



'Kuwait committed to battle money-laundering, terror-financing networks'
Page 2



Embassy reception reflects solid Kuwait, Qatar bonds
Page 5

KUWAIT LEADS OUTCRY OVER HOUTHİ STRIKES ON SAUDI AIRPORTS

Region on edge as tensions boil

Missile debris damages Riyadh kindergarten, clinic

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed, early Thursday, Kuwait's strongest condemnation and denunciation of Houthi militia's flagrant attacks on Saudi Arabia's Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport.

In a statement, the ministry reaffirmed Kuwait's categorical rejection of the repetition of these cowardly attacks that target innocent civilians and economic and civilian objects, calling for an immediate halt of these assaults.

The attacks which resulted in the killing or wounding dozens of people are a blatant violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty as well as international law and international humanitarian law, the statement noted.

The ministry said while renewing Kuwait's absolute solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures the Kingdom takes to safeguard its sovereignty and security and protect its nationals and residents, it reiterates that the security of Saudi Arabia is an integrated part of the security of Kuwait and the GCC states.

It also expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims,

wishing a rapid recovery to those wounded.

Several explosions were heard in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh on Thursday, including a large blast at the city's international airport, a witness told The Associated Press, a day after the kingdom said an attack on the airport killed one person and wounded others.

The blasts had an immediate effect on markets and oil prices as the price of crude jumped, and Saudi Arabia slid further into the latest front in the Iran war.

Continued on Page 6

Bar draws line on legal showmanship

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Bar Association released the "Lawyers Vision 2027" -- a guide on media behavior for lawyers in order to protect the reputation of the legal profession and uphold ethical and legal obligations.

The document stipulates professional standards and guidelines for media appearances, publication of legal content and use of social media. It prohibits soliciting clients through advertising or promotions, as well as engaging in professional self-promotion that denigrates others or includes clients in media content solely for the promotion of lawyers.

It mandates lawyers to refrain from making firm predictions about case outcomes and stresses the need to abide by professional rules and regulations, particularly protecting client information and maintaining their confidentiality.

Lawyers must respect judicial bodies, investigative authorities and the justice system, refrain from any action that could impede the administration of justice or ongoing litigation, should not make illegal claims, avoid sensationalism or exaggeration in their media appearances, choose venues and media outlets that are appropriate for their profession, and use professional language with a balanced legal tone.

The document stipulates rules for publishing legal content, such that information, facts, data and court rulings, including details like the ruling date, court division and litigation level, must be verified prior to publication or dissemination.

Continued on Page 6



Representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar views an exhibition highlighting the beauty of mosques during his visit to Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah. -- See Page 6

Kuwait's weekend heat holds as weather calms

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department forecast stable weather conditions throughout the country over the weekend, with temperatures remaining within their normal ranges. Winds will be northwesterly to variable, light to moderate in speed. The weather will be hot during the daytime and warm to moderate at night.

The acting Director of the Meteorological Department Dhirar Al-Ali explained to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that weather conditions are expected to improve as the country comes under the influence of the seasonal Indian low-pressure system, which is gradually weakening, allowing a high-pressure system to extend from the northwest. Some scattered clouds are also expected.

The daytime weather on Friday will be hot, with northwesterly to variable winds that will be light to moderate at speeds of 10 to 30 kilometers per hour. Some scattered clouds are expected, while maximum temperatures will range between 41 and 43 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves ranging from 1 to 4 feet.

Friday night will be warm to moderate and partly cloudy, with variable to northwesterly winds that will be light to moderate at speeds of 8 to 28 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures are expected to range between 24 and 26 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves ranging from 1 to 3 feet.

Saturday's daytime weather will be hot and partly cloudy, with northwesterly to variable winds that will be light to moderate at speeds of 8 to 32 kilometers per hour.

Continued on Page 6

Bid to reinforce defense partnership

KNG, US bolster security cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Undersecretary Lt.-Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas discussed ways to promote military and security cooperation with US Defense Attaché to Kuwait and US Defense Department representative Col. Bryan McCullough and Military Attaché Steven Thomas.

In a press statement issued on Thursday, the KNG announced that the meeting took place in Lt. Gen. Al-Barjas office at the KNG Headquarters, which was attended by senior commanders and officers.

The KNG undersecretary welcomed the US delegation, conveyed the greetings of the KNG leadership, and emphasized the distinguished relations between the State of Kuwait and the US.



KNG Undersecretary Lt.-Gen. Hamad Al-Barjas with US Defense Department representative Col. Bryan McCullough and Military Attaché Steven Thomas.

Other Voices

What do Americans discover in Kuwait?

By Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri

Some Americans visit Kuwait on their own initiative, seeking to understand the country and the region through conversations with its people. Beyond official delegations and government meetings, these visitors seek opportunities to test assumptions and hear what concerns Kuwaitis.

Official discourse is naturally restrained by diplomatic responsibilities. Conversations outside that framework offer greater room for explanation, disagreement and insight.

Through encounters with American visitors since the regional crisis began in late February, I have noticed recurring themes among Kuwaitis of different backgrounds. These are my interpretations of those discussions, not a claim to represent Kuwaiti opinion as a whole.

