6.

Americans remain flustered by the economy after five years of elevated inflation, potentially posing a risk to President Donald Trump and Republicans in the midterm elections, which are a little more than a month away.

Write-in responses to the board's survey, collected from September 1-23, were mostly pessimistic this month, with frequent references to the high cost of gas, goods and services.

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate jumped this week to its highest level in nearly three years.

The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose to 7.28% from 7.03% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday, the biggest leap in several years. A year ago, the average rate was 6.34%.

It is the sixth consecutive week that mortgage rates have increased.

The average rate is now the highest it's been since Nov. 22, 2023, when it reached 7.29%.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, often sought by borrowers refinancing a home loan, also climbed this week. That average rate increased to 6.60% from 6.42% last week. A year ago, it was at 5.55%.

U.S. employers added a disappointing 29,000 jobs and the unemployment rate ticked up last month, the government reported Friday, a month before voters go to the polls in pivotal midterm elections at a time of discontent over the high cost of living and the state of the economy.

Hiring dropped from a revised 133,000 in August, the Labor Department said. The unemployment rate rose to a still-low 4.2% from 4.1% in August.

Economists had expected September payrolls to come in around 90,000.

Labor Department revisions also shaved 60,000 jobs off combined July and August payrolls. Average hourly wages were up just 3% last year from a year earlier, the smallest year-over-year gain since May 2021.

U.S. employers posted fewer job openings in August, but the American labor market remains resilient in the face of higher energy costs caused by the fighting with Iran.

U.S. job openings slid to 7.08 million from a revised 7.34 million in July, the Labor Department reported Tuesday. Openings came in below the 7.2 million that forecasters had expected and were the lowest since they hit 6.9 million in March.

The department's Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) also showed that layoffs fell and the number of people quitting their jobs - a sign of confidence in their prospects - was little changed in August. The JOLTS report's measure of gross hiring - before subtracting people who quit or lost their jobs - ticked up modestly in August.

Employers may not be laying workers off, but they aren't hiring nearly as many as they did a few years ago. Hiring remains well below the 166,000 monthly jobs created, on average, in 2023 and 2024, and the 491,000 a month recorded during the 2021-2022 hiring boom that followed COVID-19 lockdowns.

Inflation slowed in August as Americans ramped up their spending, though prices are still elevated and a challenge for many voters that will head to the polls for midterm elections in just over a month.

Consumer prices rose 3.4% in August compared with a year earlier, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, below the 3.7% economist expectations. On a monthly basis, prices climbed 0.3%, up from 0.1% in July, a sign prices that are still running hot.

Excluding the volatile energy and food categories, inflation also came in lower than expected, rising 3% in August from a year ago. And from July to August, core prices rose just 0.2%, up from 0.1% the previous month. Many economists feared core prices would rise more quickly month-to-month.

The U.S. economy grew at a solid 2.2% pace from April through June as consumer spending and business investment came in strong.

Growth in gross domestic product - the nation's output of a goods and services - decelerated from a 2.5% pace from January through March, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The second-quarter growth was an improvement on the department's previous estimate of 1.5% - a surprise to economists who had expected little or no change in the GDP number.

Consumer spending - which accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity - increased at a healthy 3.8% annual pace, up from 0.7% in the January-March period. Spending has been helped by a strong stock market, which reflects enthusiasm over the prospects for artificial intelligence and which enriches wealthy investors and gives them more money to buy things with.

There was some relief in the rattled U.S. bond market to end the week after the latest jobs report cooled worries that a hot U.S. economy might force the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates at their next meeting. The resulting drop in bond yields helped U.S. stocks climb back toward their all-time high.

The S&P 500 rose and pulled within 0.8% of its record set in August. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up, and the Nasdaq composite was higher. (AP)



Hiring sign is displayed at a bakery in Arlington Heights, Ill., Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Program focuses on developing leadership capabilities, investing in talent, & enhancing future readiness

Warba Bank concludes second cohort of 'Ignite Leadership' program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Warba Bank concluded the second cohort of its "Ignite Leadership" program, aimed at developing leadership capabilities among employees across the bank. The initiative forms part of Warba Bank's commitment to developing its human capital and fostering a workplace that supports continuous learning and professional growth.

The program supports the bank's efforts to develop future leaders through specialized programs combining executive training, and leadership development, preparing employees for future responsibilities and supporting the bank's continued growth.

A Comprehensive Leadership Development Program

The "Ignite Leadership" program ran for one month and included develop-

ment activities and interactive sessions, concluding with two intensive training days focused on strengthening leadership skills and preparing participants for future leadership responsibilities.

The second cohort included 20 employees from different departments across Warba Bank, reflecting the

bank's focus on providing development opportunities and promoting a culture of continuous learning.

Al-Rasheed: Investing in Talent Is an Investment in the Bank's Future

Maali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank, stated: "The Ignite Leadership program

reflects Warba Bank's belief that investing in talent and human capital is an investment in the bank's future. Through these programs, we focus on empowering our employees and developing their leadership capabilities, strengthening their readiness to continue their professional growth and take on greater responsibilities in the

future."

Al-Rasheed added that leadership development is a key part of the bank's human resources strategy, noting that continuous learning and training opportunities help create a workplace that encourages professional development and enables employees to deliver greater value across different areas of

the bank.

Strengthening Future Leadership Readiness

The program gives employees opportunities to develop their skills and gain the knowledge and experience needed to perform leadership roles more effectively. It also supports Warba Bank's broader approach to employee development and continuous learning, helping build a workforce capable of adapting to change and contributing to stronger institutional performance.

Program Conclusion and Participant Recognition

The second cohort concluded with certificates of completion presented to all 20 participants in recognition of their commitment and participation throughout the program.

Through initiatives such as "Ignite Leadership," Warba Bank continues to invest in its employees and provide opportunities for professional growth, reflecting its belief that developing talent and future leaders is an important foundation for sustainable institutional performance and future readiness.



Warba's Ignite Leadership program

PARIS FASHION



Saint Laurent



Stella McCartney



Chloe



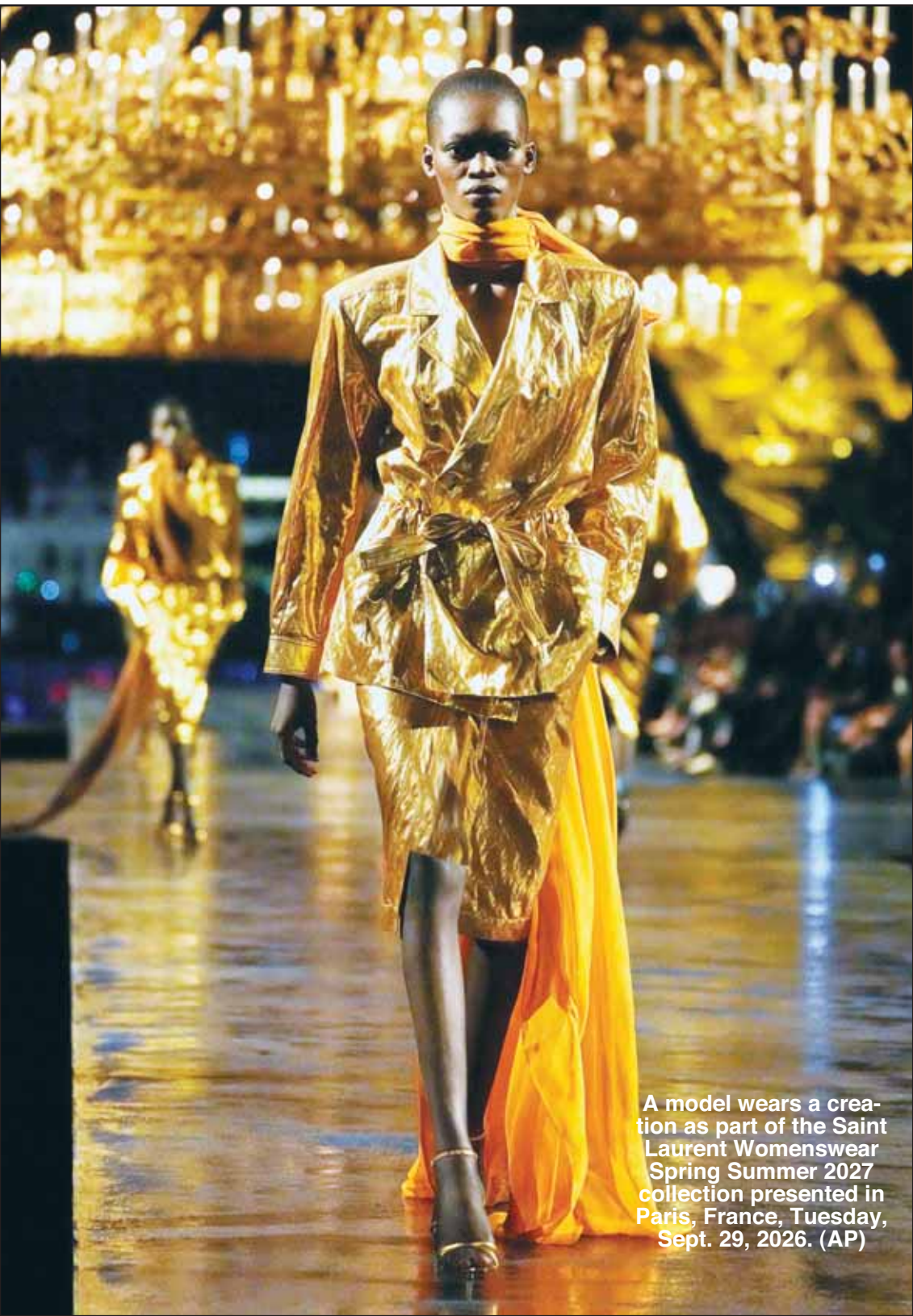
Chloe



Chloe



Chloe



A model wears a creation as part of the Saint Laurent Womenswear Spring Summer 2027 collection presented in Paris, France, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2026. (AP)

Can glamour still sell? When fashion gets existential

PARIS, Oct 4, (AP): Saint Laurent sent out a river of gold, as giant chandeliers bathed a glossy black outdoor runway in golden light and the Eiffel Tower shimmered in the background.