First, anxiety about American protection does not mean wanting to lose Washington as a partner. The questions are practical: What does that protection cover? When do commitments become action? Diversifying partnerships can reflect risk management rather than a shift into a hostile camp.

On Iran, opposition to the regime's policies does not translate into confidence that overthrowing it would make the region safer. There is concern that Washington might act before adequately planning for the consequences, then improvise as events unfold.

Who would govern?
Who would maintain order?
What if instability spread across the Gulf?

Questioning regime change is not defending the regime; it is questioning who bears the cost of an uncertain aftermath.

A recurring view in these conversations is that the Gulf lacks strategic cohesion. Such assessments reflect participants' frustrations and assumptions, but convey a consistent warning: GCC consensus cannot be taken for granted. Shared interest in stability does not erase divergent priorities.

Another recurring question is: Why are these thoughtful voices absent from the media?

Knowledgeable people may remain silent when disagreement risks being interpreted as hostility. Kuwait needs an institutional environment where responsible dissent commands respect. Otherwise, valuable perspectives remain confined to private gatherings, beyond the reach of wider debate and policy communities.

These views do not constitute a Kuwaiti consensus. Their value lies in revealing concerns, calculations and aspirations that deserve attention. Understanding Kuwait requires listening to its official position and to what its people debate, disagree about and hope to achieve.



Al-Anjeri

Kuwait eyes Saudi digital model for cleaner tenders

RIYADH, Oct 8, (KUNA): A delegation from the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), led by President Dr. Rana Al-Fares, reviewed Saudi Arabia's digital "Etimad" platform to study its operational framework in enhancing government tender transparency and spending efficiency.

During a visit to the National Center for Government Resources Systems in Riyadh, the delegation examined the platform's core components and digital governance mechanisms.

Dr. Al-Fares emphasized that mitigating corruption risks necessitates modernizing decision-making systems, standardizing public expenditure workflows, and ensuring transparent contracting procedures alongside fair competitive bidding.

Nazaha Vice Chairman Dr. Majed Al-Daihani noted that procedural clarity and integrated digital data strengthen oversight capabilities and risk detection, adding that Nazaha will evaluate adapting elements of



Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority President Dr. Rana Al-Fares with Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority President Mazin Al-Kahmou.

the initiative to align with Kuwait's legal and institutional environment in coordination with relevant state bodies.

Continued on Page 6

Hangeul finds home in Kuwait

By Fares Ghaleb
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kuwait organized a cultural event to celebrate Hangeul Day, a commemoration of the creation of the Korean alphabet.

This event gathered members of the Han-Kut Diwaniya Cultural Gathering, a group of Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates passionate about Korean culture.

In his speech, H.E. Ambassador

Kim, Jang Hyun acknowledged the increasing interest in Korean culture within the Kuwaiti community and expressed gratitude for their enthusiasm for Korea. "Korean culture has gained massive global popularity. We are thrilled to witness that same excitement here in Kuwait. As K-pop, Korean dramas, beauty products and cuisine continue to enchant audiences, we hope that more individuals will also appreciate the beauty of Hangeul -- the Korean language."

Continued on Page 6



Group photo from the event.



8 Zain earns GCC recognition for turning community partnerships into sustainable impact



9 Kuwait Finance House wins 'World's Best Private Bank for Islamic Services' award



11 A quick getaway packed with adventure at Yas Island Abu Dhabi



12 Canadian poet & essayist Anne Carson wins Nobel Prize in literature



Prayer Timings

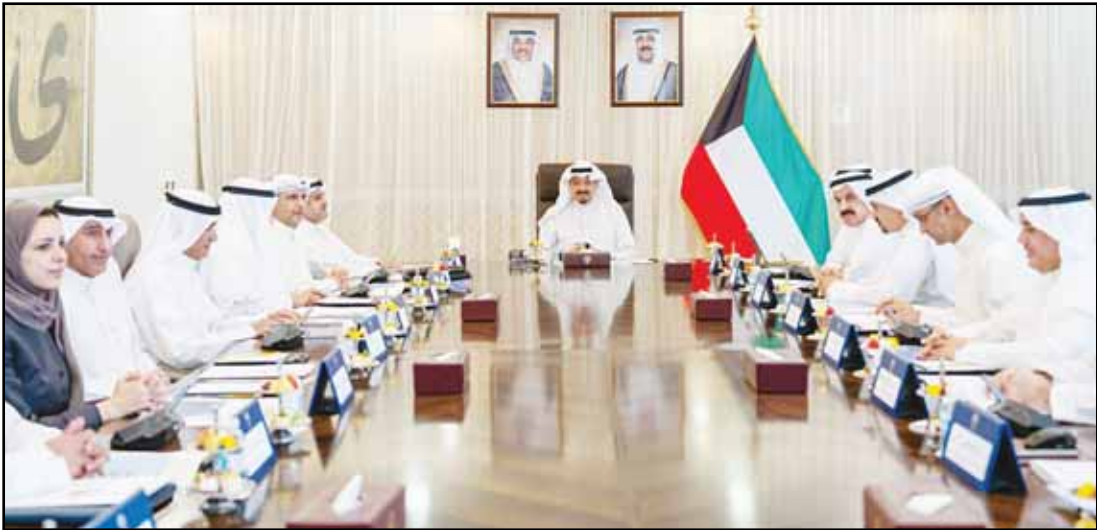
Fajr 04:26 Asr 14:55
 Sunrise .. 05:45 Maghrib .. 17:25
 Zohr 11:35 Isha 18:42

‘Kuwait committed to battle money-laundering, terror-financing networks’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday chaired a meeting on the remarks and requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The meeting discussed the latest developments related to the FATF’s remarks and implementation of relevant requirements as well as mechanisms of unifying national efforts and speeding up achievement rates as scheduled, reflecting Kuwait’s commitment to the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing framework.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Justice Nasser Yousef Al-Sumait, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Dr. Subaih Abdulaziz Al-Mukhaizeem, Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment and Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdulazeez Nasser Al-Marzouq, Minister of Finance Dr. Yaqoub Al-Refaie, Advisor at His Highness the Prime Minister’s Diwan Sheikh Dr. Basel Hamoud Malik Al-Sabah, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Central Bank of Kuwait Governor Basel Ahmad Al-Haroun, and a number of other senior officials.



Left: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the meeting on the remarks and requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Right: His Highness the Prime Minister receives the UN Secretary-General’s Senior Representative Mary Yamashita.

PM welcomes UN envoy

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday received, in the presence of Minister of Foreign

Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the UN Secretary-General’s Senior Representative Mary Yamashita for overseeing implementation of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2792 of



PM Diwan photos

2025 and her accompanying delegation. Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Ambassador Sadeq Marafi attended the meeting.



Jahra Governorate photo
 Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi attends the inauguration of a service unit for the elderly and persons with disabilities at the Citizen Service Center in Al-Qasr.

Priority for the care of elderly persons, says Jahra Governor

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi attended the inauguration of a service unit for the elderly and persons with disabilities at the Citizen Service Center in Al-Qasr, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Director General of the Service Centers General Department Brigadier General Saud Al-Tuwajri, Head of the Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank Ahmed Faisal Al-Qatami, and several other officials attended the event.

The unit allows beneficiaries to complete their transactions through the specified vehicle lane, thereby, easing their access to various services. This is in line with the efforts of the department to upgrade its facilities and improve services provided to the public, with the support of Warba Bank in terms of the provision of equipment and support services for the center.

The governor called for the development of services to meet the needs of different segments of society and to prioritize the care for elderly and persons with special needs by providing facilities that enable them to complete their transactions with ease and comfort.

He commended the efforts of the department and the contribution of Warba Bank, indicating this collaboration exemplifies the community partnership between government entities and the private sector to better serve the citizens.

Kuwait: Confront extremism, dry up terror-funding sources

Joint efforts vital for Kuwaitis, expats safety: Al-Wuhaib

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Maj. Gen. Abdulwahab Al-Wuhaib stressed the importance of continuing coordination between security and ministry sectors to handle new developments efficiently, and ensure the safety of citizens and residents.

This came during a meeting chaired by Minister Al-Wuhaib with heads of security sectors to follow up on efforts of strengthening coordination between various ministry sectors.

The meeting discussed several security topics, with the main objectives being to increase readiness and help boost work efficiency to carry out tasks as required.

The State of Kuwait emphasized Wednesday at the United Nations the imperative of combating terrorism, extremism, hate speech, and Islamophobia, while dismantling terror financing networks, reaffirming that terrorism cannot be linked to any religion, nationality, or culture.



Al-Wuhaib

Delivering Kuwait’s address before the UN General Assembly’s Sixth (Legal) Committee during its deliberation on “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism,” Diplomatic Attaché Mohammad Al-Mutairi reiterated Kuwait’s steadfast stance against terrorism in all its forms in compliance with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII.

Al-Mutairi underscored Kuwait’s legislative and institutional progress, citing the enactment of Decree-Law No. 47 of 2026 on counter-terrorism offenses and Decree-Law No. 76 of 2025 amending provisions of Law No. 106 of 2013 on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism, establishing an integrated national framework to safeguard society.

Highlighting international cooperation, Al-Mutairi noted Kuwait’s joint capacity-building initiatives with the GCC Secretariat and UNODC, as well as its welcoming of UNGA Resolution 80/286 regarding the ninth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

He also highlighted Kuwait’s active role in the Core Group drafting Resolution 78/264 on countering anti-Muslim hatred.

Al-Mutairi condemned recent Houthi attacks targeting Saudi Arabia as blatant violations of international law, concluding with an appeal for concerted global action to deter terrorist groups and uphold international peace and security.

The State of Kuwait also emphasized at the United Nations the need for a comprehensive global strategy to counter the world drug problem, balancing law enforcement with prevention, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and youth protection.

Addressing the UN General Assembly’s Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs) on “Crime prevention, criminal justice, and the world drug problem,” Diplomatic Attaché Yousef Al-Mansour stressed that sustainable recovery requires empowering individuals to reintegrate into society alongside medical care.

Al-Mansour highlighted Kuwait’s national legislative progress, specifically Decree-Law No. 159 of 2025 regulating narcotics and psychotropic substances to tighten medical oversight and counter illicit trafficking.

On crime prevention, he reaffirmed Kuwait’s active participation in UN working groups against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, alongside ongoing technical cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to strengthen institutional frameworks and capacity building.