The extravagant show was attended by Catherine De-neuve, Kate Moss, Hailey Bieber and Rami Malek, while elsewhere at Paris Fashion Week Jennifer Lopez took her seat at Stella McCartney's rain-soaked gardens. Rihanna turned out for the upstarts at the conceptual fashion house Matières Fécales, which translates as "fecal matter."

Whatever its financial troubles - and there are many - Paris retained its ability to assemble stellar front rows and impressive staging this season.

Midway through spring-summer 2027, shows crystal-lized into three stories: glamour on a grand scale; a great undressing; and an industry working couture technique into T-shirts and jeans while asking itself, nervously, who all of this is for.

Last month, cosmetics giant L'Oréal overtook LVMH as France's most valuable listed company. It's the first time since 2017 that a non-luxury company has topped the Paris bourse.

Saint Laurent's parent Kering has returned to growth after a bruising downturn, but Balenciaga remains under pressure and Gucci is still struggling to reverse years of falling sales behind the runway gloss.

At Saint Laurent on Tuesday night, gold was almost the whole story.

Its retrospective mood invited speculation about a farewell, but the show contained no announcement of a departure.

Two days later, Chloé approached excess through texture.

Chemena Kamali piled broderie anglaise with lace, pearls and tassels, and sent out rainwear and long-brimmed fishermen's hats in vivid colours. Ruffled sleeves showed an emphatic argument for volume.

The bright outerwear interrupted the sweetness.

The question was how much decoration Chloé's promise of easy dressing could comfortably carry.

McCartney's show, meanwhile, rewarded its damp audience with easy tailoring, coral-like knitted forms and airbrushed dolphins on denim.

Sculptural hems and peplums gave the clothes an underwater buoyancy, while naturalist David Attenborough's voice supplied the ocean-conservation message.

The peplum, in fact, was one of the week's quiet constants, turning up sculpted here and stitched into shirting at Balenciaga.

The strongest pieces connected that theme to McCartney's familiar sporting ease: loose tailoring, drawstring details and clothes with room to move.



Chloe



Chloe



Stella McCartney



Saint Laurent

Flanagan brings Stephen King’s ‘Carrie’ to TV

Spielberg, Oasis, Pitbull & ‘Gears of War’ lead this week’s buzz

- Steven Spielberg’s
LOS ANGELES, Oct 4, (AP): “Disclosure Day” and a new album from Pitbull are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.
Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: “Oasis: Don’t Look Back in Anger,” Troye Sivan’s fourth album and the highly anticipated game “Gears of War: E-Day.”
- Even if you don’t think you care much about Oasis or the long feud between Noel and Liam Gallagher that led to the band’s very abrupt breakup in 2009, you might be surprised to find yourself drawn in by the documentary “Oasis: Don’t Look Back in Anger,” coming to Hulu and Disney+ on Friday, Oct. 9. At the Venice Film Festival more than a few non-fans, including me, found themselves fighting back tears during the film, which chronicles their 2025 reunion tour. It’s not hard-hitting or even terribly revelatory, but its portrait of forgiveness, of fandom and of the music, all adds up to something quite moving.
“Disclosure Day” is finally beaming onto Peacock. Josh O’Connor and Emily Blunt star in the sci-fi thriller, which builds on Spielberg’s longstanding fascination with extraterrestrials. In my review for The

Associated Press, I wrote that it’s “a classic, big-hearted Spielberg adventure through and through, with ordinary people rebelling against shadowy secret keepers in the name of the truth ... blowing the whistle, in classic paranoid conspiracy thriller style.”
- Ben Affleck directed, co-wrote and stars in the kidnapping thriller “Animals,” about a Los Angeles mayoral candidate (Affleck) and his wife (Kerry Washington) who are scrambling to figure out a ransom payment for their son’s kidnappers. Debuting on Netflix, Gillian Anderson co-stars.
- John Cena plays an undercover CIA agent who brings his childhood friends, including Jessica Biel, Sam Richardson, Arturo Castro and Teyonah Parris, on a globe-trotting action adventure in “Matchbox: The Movie,” streaming on Apple TV. Yes, that’s Matchbox as in the Mattel toys.
- AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr
- It’s always summertime in the heart of a new Pitbull record. Mr. Worldwide will release “Pitcoin” on Friday - 24 songs of good time bangers and an impressive list of collaborators. (A small sampling includes: Lil Jon, Jason Derulo, Enrique Iglesias, Wiz Khalifa and Bon Jovi. You read that last one correctly - and yes, the song features a strong sampling of “It’s My Life.”) Grab a drink - or a bald cap



This combination of images shows promotional art for the films “Disclosure Day,” from left, “Matchbox The Music,” and “Don’t Look Back in Anger.” (AP)

- and hit play on “Damn I Love Miami.”
- In the decade-plus since Troye Sivan emerged a multilayered, experimental pop talent on his debut, “Blue Neighbourhood,” the Australian singer has only grown more inventive. His forthcoming fourth studio album, “She’s the Best,” further establishes him as the thinking person’s club musician of choice - avant-garde in some moments, stunningly conventional in others (see: the sample of Madonna’s “Music” on the single “Party.”) Set the lights to low.
- AP Music Writer Maria Sherman
- Mike Flanagan, the horror storyteller behind Netflix’s “The Haunting of Hill House,” has adapted Stephen King’s 1974 debut novel “Carrie” for television. Summer H. Howell stars as Carrie White, a high school outcast with telekinetic powers. Samantha Sloan, a frequent Flanagan collaborator, whose cred-

its include “Hill House,” “Midnight Mass” and “The Fall of the House of Usher,” plays her mother, Margaret White. Flanagan wrote and executive produced the eight-episode series and directed four episodes. The full run streams Wednesday on Prime Video.
- Josh Hartnett has a busy October. The actor is one of the stars of the thriller “Verity” in theaters now, and leads Netflix’s “Below.” He plays a Newfoundland fisherman whose family and neighbors come

under threat from a sea creature lurking offshore. Mackenzie Davis and Charlie Heaton co-star in the six-episode limited series. It premieres Thursday.
- AP Writer Alicia Rancilio
- When Microsoft’s “Gears of War” debuted in 2006, humanity’s fight against the vicious Locust Horde was well underway. “Gears of War: E-Day” takes us back at long last to the Locusts’ emergence - that’s what the “E” stands for - on the planet Sera. Franchise heroes Marcus Fenix and Dominic Santiago are there for the eruption, and you can team up with a friend to take on the prequel storyline. You can also join forces in co-op survival mode or enjoy competitive combat against other online teams. The campaign begins Tuesday, Oct. 6, on Xbox X/S and PC.
- Annapurna Interactive has become a prominent advocate of small-scale, narrative-heavy games by switching focus with every release. May’s “Mixtape” was about three teenagers; “Forever Ago” stars a 70-something man named Alfred. To deal with a broken heart, he sets out on a road trip with his dog and his camera. Indie studio Third Shift promises a tale that balances grief and regret with hope and new friendships. Hit the road Thursday, Oct. 8, on Switch 2, PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S and PC.
- Lou Kesten

Education



People study in the Rose Main Reading Room of the New York Public Library on Oct. 5, 2016. (AP)