Al-Mansour concluded by reiterating Kuwait’s commitment to international law, human rights, and harmonized legislation to uphold human dignity and safeguard global security.

‘Work diligently, keep God in mind, work for nation’s love’

By Fares Ghaleb
 Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Minister of Social, Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila had a meeting with ministry officials recently, during which she stressed the need to uphold the sense responsibility and teamwork in serving the nation and in the interest of the public.

Addressing the officials, Al-Huwaila said, “Keep God in mind as you carry out your tasks. My door is always open to you to overcome obstacles to operations. I am ready to collaborate with you in any department or sector for the best interest of the ministry and the public.” She called for prioritizing service to the public and ensuring quick transaction processing.

She also underscored the importance of strengthening coordination among ministry sectors, removal of administrative hurdles, strict compliance with the relevant laws and regulations, accelerating digital transformation, and upgrading electronic services and systems. She affirmed that all these measures aim to simplify procedures, reduce transaction processing periods, raise performance



Al-Huwaila



Al-Kandari

efficiency, and improve the quality of services provided to the public.

She said periodic meetings must be held with officials to monitor workflow, and that she receives regular statistics and reports detailing progress and completed tasks.

She added that each sector must submit plans and strategies, along with the timelines and performance indicators.

Meanwhile, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, issued a ministerial decision appointing Faisal Al-Kandari, currently Director of the General Department of Administrative Affairs, as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The decision follows the resignation of the ministry’s incumbent Undersecretary, Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, who submitted his resignation to Minister Al-Huwaila, citing personal reasons and circumstances and requesting its acceptance and the initiation of the necessary procedures.

NATO eyeing stronger security ties with Kuwait, GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Head of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) team at the NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Centre in Kuwait Frans Boersma said NATO is seeking to expand security cooperation with Kuwait and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

He said the cooperation will focus on four key security areas.

Speaking to KUNA on Thursday after the conclusion of a Crisis Management and Disaster Response course hosted by the centre, Boersma said the areas include countering drones, counterterrorism, maritime security, and defense against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

NATO has launched four major projects aimed at deepening security cooperation with countries in the region and strengthening the exchange of expertise in confronting common challenges, he explained.

The projects reflect NATO’s renewed efforts to strengthen its partnerships with GCC countries amid the region’s evolving security challenges, he added.

Boersma underlined the importance of expanding cooperation to all GCC countries in pursuit of shared interests, highlighting Kuwait’s role in hosting the NATO-ICI Regional Centre as a unique platform for dialogue, coordination and expertise-sharing between NATO and regional countries.

The centre, which opened in 2017 and will mark its 10th anniversary next year, provides facilities for hosting experts and specialists from NATO and GCC countries and for organizing training programs and joint initiatives.

Cooperation between NATO and GCC countries is based on sharing knowledge and benefiting from both sides’ accumulated expertise, Boersma pointed out.

Regional countries have valuable experience in confronting security challenges and managing crises, which can complement NATO’s expertise, he noted.

The centre seeks to promote a common understanding and exchange best practices through training courses, political dialogues, interactive exercises and tabletop simulations, benefiting both sides, he added.

Regarding the Crisis Management and Disaster Response course, Boersma expressed

appreciation for cooperation with Bulgaria’s Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence, which delivered the training program for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile, Director of the NATO-ICI Regional Centre Emad Al-Kandari underscored the significance of joint training programs in developing regional capabilities and promoting the exchange of expertise and knowledge in crisis management and disaster response.

Kuwait’s hosting of such programs underscores its role as a vital ICI partner and reflects the centre’s commitment to supporting and developing capabilities and strengthening cooperation with partner countries in various fields, Al-Kandari said.

The course, held from October 5 to 8, brought together 31 trainees from GCC countries, he pointed out.

The course aimed to strengthen participants’ crisis management and disaster response skills through exchanges of expertise and practical experiences, as well as discussions on planning, preparedness, crisis response, mitigating impacts and recovery.

Kuwait, Qatar cooperation eyed in humanitarian issue

DOHA, Oct 8, (KUNA): Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Ambassador (Ret.) Khaled Al-Maghamis emphasized Wednesday the vital necessity of bolstering cooperation among Gulf national societies to boost crisis response capabilities across the region.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) following a visit to the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) headquarters in Doha, Al-Maghamis stated that relations between the two societies are rooted in a long history of joint humanitarian action and shared relief objectives.

During talks with QRCS Assistant Secretary-General for Communication and Resource Development Mohammed Al-Bashri, discussions focused on expanding cooperation in resource development, institutional operations, and humanitarian media strategy.

Al-Maghamis underscored that mounting regional and global crises necessitate tighter synergy among GCC Red Crescent societies to streamline relief delivery and maximize impact for vulnerable populations.

Accompanied by KRCS Advisor Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutairi and senior QRCS officials, Al-Maghamis toured operational facilities and reviewed administrative procedures supporting local and international field operations.

MPW minister stresses speed, quality in road maintenance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan emphasized on Wednesday the importance of expediting road network maintenance activities in accordance with approved standards and the predetermined timeline, while ensuring that quality is not compromised, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Al-Mashaan

Dr. Al-Mashaan made the remarks during an inspection of asphalt paving work in Funaiteen in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate, where she received an update from the engineering team on the project’s progress and completion stages.

She noted that the Ministry of Public Works is actively implementing its strategy to maintain the national road network, with the aim of improving efficiency and ensuring the safety of road users.

The minister affirmed that engineering teams are closely monitoring operations at various sites to ensure compliance with approved specifications, stating, “We have directed the supervisory teams to oversee all phases of execution until completion according to the established timeline,” and emphasizing that “there will be no compromise on the quality of the work.”

□ □ □

5,201 Kuwaitis get jobs: Undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Salah Al-Saqabi confirmed the selection of 5,201 citizens registered in the central employment system for 33 government agencies, based on the actual job requirements approved by these agencies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, Al-Saqabi indicated that this is in line with the directives of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Chairman of the CSC Sharida Al-Maousherji.

PAHW extends deadline for bids

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the extension of the deadline for submitting bids for tenders related to the construction of infrastructure and public buildings in Mutlaa Residential City.

The new deadline for the construction and maintenance of public buildings in N5 and N6 is Oct 28.

The authority set the same date for the close of bidding on the tender for public buildings in N1, N3 and N4.

A reliable source informed the newspaper that the deadline extension is intended to enable the maximum number of qualified companies to submit their bids and to guarantee that the projects are carried out in accordance with the highest international quality standards.

The source affirmed that this initiative is part of the efforts of the government to provide housing for citizens and to minimize waiting times by delivering residential areas fully equipped with essential services and amenities.

The source clarified that through these initiatives, the PAHW will develop modern and fully serviced urban communities that include schools, mosques, health centers, central markets and government service facilities, catering to thousands of Kuwaiti families.

According to the source, the current initiatives concentrate on collaborating with relevant government agencies to overcome technical and financial challenges, ensuring that the construction of public buildings commences immediately after the tenders are awarded, and the financial and technical proposals from bidding companies are assessed.

diwaniya

حيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Teach your kids how to live a viable, healthy life

“THE question has always been - why do we teach our children how to succeed in exams but not how to live? After all, children represent the future generation,” columnist **Sheikh Fahad Dawoud Al-Sabah** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“The answer is simple - teaching them how to live, rather than merely how to succeed, prepares them better for their future. While achieving high grades is important, what we truly need is a generation that not only earns top marks but also knows how to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. This raises an important question - if sleep, nutrition, and physical activity affect a person every single day, why aren’t we teaching children the science behind them from the very beginning of their education?”



Al-Sabah

“We prepare a child for a two-hour exam, yet we should be preparing them for an exam that lasts eighty years - their entire life. A child enters school at the age of six and spends more than a decade - some of their most formative years - learning mathematics, physics, and chemistry, while memorizing history and geography. They learn rules, equations, and theories, only to graduate knowing remarkably little about the vessel they will inhabit for the rest of their lives - their own body. They may not know why they sleep, what happens to their brain when they stay up late night after night, or how their body converts food into energy. They may not understand the fundamental differences between proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, nor how their body recovers from physical exertion.

“Herein lies one of the strangest paradoxes of modern education - we spend years teaching people to understand the world around them, yet we fail to devote enough time to teaching them how to understand themselves. Therefore, schools need a fourth discipline, one in which daily performance is the ultimate outcome. We might call it the ‘Science of Human Performance.’”

“This would be more than a physical education class, a brief lesson on the food pyramid, or an annual health lecture. Instead, it would be a progressive, science-based curriculum that spans the school years and integrates three fundamental fields - the science of sleep, the science of nutrition and metabolism, and the science of movement and exercise. These three areas are not relevant only to athletes; they concern every human being. While there is a wealth of information on this subject, this brief overview does not allow for an exhaustive discussion.

“We must empower individuals with the knowledge they need to optimize their movement, sleep, and activity levels. Many university students are unaware of even the basics of their own biological clocks or how nutritional needs change with age, activity levels, and health status. This knowledge is not the exclusive domain of physicians; it is information that people apply to their dietary choices every day, throughout their lives. Currently, students often memorize information, write it down for an exam, and then forget it because they never use it again.

“If we fundamentally rethink education, we discover a set of sciences that are essential to daily life yet often lack the curricular emphasis they deserve. We could, therefore, build a new curriculum around seven key pillars - sleep; nutrition and metabolism, movement and exercise, the brain and mental health, prevention, health, and risk awareness, personal finance, and artificial intelligence and technology.

“The goal is not for every child to become a doctor, financial expert, or AI engineer. The aim is simpler yet more profound - to help them understand the world they will inhabit, as well as the body and mind they will live with.”

Also

“The Arab region has witnessed significant transformations in the energy sector, with countries across the Middle East moving rapidly to increase their reliance on clean energy sources,” Kuwaiti writer **Nasser Hussein Abbas** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Recent reports indicate a strategic shift toward directing massive investments, estimated at approximately USD 75.63 billion, into renewable energy projects through 2030. This staggering figure reflects a long-term vision aimed at reshaping the regional energy landscape, moving beyond the traditional reliance on fossil fuels toward a future defined by greater sustainability and economic resilience. This surge in investment extends beyond financial figures; it is taking tangible shape through a series of massive, high-impact projects.

“A prime example of this remarkable progress is the Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in the UAE, particularly its expansive fifth phase. The park serves as a cornerstone of the region’s commitment to achieving carbon neutrality and reducing harmful emissions, reinforcing the Middle East’s position as a key player in the future of the global energy landscape.