Expert exam tips to study smarter without cramming

If you’re dreading a midterm - or just studying hard to keep up in any class - chances are your study habits involve taking notes as you’re reading and then going back over them. Maybe you pull out (or click on) a highlighter.
It turns out those old-fashioned study habits might work if you’re cramming for a test, but they aren’t very effective for long-term learning. There are better, more efficient ways to retain knowledge.
One involves taking more time to process the information before taking notes.
“We tend to think that what feels the easiest will be retained the easiest, and it’s actually the opposite,” said Pooja K. Agarwal, a cognitive psychologist and author of “Smart Teaching Stronger Learning: Practical Tips From 10 Cognitive Scientists.”
Social media is full of supposed study hacks that don’t have much impact. Chewing gum or smelling essential oils to stimulate the brain while studying doesn’t work, and neither does listening to music, Agarwal said.
“It might improve your mood,” she said. “It will keep you awake, but research shows it doesn’t actually improve your learning.”
Highlighting or underlining and repeatedly reviewing notes feels engaging because those approaches keep you focused for a short period. But studies show they don’t make a significant difference long-term either, said Robert Bjork, professor emeritus of cognitive psychology at UCLA, where he founded the Bjork Learning and Forgetting Lab with his wife, Elizabeth Bjork.
In fact, that kind of “mass practice can be very wasteful of time,” Robert Bjork said. “We’ve had students tell us how much less time they’ve had to study if they do it effectively.”
Rather than doing what comes easy, students learn better if they create “desirable difficulties,” Bjork said. In other words, small mental challenges strengthen neuronal connections, which makes it easier to retrieve the information later.
One of the best ways is “retrieval practice,” which can take various forms but often only takes a minute or two, Agarwal said.
Instead of taking notes while reading, she suggested reading a few pages, then stopping and writing down what you remember before continuing to read.
“Engaging in that mental struggle, that desirable difficulty, helps with long-term learning,” Agarwal said. “It’s one of the most powerful learn-

ing and teaching strategies based on plenty of research, both in the laboratory and in the classroom.”
Henry L. “Roddy” Roediger is a cognitive psychology professor at Washington University in St. Louis and co-author of the influential “Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning.” He said “retrieval practice” has been shown to help whether you’re retrieving the information by writing it down, talking it out with a study partner or just thinking about it - with a caveat about that last option.
“You can’t just glance at it and think, ‘Oh, I know that,’” he said. “You really have to spell it out in your mind.”
Before reviewing the information during another study session, take one minute to think about what you have learned so far. If you have time, write down everything you can remember, which Agarwal called a “brain dump.”
Then, analyze how well you learned the material, which is a form of metacognition, or thinking about your own thinking, Agarwal said.
Ask yourself, “What was most challenging about this when I was learning it the first time? On a scale of zero to 100, how well do I think I learned that?”
“It’s a way to sort of level up retrieval practice for an added boost,” Agarwal said. “The more you build connections, the richer your learning.”
Immediately rereading passages or notes only creates an illusion of learning, although it may help you pass a test.
“Research shows that cramming works,” Agarwal said. “The benefit of spacing it out when studying is, it improves your long-term learning.”
For example, a student who crams for three hours right before an exam on Friday might pass, but chances are they will forget everything quickly after that. If the same student studied one hour each on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, they’ll do well on the test and remember it better later, Agarwal said.
“There’s so much discomfort and frustration around forgetting, but it’s important to keep in mind that forgetting is normal,” Agarwal said.
And don’t go pulling all-nighters. One aspect of better learning that isn’t a study strategy at all is a good night’s sleep, which helps consolidate memories you’ve created during the day, Roediger said.
“Students, both in high school and college, probably med school, too, just don’t get enough sleep because they think it’s better to stay awake studying,” he said. “It’s not.” (AP)

Exploration

Caves never disappoint: Bottazzi

Explorers unlock secrets of Asia’s longest cave

GUIYANG, Oct. 4, (Xinhua): For French caver Jean Bottazzi, caves never disappoint. In the vast underground maze of Shuanghe Cave in southwest China’s Guizhou Province, even an unfinished mission can lead to an unexpected discovery, opening up whole new horizons.
Bottazzi has spent more than two decades exploring Shuanghe, witnessing its 25-year journey of international exploration. Situated in Suiyang County, it is the world’s third-longest cave system and Asia’s longest.
Since the first China-France joint exploration in 2001, the mapped cave system has expanded from several dozen kilometers of known passages to more than 480 kilometers.
The latest findings from the 25th international cave scientific expedition were announced last month in Suiyang. Another 41.8 kilometers were added to the mapped passages.
With the newly added length, the cave system now stretches 481.5 kilometers and reaches a vertical depth of 912 meters. It has 124 interconnected entrances.
For Bottazzi, as well as the scientists and explorers who have worked alongside him, the significance of Shuanghe Cave cannot be measured by its length alone.
It is also a vast natural archive that preserves clues to the evolution of species, the changing climate and the geological history of southwest China.
Researchers found nine additional individual giant panda fossils, mostly in newly explored passages, during the 25th international expedition this year, bringing the total number of individual giant panda fossils discovered in Shuanghe Cave to 61.
They also found two sites bearing clear giant panda claw marks. Wang Deyuan, an associate research fellow at the Guizhou Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Mountain Resources, said the marks and the structure of the cave passages offer clues to how some of the animals may have died.
The pandas apparently entered the cave and moved more than 10 meters inward before falling into a vertical shaft. They survived the initial fall and left claw marks as they tried to move on, but eventually fell into a deeper shaft and became trapped, Wang said.
The latest expedition also uncovered fossils of ancient animals. Among them, fossils of a giant tapir and a clouded leopard were found in Shuanghe Cave for the first time.
For Bottazzi, however, the fascination of cave exploration lies not only in what researchers find, but also in what they do not expect to find.
A recent expedition experience reminded Bottazzi once again why he fell in love with caves in the first place. The team had set out to connect several caves at the northern end of the Shuanghe Cave system, but the goal remained elusive.



A scientist works at the Shuanghe cave network in Suiyang, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, Oct. 16, 2024. (Xinhua)



French caver Jean Bottazzi attends a press conference on the latest research results on Shuanghe Cave in Suiyang County, southwest China’s Guizhou Province, Sept. 26, 2023. (Xinhua)
However, the story didn’t end there. As they groped their way forward, something entirely unexpected appeared before them -- an entire magnificent wall of gypsum crystals.
“Curiosity instantly rekindled a new thrill of exploration and unexpectedly opened up a new direction,” Bottazzi recalled. “If we had focused only on our planned goal, we would never have met this surprise. Half disappointment, half satis-

faction -- that is the true charm of cave exploration,” he said.
The Shuanghe Cave also serves as an archive with hidden clues to ancient climate. Researchers have been conducting uranium-series dating of calcite deposits inside the cave, according to Bottazzi.
“As long as we can find calcite samples of different ages and combine them with isotope analysis, we can obtain a record of climate evolution from the present day all the way back a million years,” Bottazzi said. “It is an extremely precious archive of paleoclimate.”
The line of research made a breakthrough this year. Using the new uranium-lead isotope dating technique, the research team determined that some secondary carbonate deposits inside the cave are more than five million years old.
The finding significantly extends the chronological framework for the development of Shuanghe Cave and other large caves in the karst regions of southwest China.
The vast underground maze of Shuanghe Cave has not only yielded a string of discoveries that have captivated the scientific world, but also become a vivid example of international cooperation in cave research.

Wagging tails fill Malate Church in Manila for blessing

MANILA, Oct 4, (AP): It’s a day for wagging tails, happy faces and a special annual blessing at the Malate Church in Manila.
Every Oct. 4, Catholics mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology, remembered for his humility, compassion and deep love for all living things. Many parishes choose the first Sunday of October to hold community animal blessings or St. Francis service events for convenience.
At Malate Church, parishioners marked the feast Sunday by bringing their beloved pets for a special blessing - mostly dogs but also cats and even a pet snail.
“We are blessing the animals and plants and this is so much in relation to the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi ... so the Malate parish has been advocating this one,” said Father Leonito Distor, parish priest of Malate Church.
Parishioners formed a line as



In this photo taken with a smartphone, pet owners stand in a queue to receive holy water sprinkled by a priest on pet dogs and cats during an animal blessing rites at the Malate Church in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, October. 4, 2026. (AP)

they walked up the aisle with their pets, waiting patiently for a priest to sprinkle their companions with holy water.
For pet owners, it was a simple expression of gratitude for the unconditional love, joy and companionship these animal friends



In this photo taken with a smartphone, pets attend a service to mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology, at the Malate Church in Manila, Philippines, Sunday, October. 4, 2026. (AP)

Gaudine Supnet, who owns four Shih Tzu dogs. “I want them to feel, in some way, that we are grateful for their presence in our lives; that’s why we have them blessed.”
The church also organized free pet vaccinations for dogs and cats in the church parking lot.

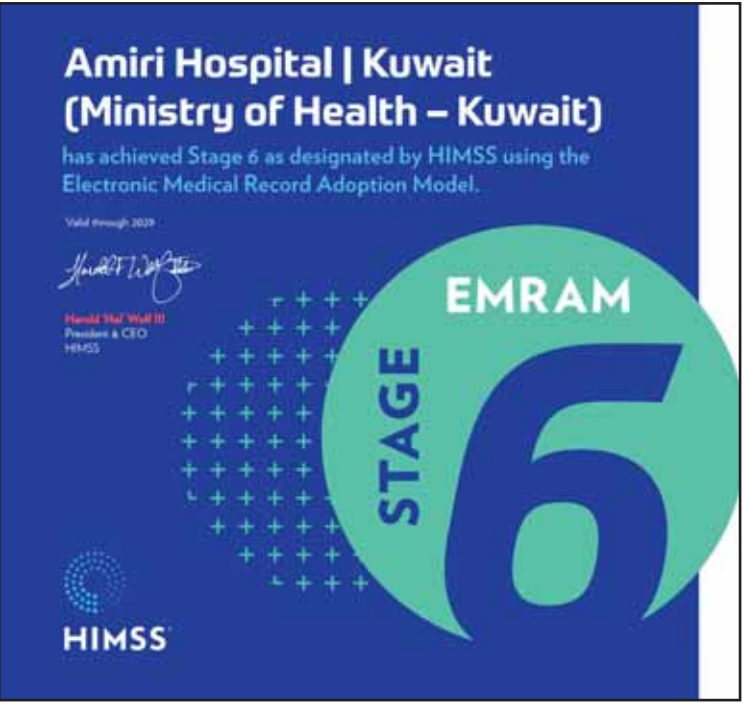
More than a thousand quality and performance indicators developed, monitored

Al-Amiri Hospital achieves Level 6 in digital health transformation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Al-Amiri Hospital achieved Level 6 of the HIMSS EMRAM electronic medical record accreditation model of the American Society for Health Information Systems, an achievement that reflects an institutional digital transformation journey that has spanned 8 years since the project was launched in 2018 and included the development of infrastructure and clinical systems and the expansion of digital services and telemedicine.