“In a related development, a report by the Energy Industries Council has revealed figures that further underscore

this trend, noting that total investments encompass approximately 116 renewable energy projects across the Middle East and Africa. These major projects are scheduled to come online between 2025 and 2030. This extensive portfolio encompasses a diverse range of projects, including solar power generation, onshore wind energy, and hydroelectric power. It also extends to promising technologies such as hydrogen production, carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), and geothermal energy, alongside advanced energy storage systems and battery technologies.

“Commenting on this rapidly evolving landscape, Ryan McPherson, Regional Director for the Middle East and Africa at the Energy Industries Council (EIC), noted that the Middle East is a pivotal region for the energy industry. He said, “The growing number of clean energy projects currently underway places the region at the forefront of global attention, making it a key player in the years ahead. At the Energy Industries Council, we are working tirelessly to support the region’s energy transition by providing comprehensive project data, reports, and industry events that help shape the future.”

“This growing momentum demonstrates that investment in renewable energy is no longer a luxury; it has become a strategic necessity, driven by the imperatives of sustainable development and energy security. As work on these ambitious projects continues, countries across the region are making steady progress toward building a sustainable green economy, one that supports a cleaner environment while ensuring secure and stable energy resources for future generations.”

□ □ □

“Privacy has long been a clear and well-defined concept. There were matters we considered personal, others we were willing to share, and information we expected institutions to keep to themselves,” social sciences researcher **Dr. Randa Diab Bahman** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

“Today, however, artificial intelligence is quietly disrupting this concept. Privacy, as we once understood it, is no longer simply about what others or institutions know about us. It has become far more complex as AI delves into the depths of our subconscious minds. In the past, residents of the Gulf region were hesitant to share even the most basic personal information, such as home addresses, phone numbers, or even family names, reflecting the cultural norms of a conservative and traditional society. Today, the sharing of sensitive and private information extends to deeper psychological aspects of our personalities, as people across the region increasingly share intimate details of their lives with various AI chatbots.

“The issue is no longer limited to who has access to our data; it also concerns what can be understood and inferred from that data to predict our future actions. We may not explicitly disclose a particular piece of information to a company, yet our online searches, purchases, movements, conversations, and behaviors can reveal patterns that allow systems to make highly accurate inferences about us.



Dr. Bahman

In other words, information no longer needs to be explicitly stated to become known or accessible to others. It is at this point that our traditional concept of privacy begins to appear outdated. We often assume that granting consent implies a clear understanding of what we are agreeing to. Yet how meaningful is such consent when even the organization collecting the data may not know what inferences future technologies could draw from it?

“Data collected for a specific purpose can acquire entirely new value when combined with other information or processed by increasingly sophisticated systems, often without clear limits or adequate oversight. Consequently, the fundamental question surrounding privacy has shifted. It is no longer merely about the legality of data collection, but about whether we retain any real agency or control over the inferences drawn from that data. In this context, the concept of privacy is evolving into something unprecedented.

“Artificial intelligence does not necessarily strip us of privacy; rather, it exposes how superficial our understanding of privacy may have been in the first place. As AI becomes increasingly embedded in the systems we use every day, privacy will depend on more than simply protecting information after it has been collected. It will increasingly hinge on understanding what technology can deduce from our everyday behaviors and whether individuals have practical means to challenge, limit, or even become aware of those inferences.

“We have spent years teaching people how to protect their passwords and personal information. Perhaps it is time to teach them something far more challenging, that in the age of artificial intelligence, what we explicitly reveal may be far less significant than what technology can infer.”

— Compiled by Simi K. Kutty



Farwaniya Governorate photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah receives Administrative Affairs Director at the Farwaniya Educational District Mahmoud Abdul-Redha.

Call for joint efforts to boost educational, admin services

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah had a meeting with Administrative Affairs Director at the Farwaniya Educational District Mahmoud Abdul-Redha in the headquarters of Farwaniya Governorate recently on the occasion of his assumption of his new position, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The governor warmly welcomed Abdul-Redha and wished him success in performing his duties. He stressed the need for continuous coordination between the governorate and educational district in improving educational and administrative ser-

vices and to meet the needs of students and staff.

He also stressed the importance of unified efforts among government entities to overcome challenges and raise service standards, considering the high population density in the governorate and the growing demand for the educational sector.

On the other hand, Abdul-Redha expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the governor for the warm reception and congratulations. He affirmed his commitment to strengthen coordination with the governorate to better serve the educational sector and the residents of the governorate.

Teenagers erupt in violent brawl at cafe in Abu Halifa

DCGD arrests 5 for drug; city groceries selling chewing tobacco

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: A gathering of three teenagers near a café in Abu Halifa turned violent after they became involved in an altercation with three unidentified individuals who approached them and directed offensive language at them, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The situation escalated into a six-person brawl, resulting in injuries, some of them serious, to the head, ear, face, and hand.

According to security sources, one of the young men, a 19-year-old Kuwaiti national, reported to security authorities that he and two others were near the café when they were suddenly confronted by three strangers who arrived in a gold-colored German-made vehicle.