The hospital's digital transformation journey progressed through several phases, beginning with the development of infrastructure and data centres, linking the health information system with specialised systems, and culminating in the expansion of digital services and telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the hospital achieved Level 5, and the assessment at that time showed that it met approximately 77 per cent of the requirements for Level 6.

The development later extended to the clinical environment, including enhancing integration with critical care, pharmacy, laboratory, and medical imaging systems; developing clinical decision support tools; redesigning procedures; and enhancing governance, training, and clinical adoption of digital systems. On this occasion, the Director of Amiri Hospital, Dr. Areej Al-Kandari, said that achieving Level 6 represents an advanced milestone in the institutional work journey in which the medical,



nursing, technical and administrative teams participated, stressing the continuation of work towards Level 7, and expanding the impact of the acquired experiences in a way that supports the digital health transformation projects in Kuwait.

For his part, the head of the hospital's Digital Transformation Committee, Dr. Abdulrahman Abdullah Al-Fares, explained that since June 2022, the committee has held about 42 documented meetings to follow up on decisions and initiatives,

and has dealt with 1,189 requests for development and improvement, of which 854 requests have been completed, within a work cycle that includes studying requirements, clinical verification, testing, accreditation, implementation, and measuring the impact of change.

The hospital's digital environment includes 12 major clinical systems and 13 infrastructure and technology platforms, with digital transactions across its systems exceeding one million and its database contain-

ing more than 450,000 patient files. More than a thousand quality and performance indicators were developed and monitored, in addition to the "Digital Amiri Gateway" which provides a range of digital health services, and whose users have exceeded 251,000 patients.

The project involved extensive human and technical participation, with over 100 people from various disciplines collaborating with more than 15 companies and service providers. The digital environment serves

approximately 4,000 employees and over 50,000 users of the digital systems and services. The HIMSS EMRAM model is an international model for measuring the level of digital maturity in health institutions. It progresses through 7 levels, and the sixth level represents an advanced stage in the hospital's path towards the seventh level, which enhances its ambition to exchange experiences, support research and medical

cooperation, and contribute to building digital capabilities that serve the health system in Kuwait.

This achievement is the result of joint work between the hospital administration, the Digital Transformation Committee, and the medical, nursing, technical and administrative teams, in partnership with Virtus Informatics and providers of technical solutions and services, and with the support of the Ministry of Health.

Kuwaiti dentist earns top US honor for clinical excellence

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4, (KUNA): Sara Khraibut has become the first Kuwaiti and GCC dentist to win the Dr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence in periodontal plastic surgery and implant dentistry, presented by the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation.

The award, announced Saturday by the US academy, is considered one of the most prestigious awards in the field, and it is annually given to only one dentist enrolled in an accredited periodontology program in the United States.

Khraibut's achievement came after she was nominated by her academic program and selected as one of three finalists from across the United States. She was ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award. This achievement reflects her academic excellence and distinction.

This accomplishment embodies Khraibut's professional and academic excellence, and her contributions to scientific research and serving patients.

The award also highlights the presence and excellence of Kuwaiti professionals on the worlds most prestigious medical and scientific stages.



KUNA photo
Sara Khraibut

Commenting on this achievement, Khraibut who works at the Ministry of Health said that this progress will inspire her for further efforts to serve patients and society.

She expressed her gratitude to everyone who supported her to reach this position.

First catheter-based tricuspid valve implantation performed in Kuwait

By Mohammed Ghanim
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Dr. Abdullah Rabie Al-Enezi, Head of the Cardiology Department at Chest Diseases Hospital, announced that a medical team had successfully performed Kuwait's first catheter-based tricuspid valve implantation.

This significant medical achievement reflects the continued advancement of cardiac care services and advanced interventional cardiology procedures in the country.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Enezi explained that the milestone was the result of two years of sustained effort, preparation, and development. The process included attending specialized scientific conferences, participating in workshops and training programs, and keeping abreast of the latest global technologies and practices in the field.

He emphasized that the successful



Medical team during the operation.

procedure was the result of teamwork and the collaborative efforts of the

medical staff.

Dr. Al-Enezi noted that the achieve-

ment represents a crucial step toward enhancing the quality of healthcare for cardiac patients in Kuwait and expanding the range of advanced treatment options available to them.

He highlighted that introducing this technique will help keep pace with global advancements in cardiology and interventional catheterization, supporting the delivery of sophisticated, specialized care in line with the latest medical practices.

Dr. Al-Enezi also underscored the importance of continuous training and professional development for medical staff in achieving such milestones.

It is worth highlighting that the procedure was performed by a medical team comprising Dr. Abdullah Rabie Al-Enezi, Dr. Khaled Al-Marri, Dr. Mohammed Al-Ruwaih, Dr. Hamdan Al-Ajmi, Dr. Maryam Al-Enezi, and Dr. Jarrah Al-Fadhli, alongside the anesthesia team and with the participation of Dr. Sameh Abu Alam.

Global health research makes US richer, healthier

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

By Joshua R. Ehrlich
University of Michigan

Recently, a middle-aged woman came to see me in my ophthalmology clinic because her eyes felt gritty and uncomfortable. She had seen another doctor a month earlier who diagnosed her with eyelid inflammation and wrote her a prescription.

As I examined her eyes, she mentioned in passing the prescription medication she'd been using - ivermectin. This was the first I'd heard of this drug being used for itchy, uncomfortable eyes. I knew researchers had studied and rejected ivermectin as a cure for COVID-19, and that the medication is to treat onchocerciasis, a condition more commonly known as river blindness that is mostly seen in rural sub-Saharan Africa.

River blindness is caused by a parasitic worm that's transmitted when people are bitten repeatedly by infected blackflies. A long neglected tropical disease, it's mostly known for causing severe skin disfigurement and permanent blindness. So why was this patient with itchy eyes in the U.S. using the same drug used to kill a blinding parasitic worm?

This is just one instance where decades of investment and collaboration to fight a disease that affects the global poor had yielded an unexpected benefit - a treatment for eyelid inflammation, dry eyes and rosacea.

This medicine is just one data point in a pattern worth billions of dollars.

As a population health researcher, I see firsthand the benefits of investment in global health research. Global health research has a long history of producing treatments, knowledge and economic benefits that advantage wealthy countries in unexpected ways.

Global health research - whether it's vaccine and drug development, large-scale population data collection or comparative policy

studies - demands considerable investment. The results consistently show this investment is one that makes good economic sense.

A 2012 report from the U.S. National Institutes of Health estimated that every US\$1 the agency invests in global health research will have a return on investment of \$2.21 and that each research grant creates seven American jobs.

This report has proved to be true. Between 2008 and 2024, U.S. governmental institutions like the NIH spent around \$46 billion in three key global health areas - neglected diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and sexual and reproductive health - an investment that catalyzed \$104 billion in economic activity and created 600,000 jobs in the U.S.

The benefits of global health research go far beyond economic gains. This work also improves health and medicine in the U.S. and worldwide. As I saw in my own clinic, research into a disease half a world away led to treatment for a patient in the U.S. - and this is not unusual.

The nonprofit research organization Impact Global Health tracks what it calls innovation spillover. It details a host of global health research innovations that have led to health and economic benefits in the U.S. and other high-income countries. From COVID-19 tests to vaccines for HPV and rotavirus, to breast cancer risk reduction and pediatric cancer treatments, the direct benefits are impressive.

One example is a research partnership from the 1980s between GlaxoSmithKline and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research that yielded a lifesaving malaria vaccine. That vaccine now prevents up to 1 in 8 childhood deaths in malaria-affected areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

On top of that, the technology behind that malaria vaccine is also the basis for the shingles and RSV vaccines used in the U.S. and globally. The shingles vaccine alone is expected to prevent over 9 million cases of shingles in the U.S. and save the healthcare system \$55 billion by 2050. (AP)

Doctors warn about the risks energy drinks pose to kids. What families need to know

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): Sean and Heidi Cripe will never forget the call from their son's high school saying Davis was being taken to the emergency room.

"He chugged an energy drink - like, just trying to be cool," said Sean Cripe, recounting the day nearly a decade ago.

The teen's heart soon fell out of rhythm and he died. While such deaths are rare, doctors across the country have warned for years that energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine that can seriously harm children, causing problems such as abnormal heartbeats, increased heart rate, sleep disturbances, dehydration, agitation, high blood pressure and seizures.

A newly formed coalition of doctors is highlighting these risks in the wake of a sponsorship deal between Monster Energy and the Big 12 Conference college athletic organization. The group has asked conference leaders to pause the sponsorship and the NCAA to review energy drink marketing to youths in general, citing the deaths of three children including Davis, a 16-year-old from South Carolina.

The doctors stress that they're not just concerned about Monster but all energy drinks and any similar partnerships.

"Kids are going to see energy drinks now promoted by the universities and the athletes that they admire and want to emulate," said Dr. Matthew Nelson, an Idaho cardiologist involved with the effort. "The kids will think of them as sports drinks, which they're not."

Various medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, say children and teens should avoid energy drinks altogether. Yet many are not. According to the latest results of the federally funded Monitoring the Future survey, run by the University of Michigan, 23% of 12th graders, 20% of 10th graders and 18% of eighth graders reported consuming energy drinks daily.

Depending on the product, caffeine content can range from 80 to 300 mg per serving. By comparison, a typical 8-ounce coffee contains about 80 to 100 mg and some sodas contain 50 mg or less. Overall, the

pediatrics academy recommends children ages 12 to 18 limit caffeine to 100 mg a day. Younger kids are discouraged from consuming any caffeine.

Caffeine and other stimulants increase heart rate and the reactivity of the nervous system - basically "how fast things go in the body, which can create an overload of the system," said Dr. Tamara Hannon, an Indiana pediatrician who chairs the academy's nutrition committee.

She likened it to running a blender until the motor heats up too much. "The same thing can happen when you deliver stimulants to people," she said. "The heart can wear out, the nervous system can go haywire and you can have really serious consequences."

While such cardiovascular dangers are real, Harvard Medical School experts say there's no scientifically valid evidence behind the common belief that caffeine can stunt a person's growth.

Children with preexisting conditions such as high blood pressure are at especially high risk, Hannon said, but even healthy children who get too much of a stimulant can have serious problems. That includes young athletes.

Another consideration: Kids often drink various types of caffeinated beverages. That was the case with Davis Cripe, who died in 2017. According to the coroner at the time, Davis had no prior heart condition and drank a Mountain Dew and a latte from McDonald's earlier in the day. He experienced arrhythmia after having the energy drink.

It wasn't the first time Davis drank one, although he didn't consume them regularly.

"We had talked to him and let him know that they weren't healthy," Sean Cripe said. "We didn't understand they could be deadly."

The American Beverage Association - which includes Monster and other companies comprising 94% of the energy drink category - said members voluntarily disclose caffeine totals on product labels, which carry advisories such as: "Not intended for children, pregnant or nursing women, or persons sensitive to caffeine." Members also don't sell or market energy drinks in K-12

schools.

Monster Energy said in a statement that caffeine and other drink ingredients are found in a broad range of food products. "Mainstream energy drinks have been marketed worldwide for more than 30 years and more than 100 billion energy drinks have been sold and safely consumed globally," the company added.

The deal between Big 12 and Monster calls for a co-branded logo on football and basketball jerseys, fields and courts, and across digital and social media channels.

"The energy drink category is not new to collegiate athletics," the Big 12 Conference said in a statement, adding that beverage companies are always looking for ways to reach sports fans.

The NCAA doesn't have the authority to regulate conference or school sponsorship agreements, Dr. Deena Casiero, the association's

chief medical officer, told the doctor group in a letter. She said the association offers schools educational resources on caffeine and student-athlete health, and caffeine has been a topic of interest for an NCAA committee, which recently commissioned a cardiac advisory group.

To protect children, teachers and coaches can educate them about the dangers of too much caffeine and the difference between energy drinks and sports drinks, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sports drinks are designed to help replace water and electrolytes lost through sweating after activity.

Parents and other adults can also model good behavior by not consuming energy drinks in front of kids.

At well visits, parents should talk with pediatricians about all the beverages their children are consuming, said Hannon, who often advises families to "Rethink your drink."



A Texas Tech player wears a Monster/Big 12 patch on his jersey during an NCAA college football game against Sam Houston State on Sept 26, in Lubbock, Texas. (AP)

‘Deal of the century’ paying dividends for FIA World Rally Championship

Ford’s WRC return signals momentum for its next era: Ben Sulayem

DUBAI, Oct 4: FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem has welcomed Ford’s announcement that it will return to the FIA World Rally Championship with a full factory programme from 2028 and develop an all-new Rally1 car under the FIA’s WRC27 technical regulations for 2029.

Ford’s return to the championship will mark its first full works programme in the FIA WRC since 2012 and comes at a significant moment in the championship’s development.

With new technical regulations arriving in 2027, increased investment under new ownership and plans to expand the WRC’s presence in key markets including the United Kingdom and United States, the series is entering a new period of sporting and commercial growth.

The announcement makes Ford the fourth constructor to commit to developing a car under the FIA’s new WRC27 technical regulations. Designed around safety, affordability,

flexibility and accessibility, the regulations will reduce the cost of competing at the highest level of rallying, with the price of a ready-to-compete car capped at €345,000 in asphalt specification.

FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, said: “The announcement represents another significant moment for the FIA World Rally Championship. With a new promoter in place, three constructors already committed to the new technical regulations, and now Ford confirming its return as a full works manufacturer, there is real momentum behind the championship’s next era.

“Ford is one of the great names in motorsport and its commitment to FIA World Championships continues to grow. The manufacturer returned to Formula 1 this year, is competing at the highest level of the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship, will return to the top category of the FIA World Endurance Championship in 2027, and from 2028 will once again



A Ford Escort Cosworth rally car, number 1, powers through a desert corner and throws up a towering cloud of golden dust.

compete as a works manufacturer in the WRC.

“That will give Ford a presence across four FIA World Championships and demonstrates the importance it places on motor sport as a global platform, and laboratory, for its brand, products and technologies.

“I had the privilege of driving for Ford during my own career, so

welcoming them back is a particularly special moment for me. The WRC continues to grow, and this long-term commitment from such an iconic manufacturer is a testament to the strength of the championship.”

From 2028, Ford Racing will become directly involved in its FIA WRC programme alongside long-standing partner M-Sport, before introducing an all-new Rally1 car developed to the WRC27 technical regulations in 2029.

The commitment reflects the growing attractiveness of the FIA World Rally Championship to global automotive manufacturers and reinforces the role of FIA World Championships as genuine laboratories for the development, testing and demonstration of future technologies.

Ford’s commitment follows growing interest in the new regulations from both global automotive manufacturers and independent constructors and comes as the championship has recently secured the ‘Deal of the

Century’ and enters a new period of commercial development under its recently appointed promoter team.

The growing manufacturer interest also underlines the wider role of the FIA’s World Championships as global platforms for automotive manufacturers to develop and demonstrate new technologies, test solutions in demanding competition environments and transfer knowledge between motor sport and road-going vehicles.

Ford’s return to the WRC also forms part of an expanding global motor sport programme. The Blue Oval returned to the FIA Formula One World Championship in 2026, competes in the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship and is preparing to return to the top category of the FIA World Endurance Championship in 2027, having already launched its LMG3 programme. Its WRC programme will give Ford a presence across four FIA World Championships from 2028.

Djokovic beats Zverev to set China Open winning record

Alcaraz into Tokyo Open semifinals

BEIJING, Oct 4, (AP): Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka was bundled out in the third round of the China Open in straight sets by the Czech Republic’s Nikola Pietrangola on Sunday. In the men’s draw, Novak Djokovic maintained his perfect record at the tournament with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over U.S. Open champion Alexander Zverev in the quarterfinals.

The No. 34-ranked Sabalenka defeated the four-time Grand Slam champion 6-4, 6-3 in just over an hour and a half leaving the tournament without its two top seeds in the first week.

Newly crowned world No. 1 Elena Rybakina was ousted from the tournament on Saturday and will now be joined by Sabalenka in exiting WTA-1000 event in Beijing early.

Sabalenka, who was denied a three-peat at the U.S. Open last month by Rybakina, squandered five break points in the first set as her historic struggles in Beijing continued. The 28-year-old Belorussian has never progressed past the quarterfinals at the event.

“First of all, I focused on myself, to be calm,” Sabalenka said. “And Aryna, she’s great, she’s a legend, she’s a Grand Slam champion. So, yeah, I’m really happy that I won the match... I’m not a girl who celebrates too much.”

Bartunkova will next play 24-year-old Sinja Kraus of Austria, who earlier defeated Dayana Yastremska 6-1, 6-4.

Fifth-ranked Mirra Andrejeva eased into the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Polina Kudermetova. This year’s French Open winner fired six aces and took five of her seven break point opportunities to overwhelm her Uzbek opponent in just 68 minutes.



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia runs after the ball from Bu Yunchaokete, of China in a men's singles second round match during the China Open tennis tournament held in Beijing. (AP)

Djokovic is bidding to win his seventh China Open title and is now 32-0 in Beijing, eclipsing Rafael Nadal’s 31-0 start at the French Open for the best start at a tour-level tournament in the Open era.

The Serb started slowly, dropping his serve in the opening game of the match and eventually losing the first set but bounced back to take the next two to secure the win.

“I gave him an early break and then it was hard to come back in the first set,” Djokovic said. “I had a couple of break points when he was serving for the set at 5-4, but didn’t use them, but I kind of felt already from midway through the first set that I was starting to get a good rhythm.”