The incident resulted in significant injuries, as documented in separate medical reports from the three young men detailing the extent of their injuries.

The report for the first complainant documented a laceration and a contusion to the head. The second victim, a 14-year-old juvenile, sustained multiple injuries, including a laceration and perforation of the left ear, along with facial scratches and bruising.

The third victim, a 13-year-old juvenile, pre-

sented a medical report indicating swelling in his right hand.

The three assailants fled the scene immediately after the incident.

The victims were unable to provide details about the attackers’ identities. The available information was limited to the number of assailants and a description of their vehicle, including its type, color, and country of manufacture.

After the statements of the injured parties were recorded and the medical reports attached to the official report, the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

The prosecution ordered the registration of an assault case and requested a police investigation to identify the three individuals involved and determine the circumstances and causes of the altercation.

□ □ □

Drugs found on 5 persons: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) apprehended five suspects in four separate cases and seized narcotics and psychotropic substances intended for trafficking and personal use, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The arrests are part of ongoing efforts to combat the trafficking of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances and apprehend those involved.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior explained that the operations resulted in the seizure of 5.1 kilograms of “Shabu” (crystal methamphetamine), 230 paper sheets infused with “Chemical” (synthetic cannabinoids), and a precision scale.

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

□ □ □

Chewing tobacco seized: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced the seizure of 25,000 units of chewing tobacco during an inspection tour conducted by the emergency team for the Capital and Hawally governorates (Shift A) at several grocery stores in the Capital Governorate, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The inspection tour was carried out as part of ongoing joint campaigns between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Interior.

The ministry stated that chewing tobacco is prohibited from import, display, marketing, or circulation under Ministerial Resolution No. 216/2014. Three violation reports were issued against the offenders and all necessary legal measures were taken.

Road closures in Qurtoba & Surra for ‘maintenance’

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Public Works announced traffic closures in Qurtoba and Surra to carry out asphalt laying and replacement works, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The ministry explained that the roundabout at the intersection of Street 100 and Street 110 in Qurtoba will be closed for asphalt laying from October 9 to October 14. The roundabout at the intersection of Street 120 and Street 130 in the same area will also be closed for asphalt laying, starting Wednesday, and continuing until October 15.

In Surra, Street 12 in Block 4 will be closed from Wednesday to Friday, October 16 to facilitate asphalt replacement works.

The Ministry of Public Works also announced the temporary closure of parts of Abdulaziz Bin Baz Street in Yarmouk to facilitate the installation of the surface asphalt layer, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The closure will remain in effect for 48 hours, beginning at 6:00 pm on Thursday and ending at 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 10.

The ministry explained that the closure will affect Abdulaziz Bin Baz Street (Street 10), extending from the roundabout after the exit of Street 3 in Block 4 toward the main cooperative society. It will also include the entrance to Al-Thaqib Street (Street 20) leading toward Road 55 (Airport Road), covering the section from Street 4 in Block 4 to the subsequent roundabout.

The Ministry of Public Works announced the temporary closure of parts of Abdulaziz Bin Baz Street in Yarmouk to facilitate the installation of the surface asphalt layer, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The closure will remain in effect for 48 hours, beginning at 6:00 pm on Thursday and ending at 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 10.

The ministry explained that the closure will affect Abdulaziz Bin Baz Street (Street 10), extending from the roundabout after the exit of Street 3 in Block 4 toward the main cooperative society. It will also include the entrance to Al-Thaqib Street (Street 20) leading toward Road 55 (Airport Road), covering the section from Street 4 in Block 4 to the subsequent roundabout.

KFF closes 23 facilities in Hawally

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in Hawally Governorate to identify buildings and facilities violating safety and fire prevention regulations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

In a press statement, KFF explained that the campaign resulted in the administrative closure of 23 facilities, the issuance of notices and warnings to 61 facilities, and 69 violation citations for non-compliance with KFF requirements.

On Tuesday evening, the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) conducted an inspection campaign in the Capital Governorate to identify buildings and facilities that violate safety and fire prevention regulations, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

22 workers injured in Abdali Road accident

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Twenty-two workers sustained various injuries and fractures after the bus transporting them collided with an earthen berm and a metal fence on Abdali Road. They were subsequently transported by ambulance to Jahra Hospital, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to security sources, the Ministry of Interior’s Operations Room received a report on Wednesday morning regarding an accident involving a bus carrying a number of workers on Abdali Road. Patrol units from the Rescue Police, Traffic Department, and Emergency Medical Services immediately responded to the scene.

It was determined that the bus, carrying 22 workers, had crashed into an earthen berm and a metal fence, resulting in injuries to the passengers. All 22 injured individuals were transported by ambulance to Jahra Hospital.

The injured were initially admitted to medical observation units for monitoring and necessary care; however, three workers required admission to a hospital ward due to injuries described as serious.

The project manager arrived at the scene alongside traffic and rescue personnel, who managed the incident and regulated traffic flow.

Meanwhile, the necessary measures were taken to investigate the circumstances and causes of the accident.

□ □ □

The Ministry of Public Works announced the temporary closure of parts of Abdulaziz Bin Baz Street in Yarmouk to facilitate the installation of the surface asphalt layer, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The closure will remain in effect for 48 hours, beginning at 6:00 pm on Thursday and ending at 6:00 pm on Saturday, October 10.