Djokovic will next face Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals.

Earlier, Hubert Hurkacz beat Karen Khachanov 7-6 (2), 6-2 and will face Alex de Minaur, who beat Andrey



Team Europe’s Carlos Alcaraz returns to Team World’s Taylor Fritz during a Laver Cup tennis tournament match in London. (AP)

Rublev 1-6, 6-2, 6-3, in the other semi.

Meanwhile, top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the semifinals of the Japan Open on Sunday, continuing his strong return from a four-month wrist injury layoff.

Alcaraz moved into the final four after his opponent Denis Shapovalov was forced to retire due to a hip injury during their quarterfinal match.

The defending champion was leading 7-6 (4), 2-1 after 82 minutes when the Canadian player withdrew.

Alcaraz played in the Laver Cup last week, helping Europe claim the trophy with a singles win over Taylor Fritz.

Shapovalov had pushed the Spaniard in a grueling opening set, earning a set point at 5-4. Alcaraz defused the threat with a delicate drop shot before taking the set with a commanding tiebreak.

The physical toll of the baseline exchanges caught up with Shapovalov early in the second set, where he appeared to pull his hip while stretching for a running forehand. Despite taking an off-court medical timeout after the opening game, the Canadian was visibly restricted upon his return to the court and was unable to continue.

Alcaraz will play compatriot Jaume Munar in the semifinals, after the qualifier beat Kyrian Jaquet of France 6-4, 6-2 earlier Sunday.

Talbott scores first-round TKO

Silva unanimously defeats Cong for UFC flyweight title

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct 4, (AP): Natalia Silva unanimously out-pointed Wang Cong to claim the vacant UFC women’s flyweight championship Saturday night at UFC 332.

Silva (21-5-1) extended her winning streak to 15 bouts after largely dominating Wang (10-2) over five rounds.

“This is incredible for me,” Silva said. “I have worked hard for this moment and now I am the new (champion) and I am so so so happy.”

Silva went from challenger to favorite in the title bout after Valentina Shevchenko vacated the title nearly a month ago because of back and shoulder injuries. She proved far more aggressive than Wang early, using her speed, fluid movement, and strong legs to create an advantage.

Silva knocked Wang to the canvas midway through the second round with a sharp head kick. She kept Wang on her heels with her quick striking ability through the next two rounds and connected on other roundhouse kicks.

Wang fought back in the final round, but Silva landed enough blows to stay in control and had winning scores of 48-47, 48-47, 49-46 from the judges.

“I think if she had stepped on the gas a little earlier, it would have been a completely different fight,” UFC President Dana White said.

Payton Talbott earned a victory via TKO over Delveson Figueiredo with 2:51 left in the first round of the bantamweight bout billed as the co-main event.

Talbott (12-1) dominated Figueiredo (25-8-1) from the start of the fight. He put him on the canvas early with a right-handed strike and then delivered an elbow along the fence that sent Figueiredo reeling.

Talbott pressed his advantage, raining down blows and forcing his opponent to cover up until he forced a TKO.

“Definitely thought he was going to be more durable,” Talbott said.

It marked a successful return to the octagon for the Nevada fighter after going 10 months between bouts.

Talbott said he wished the latest bout had not ended so quickly.



Natalia Silva

“I wanted to just feel that war,” Talbott said. “I’m really happy to get the finish because it’s been a while since I got that finish. Deep down, that’s who I am. I chase finishes. But, yeah, I definitely wanted it to come a little bit later in the fight.”

Roman Kopylov defeated Ateba Gautier by TKO with 3:12 remaining in the first round of the middleweight bout that served as the first of three main card fights leading into the co-main event. Kopylov swarmed Gautier with several clean strikes before finally dropping him to the canvas with a left-handed blow. He earned his second UFC victory of the year while handing Gautier his second career defeat.

UFC newcomer Roberto Soldic debuted with a unanimous decision victory, scoring 29-28, 29-27, 29-27 over Khaos Williams in the welterweight bout. The fight lasted all three rounds, but Soldic dominated his opponent throughout with timely blows and bottled him up on the canvas at the end of each of the first two rounds.

Esteban Ribovics edged King Green by TKO with 52 seconds to go in the first round of the lightweight bout. Ribovics dropped Green to the canvas three times with well-timed strikes, overwhelming him after the third fall.

White reported a gate of \$2.7 million for the event with 16,492 fans in attendance.

DeMelo makes NWSL return as Utah holds Louisville

WASHINGTON, Oct 4, (AP): Brecken Mazingo scored late in stoppage time to pull the Utah Royals into a 1-1 draw with Racing Louisville on Saturday in a match that saw the return of Savannah DeMelo, who collapsed during a game last season.

In other action in the National Women’s Soccer League, the Kansas City Current beat Bay FC 5-1, and the Boston Legacy took down the Portland Thorns 4-2.

Katie O’Kane converted a penalty kick to give Lou-

isville (7-17-3) the 1-0 lead in the 42nd minute. The penalty was awarded after video review determined that Utah midfielder Madison Hammond fouled Louisville defender Arin Wright.

Mazingo tied it with a long-range shot to salvage a point for Utah (14-9-4).

Louisville snapped a six-match losing streak.

For the first time since her medical emergency on Sept. 14, 2025, DeMelo returned to NWSL play as a substitute in stoppage time. She recently revealed that she collapsed because of undiagnosed cardiac arrhythmia.

“It’s probably the greatest accomplishment I’ll ever have in my soccer career,” DeMelo said.

Debinha got the hat trick as the Current (13-9-5) scored five unanswered goals at CPKC Stadium.

Racheal Kundananji’s through ball found Karlie Lema for the goal and a 1-0 lead for Bay FC in the fourth minute. Lema broke the Bay FC’s single-season goal scoring record with eight.

Kansas City forward Haley Hopkins’ header leveled the game at 1-1 in the 24th minute.

Debinha took over in the second half. She tallied goals in the 46th, 53rd, and 75th minutes. Temwa Chawinga added the final goal in the 89th minute.

10,000 fans welcome Lebron

James steals the show in 76ers scrimmage debut

PHILADELPHIA, Oct 4, (AP): The 76ers’ public address announcer ended a brief retirement over the summer in large part to get behind the mic and do what he did for the first time ahead of the team’s annual scrimmage.

Matt Cord introduced LeBron James in the Sixers’ starting lineup.

“At 6-9, from St. Vincent-St. Mary’s, No. 23, LeBron James! James!”

Close to 10,000 fans who plunked down \$10 a ticket on Saturday to essentially witness a glorified practice at the Sixers’ home arena went wild for James’ debut.

No, James didn’t wear No. 23. He historically wore No. 6 over his career in practice gear but with that number retired in Philadelphia because of Julius Erving, James went with No. 9.

No, the dunks and 3s and assists didn’t count in any official capacity. And no, James wasn’t even introduced last. That honor remained reserved for Joel Embiid.

What the new 41-year-

Philadelphia 76ers’ LeBron James poses for photos during the NBA basketball team’s media day in Camden, N.J.. (AP)

old on the block did do was give - along with Embiid, Tyrese Maxey, Jaylen Brown and VJ Edgecombe - a sneak preview that maybe, just maybe, the long underperforming Sixers might finally rise to the moment this season and meet their championship expectations.

“It was a great first step in a direction we’re trying to go,” James said. “It was great to hear some cheers from our fans.”

Sixers fans that

hourly babysitting rate.

Not a bad first week in Philadelphia for the NBA’s career scoring leader.

“Everybody’s been super welcoming,” James said. “I’ve been able to implement some things with my voice and just my command of how I play the game and my experience playing the game. I’m still getting more and more comfortable off the floor, with travel and without my family and things of that nature. That’s going to be a little bit of a challenge, but everything’s been good so far. Great first week.”

No word yet on James’

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‘Far more than a sporting event’

Asian Games reinforce sport’s unifying role, says Al-Musallam

NAGOYA, Oct 4: Asian Olympic Council Director General Hussain Al-Musallam said the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games had reinforced the power and influence of sport in bringing the continent together and promoting the values of peace, solidarity and unity.

Speaking at a press conference in Aichi-Nagoya, Al-Musallam highlighted the high level of competition at the Games, which produced 54 world records, 11 world junior records, 89 Asian records and 212 Games records.

He attributed the achievements to the excellent conditions provided for athletes by the organizing committee, stressing that world-class



Asian Olympic Council Director General Hussain Al-Musallam.

performance could only be achieved in an environment that enables competitors to perform at their best.

Al-Musallam praised the Aichi-Nagoya organizing committee, the governor, mayor, secretary-general, staff and volunteers for their extensive efforts in preparing and staging the Games.

He said the Asian Games were far more than a sporting event, describing them as a platform that, for more than a century, had helped develop sport in Asia and strengthen ties among its peoples despite the challenges facing the world.

“The records achieved in Nagoya could not have been set without creating the right environment

for athletes and enabling them to deliver their best performances,” he said.

Al-Musallam said the Games had made a significant contribution to the development of Asian sport, with the record-breaking performances in Nagoya providing clear evidence of their wider developmental impact.

He also stressed the importance of the Asian Games as a platform for peace and unity, particularly at a time when Asia and other parts of the world continue to face conflicts, disputes and economic challenges.

“Despite all these challenges, we see Asia united through sport, pre-

serving the principles of peace, solidarity and unity and putting them into practice at the highest level,” he said.

He pointed to the participation of 45 National Olympic Committees, alongside the Refugee Team, as a clear example of the Games’ unifying role.

Al-Musallam also cited the history of the Asian Games, particularly the participation of North and South Korea, as evidence of sport’s ability to bridge political divisions. He recalled how the two countries marched together as one team at the 2002 Asian Games and competed jointly at the 2018 edition, where they also won medals.

Ballon d’Or rivals Yamal and Kane star for Spain, England



Spain’s Victor Munoz, right, challenges Czechia’s Jiri Slama during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Spain and Czechia in Oviedo, Spain. (AP)

Three Lions hit 7 past Croatia

MADRID, Oct 4, (AP): Ballon d’Or rivals Lamine Yamal and Harry Kane starred as Spain and England won their matches in the Nations League.

Both are in contention to win the prestigious award on Oct. 26.

Kane scored twice as England crushed Croatia 7-0 away and Yamal scored another brilliant curling shot from outside the penalty area as Spain won at home to Czechia 3-1 for a 40th game unbeaten.

The 2024 Ballon d’Or winner Rodri and substitute Mikel Merino also scored as Spain recorded a third straight win to stay three points ahead of England in their Nations League A group.

With his brace of goals, Kane extended his national record to 89 international goals - 36 more than Wayne Rooney in second place on England’s list of scorers.

Right winger Bukayo Saka also netted twice, while left winger Anthony Gordon set up Jude Bellingham’s goal and grabbed one himself. Substitute Morgan Rogers completed the rout in Rijeka.

“We were so fluid right from the start. It just never stopped,” England coach Thomas Tuchel said. “We just kept the pace up and played through the gaps. We were very, very clinical.”

Kane put England ahead in the eighth minute, controlling a pass from Bellingham with the outside of his right foot and then curling the



England’s Bukayo Saka, left, and Harry Kane react after a goal during the Nations League soccer match between Croatia and England in Rijeka, Croatia. (AP)

ball into the top left corner.

Bellingham poked in Gordon’s cross midway through the first half. Gordon stooped to head in Jarell Quansah’s right-wing cross and Saka side-footed in England’s fourth approaching halftime.

After the break, Croatia’s defense was sliced open again on a quick break and Elliot Anderson curled in a cross from the right and Kane slid in at the back post for a poacher’s finish.

“We’re at our best when we’re free, when we’re physically just overpowering,” Kane said. “They couldn’t live with our pace, our movement, our runs.”

More bad defending saw Croatia unable to clear the ball and it ended up at the feet of Kane, who gifted Saka his second in the 68th. Rogers

controlled Bellingham’s pass with his heel and slotted in from an angle.

The result eclipsed England’s previous highest score against Croatia, 5-1 in World Cup qualifying in 2009 at Wembley.

It was another tough match for Croatia coach Slaven Bilić following Tuesday’s 4-1 loss in Spain. His side has conceded 12 goals in three matches.

Luka Modric started the game in Rijeka but the 41-year-old looked frustrated by his team’s sloppy performance.

Switzerland won at home to Slovenia 2-1 for a third straight win and group rival Scotland won at North Macedonia 2-0 for its first victory in their League B games.

Sassuolo forward Kieron Bowie put Scotland ahead in Skopje and Aston Villa midfielder John McGinn’s second-half penalty wrapped it up.

Slovenia led early on through Žan Vipotnik but Erik Janža’s own goal tied it soon after for Switzerland, which then scored through midfielder Dan Ndoye before halftime.

In Group C, Finland beat Albania 2-1 thanks to two goals from Los Angeles FC midfielder Leo Walta. The visitor took an early lead but goalkeeper Etrit Berisha was sent off in the 22nd.

Elsewhere, Real Sociedad forward Orri Óskarsson netted twice in Iceland’s 3-0 home win against Bulgaria.

Belarus beat San Marino 4-0 and Estonia won against Luxembourg 1-0.

Kuwaiti handball experts join Arab Federation committees

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Kuwaiti handball officials have secured key positions on the Arab Handball Federation’s working committees for the upcoming term, highlighting the growing recognition of national expertise at the Arab level.

Dr Khaled Al-Sharji has been appointed chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, while international referee Ahmed Al-Mutawa has been named a member of the Referees Committee.

The appointments reflect the confidence placed in Kuwaiti expertise, with Al-Sharji and Al-Mutawa bringing extensive technical, administrative and refereeing experience, as well as a long record of participation in Arab, continental and international competitions.

Their presence on the committees is also expected to contribute to the development of the sport, particularly in shaping plans and programmes aimed at raising the standard of Arab handball in the coming years.

Al-Sharji will head a Planning and Development Committee comprising Mohammed bin Amara, Tijani Mouilani, Mohammed Al-Abbas, Ghasan Al-Hanesh, Ahmed Radi, Younes Al-Azzan, Iyad Abdullah, Khaled Al-Hail, Mohammed Jamal and Abdullah Al-Roukshi.



Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, Dr Khaled Al-Sharji.



Referees Committee chair, Matar Thani Al-Zara.

The Referees Committee, chaired by Matar Thani Al-Zara, includes Al-Mutawa, Ghanem Al-Deesh, Suhail Jassim, Fayez Al-Hinai, Mustafa Al-Maamali and Abdul Latif Al-Qazi.

Earlier, Salman Al-Habib was appointed secretary-general of the Arab Handball Federation.

Argentina routs Burkina Faso in friendly

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 4, (Xinhua): Argentina scored five first-half goals en route to a 7-0 home victory over Burkina Faso in their friendly.

Lautaro Martinez opened the scoring in the fourth minute and Moumoun Diallo gifted the hosts a second goal by inadvertently turning the ball into his own net.

Martinez then set up Gianluca Prestianni for Argentina’s third goal before Nico Paz and Julian Alvarez further extended the lead before halftime.

Substitute Franco Mastantuono added to Burkina Faso’s misery with a 57th-minute strike and Giuliano Simeone completed the rout by finishing clinically in stoppage time.

The result followed Argentina’s 4-0 win over Bolivia on Wednesday, the Albiceleste’s first appearance since a 1-0 loss to Spain in the World Cup final in July.

Argentina will end the international friendly window with a clash against Benin in Buenos Aires on Tuesday. It will mark Lionel Messi’s last appearance for his country after an international career spanning more than two decades.

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Jacob Shaffelburg scored two first-half goals as Canada eased to a 2-0 home win over Peru in their friendly here on Saturday.

The hosts went ahead in the 19th minute when Shaffelburg met Liam Millar’s delivery from a set piece at the far post and took a touch before slotting a shot past goalkeeper Diego Romero.

Millar was also the provider 16 minutes later with a driving run and cross from the right byline that again found Shaffelburg, who headed in at the back post.

Peru had only 43 percent of the possession and failed to register a shot on target at Saputo Stadium.

The South American team will conclude the current FIFA international window with a friendly against Colombia in Miami on October 6. Canada will face the United States in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the same day.

Kuwait Club bows out of WASL

By Hassan Mosa
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

BEIRUT, Oct 4: Kuwait Club’s basketball team was eliminated from the West Asia Super League (WASL) after suffering an 87-74 defeat to Lebanon’s Sagesse in their semifinal clash in Beirut.

The “White” subsequently faced Saudi Arabia’s AIUla in the third-place playoff after AIUla lost 82-78 to Lebanon’s Riyadi in the other semifinal.

Kuwait Club made a strong start and worked to keep the deficit within striking distance, but lost focus during the decisive stages. The team also lacked the intensity needed to challenge Sagesse, particularly against the backdrop of a packed home crowd supporting the Lebanese side.

American duo Day-Day Grant and Christian Brown led Kuwait Club’s scoring with 20 points apiece, while Hamad Adnan and Mohammed Adnan added 11 points each.



Kuwait Club and Sagesse players fighting for the ball.

Sullivan makes history in USMNT win over Mexico

GLENDAL, Ariz., Oct 4, (AP): Cavan Sullivan became the youngest player to score a goal in U.S. men’s national team history, fellow teenager Julian Hall added another goal, and the Americans cruised to a 3-0 victory over Mexico on Saturday night in an international friendly that was the 80th match between the rivals.

At 17 years and five days old, Sullivan scored his stunning goal in the 62nd minute, intercepting a sloppy pass from Mexico goalkeeper José Rangel and then lofting a long shot over the goalkeeper’s head into the net for a 2-0 lead. The Philadelphia Union forward sprinted to the corner of the field where he was mobbed by teammates.

U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino shared a big hug with Sullivan when he was subbed off a few minutes later.

Gio Reyna’s crossing pass in the 28th minute deflected off Rangel’s foot, leading to an easy goal for the 18-year-old Hall, who used his

right foot to blast the ball into the net at close range for a 1-0 advantage. It was his third international goal in three games.

Hall - who also scored goals against Peru and Chile last week - plays for the New York Red Bulls.

Malik Tillman capped the scoring with a goal in the 84th minute, finding the top left corner of the net.

Mexico was down to 10 men for the final 20-plus minutes of the second half after Mateo Chávez was sent off with a red card in the 67th minute. Chávez committed a hard foul on Yunus Musah and then smacked Sebastian Berhalter in the face with both hands when the U.S. midfielder confronted him.

Mexico’s fans were in the majority on Saturday, even though the match was played at State Farm Stadium in Arizona. El Tri controlled the action through the first 20 minutes but the U.S. slowly gained its footing.

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NEWS



Kuwait shooting team.

Sports

Kuwait wraps up Asian Games with nine medals



Kuwait flagbearer displays the national flag during the closing ceremony of the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar, receives the flag of the first Asian Games during the closing ceremony for the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan.



Kuwait delegation

The Asiad closes in Japan and heads to Qatar in 2030

NAGOYA, Japan, Oct 4, (Agencies): Kuwait concluded its campaign at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya with a haul of nine medals — four gold, one silver and four bronze — as the continental sporting extravaganza came to a close in Japan.

Kuwait sent 120 athletes to compete in 16 sports, including shooting, athletics, football, golf, modern pentathlon, fencing, teqball, sport climbing, karate, equestrian show jumping, squash, jiu-jitsu, swimming, handball, padel and sailing.

Shooting and karate delivered Kuwait's strongest results. Abdullah Shaaban struck gold in the men's under-60kg karate kumite, while the men's kata trio of Mohammed Hussein, Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi and Sayed Salman Al-Mousawi also claimed gold.

In shooting, the men's trap team of Talal Al-Rashidi, Khaled Al-Mudhaf and Abdulrahman Al-Feihan secured gold, with Al-Mudhaf adding the individual trap title to complete Kuwait's four gold medals.

The men's skeet team of Abdullah Al-Rashidi, Mohammed Al-Daihani and Mohammed Al-Awad earned Kuwait's only silver.

The four bronze medals came from Sayed Mohammed Al-Mousawi in individual kata, teqball pair Basil Ahmed and Abdulwahab Al-Qattan in men's doubles, the women's trap team of Hajar Abdulmalik, Sarah Al-Hawwal and Shahed Al-Hawwal, and Abdulmalik in the individual trap event.

Kuwait delegation chief and Kuwait Olympic Committee Director General, retired Major General Mohammed Saeed Al-Khalfan, hailed the team's performance, expressing pride in the results achieved in Japan.

Al-Khalfan praised the athletes for their commitment and fighting spirit throughout the Games, saying they had represented Kuwait with distinction and raised the national flag on the Asian podium.

He also wished Kuwait's athletes success in their upcoming competitions, reaffirming the Olympic Committee's commitment to supporting national sporting talent and helping them achieve further success on the international stage.

The Asian Games were a blur, a sports kaleidoscope of 45 countries and regions that went dark on Sunday, closed officially by Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, the president of the Olympic Council of Asia.

The games featured about 11,000 athletes - more than the Summer Olympics two years ago in Paris. And now they head west to Doha, Qatar, in 2030. This will be a homecoming. Sheikh Joaan is a Qatari, a younger brother of

the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Al Thani.

Amid the whirlwind of 43 sports - there were many regional specialties featured like kurash, kabaddi and sepaktakraw - the games provided a glimpse at many top athletes who will compete again in two years at the Los Angeles Olympics.

China topped the medal table as it has for decades with 169 gold and 341 overall. Japan was second with 83 gold and 269 overall. South Korea (39, 150) was next followed by India (21, 85), Uzbekistan (21, 70) and Iran (19, 52).

Forty of the 45 countries or regions won at least one medal. The bottom four won only a single bronze medal: Bangladesh, Brunei, Laos and Syria.

Japanese 17-year-old Shin Ohashi set a swimming world record in the 200-meter breaststroke (2 minutes, 4.83 seconds), the first to swim under 2:05.

Also in the pool, Chinese 13-year-old female Yu Zidi won the 200 butterfly and the 200 and 400 medley relays. Organizers named her the female MVP of the event. Zhang Zhanshou was the other prominent Chinese swimmer, a freestyler who won seven gold medals.

The male MVP was track and field sprinter Puripol Boonson of Thailand, who clocked 9.90 in the 100 and 19.88 in the 200.

Saudi Arabia and UAE set for Gulf Cup final

JEDDAH, Oct 4: Saudi Arabia booked their place in the Gulf Cup 27 final after defeating Qatar on penalties in Jeddah, setting up a title clash with the UAE on Tuesday at Al-Inma Stadium.

The UAE reached the final with a 1-0 victory over Oman in the other semifinal.

The first semifinal ended goalless after 90 minutes and extra time, forcing a penalty shootout. Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Owais emerged as the hero, saving two spot-kicks, before Mukhtar Ali converted the decisive penalty to send the hosts through.

The final will be Saudi Arabia's sixth appearance in the Gulf Cup championship match in knockout-format editions. They finished runners-up to Kuwait in 1974, lost the



Saudi players celebrate after reaching the final.

2009 final to Oman on penalties and were beaten 1-0 by Kuwait in the 2010 final. They also suffered 1-0 defeats to Qatar in 2014 and Bahrain in 2019.

Saudi Arabia's three Gulf Cup titles came in editions played under a league format, in 1994, 2002 and 2003.

The "Green" has also reached the Asian Cup final six times, lifting the trophy in 1984, 1988 and 1996. They lost the 1992 and 2000 finals to Japan and the 2007 final to Iraq.

In the Arab Cup, Saudi Arabia has reached the final three times, losing to Egypt in 1992 before winning the titles in 1998 and 2002.

In the second semifinal, Othman Kamara scored the only goal in the 22nd minute as the UAE defeated Oman 1-0 to secure their place in the final.

Belarusian Forenko wins Police Show Jumping Championship



Winners celebrate on the podium.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 4: Belarusian rider Pavel Forenko claimed the top spot in the main 120cm class as the Kuwait Police Sports Federation's show jumping championship concluded successfully, marking the first local event of the current season.

Forenko finished ahead of Fahad Al-Faleh, Yousif Al-Nuaimi, Abdullah Al-Roudhan and Abdulrahman Al-Fazee. Colonel Abdulrahman Fahad Al-Yousef, Director of the Police Sports Federation, presented the winners with their awards.

Sogo Baby won the 110cm class, with Yousif Al-Nuaimi, Abdullah Al-Roudhan, Waleed Al-Mutairi and Sheikh Al-Marzouq completing the

leading places. Hussain Al-Shatti took first place in the 100cm class.

The novice 60cm and 80cm classes also produced strong performances, with a large number of riders completing their rounds without faults.

International judge Ibtisam Al-Aroui chaired the judging panel, which included Lama Abdulal. International rider Abdulrahman Al-Fazee designed the course, while Dr Yahya Al-Hedban served as arena judge.

The Police Sports Federation stages a range of local and international equestrian competitions throughout the season, including show jumping and dressage.

Huge title boost to Kimi Antonelli

Verstappen wins Bahrain GP in Malaysia as Russell retires

SEPANG, Malaysia, Oct 4, (AP): Max Verstappen's long wait for another Formula 1 race win is finally over. The title race might be over, too.

Verstappen took his first victory of an often-frustrating year for the four-time champion at Formula 1's Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia on Sunday. A retirement for George Russell handed a huge title boost to Kimi Antonelli.

Verstappen was leading from Antonelli and Russell behind the safety car with five laps to go when Russell suddenly pulled over in his Mercedes.

The retirement allowed Antonelli to further stretch his lead over teammate Russell from 66 points to 84, with seven races remaining on the schedule, including those in Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

Mercedes told Antonelli over the radio it appeared Russell had suffered a power unit problem. "You've almost got to laugh. I'm beyond disappointment," the British driver told Sky Sports.

Antonelli finished second and Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton passed Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Isack Hadjar for third.

Four-time champion Verstappen hadn't won since the final race of last season, but upgrades to his Red Bull car made him competitive again in Malaysia this week. That means Verstappen extends his run of winning at least once every year

since he joined Red Bull in 2016. His only winless season was his 2015 rookie year.

"Very special for us. We had a very complicated and tough start to the year with all sorts of problems and just not being competitive enough," he said.

"But throughout the year, the team has been working very hard to understand our issues, bring good performance upgrades to the car and make it more drivable. Step by step, we've been getting closer and closer."



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands celebrates with his trophy after winning the Bahrain Grand Prix in Sepang, Malaysia. (AP)

It was also the first win for Red Bull Ford Powertrains, the engine partnership between Red Bull and American auto giant Ford. The last time a car with a Ford-branded engine won an F1 race was in 2003 with the Jordan team.

The first wet-weather race for F1 in 2026 started more than 90 minutes later than planned. The start was first delayed 40 minutes for heavy rain, then suspended again when cars had apparent software problems on the formation lap.

When it finally did get under way, Verstappen was slow off the line and lost places to Antonelli and Russell. He chased down Russell and then got past Antonelli in a side-by-side fight after a safety-car restart.

After Verstappen took the win, he had another small delay before hearing his anthem. Crowd chants filled an awkward silence as Verstappen waited on the top step of the podium before the Dutch anthem finally began.

The race was relocated because of the Iran war, becoming F1's first event at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia since 2017.

Hamilton's third place capped a remarkable recovery for the seven-time champion and ends a run of five races without a podium finish for the Italian team.