The ministry explained that the closure will affect Abdulaziz Bin Baz Street (Street 10), extending from the roundabout after the exit of Street 3 in Block 4 toward the main cooperative society. It will also include the entrance to Al-Thaqib Street (Street 20) leading toward Road 55 (Airport Road), covering the section from Street 4 in Block 4 to the subsequent roundabout.

MUGHAL MAHAL

مغل محل

Since 1985

Elsewhere, rarity costs more.
Here, it costs less,
until the last voucher.

EXPERIENCE IT,
FEEL THE THRILL

DINE-IN VOUCHER

DINE FOR KD 10

PAY ONLY KD 8.750

DINE-IN VOUCHER

DINE FOR KD 20

PAY ONLY KD 16.950

DINE-IN VOUCHER

DINE FOR KD 30

PAY ONLY KD 23.950

www.mughalmahal.com

1800 188

@mughalmahalkuwait

Housing need records surge

Clear backlog: PAHW

By Najeh Bilal
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Data released by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) revealed that 63,554 new housing applications were submitted from 2017 to 2026, increasing the total backlog of applications to 108,086.

This puts mounting pressure on the state to accelerate implementation and balance housing supply and demand. A housing sector source explained to the newspaper that the worsening housing crisis and the accumulation of applications are due to the rapid population growth and rising marriage rates among young people, and slow pace in releasing

residential-ready land. Regarding obstacles to resolving the housing crisis, the source indicated that the biggest challenges include the continuous rise in construction material costs and labor wages. He pointed out that the authority bears the brunt of addressing this problem by focusing on developing new cities and preparing essential infrastructure, such as electricity grids, roads and public buildings, as well as adopting the distribution-on-plan mechanism to reduce long waiting periods for eligible citizens. He asserted that a radical and comprehensive solution to the crisis requires shifting toward non-traditional approaches like activating mortgage laws to alleviate financial pressure on the state treasury, immediate release of land, adoption of smart construction solutions and urban sustainability.

MEWRE hosts ‘Be Aware’ lectures

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy is hosted a series of awareness lectures titled, “Be Aware”, on Oct 4-6 at the Electrical Distribution Networks Sector Training Center. Eng Abdulaziz Al-Qanaei conducted the lectures, which proved the dedication of the ministry to raise the awareness of employees, expand their knowledge, and promote safe and responsible practices when handling electrical appliances and water systems. The main objective of these lectures is to educate employees on the guidelines

Awqaf launches contest to recite, memorize Qur’an

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Secretariat General of Awqaf announced the launching of the 29th Kuwait Grand Competition for Memorizing and Reciting the Holy Quran. Speaking at a press conference in the headquarters of the Secretariat General, acting Secretary General Eng. Nasser Al-Khader pointed out that the competition holds a cherished status. Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the event reaffirms the commitment of the Secretariat to fully support the memorization of the Holy Quran and encourage the children of Kuwait to memorize and master its recitation. He underscored the link it creates between the intentions of ‘waqf’ (endowment) donors and the needs of society, as well as the opportunities it provides to encourage Kuwaiti youths to maintain a close bond with the Holy Quran. He confirmed that the dedication of the Secretariat to the Holy Quran and its sciences lies at the core of its endowment mission, stressing the vital role played by the Endowment Fund for the Holy Quran and its Sciences in translating this commitment into beneficial initiatives that serve the community. He expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his support and care for those who memorize the Holy Quran. He also acknowledged the support of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs minister who also chairs the Awqaf Affairs Council, and commended the efforts of the endowment donors, the permanent and preparatory committees, all participating entities and the organizers of the competition. On the other hand, Hanan Yousef Ali, acting Deputy Secretary General for Resource Development and Endowment Disbursements at the Secretariat General of Awqaf, affirmed the commitment to support initiatives and projects that serve the Holy Quran, promote its culture, and strengthen its presence in society. He clarified that this commitment is in line with the mission of the Secretariat General to serve the endowment sector and expand its scope, based on the principle that investing in the Holy Quran and those dedicated to it is an investment in the individual and society. She invited the sons and daughters of Kuwait to participate and benefit from this event, stating that registration is open until the Oct 29, wishing success for the participants. Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Enezi, Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Committee for the Kuwait Grand Competition for Quran Memorization and Recitation, asserted that the competition is a steadfast spiritual milestone in the ongoing effort to serve the Holy Quran. He said the 29th edition is a continuation of the legacy established 29 years ago under the patronage of the rulers of Kuwait. Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Enezi, who also serves as Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Committee for the Kuwait Grand Competition for Quran Memorization and Recitation, revealed that the 29th edition introduces new categories, such as the 15-Juz category in the Al-Khair wal-Baraka (Goodness and Blessing) competition and the expansion of categories for correctional institutions to cover the full 30 Juz. He added that the ‘Tajweed’ (recitation rules) questions were revamped to focus on application and performance, eliminating the theoretical questions.

‘Reconnaissance Research’ wishes Alotaibi all success

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Abdulaziz Alotaibi, a PhD candidate at the University of Pennsylvania and Director of the Political Affairs Unit at Reconnaissance Research, has joined the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies as an Academic Visitor under the Kuwait Fellowship for the 2026–2027 academic year. During the fellowship, Alotaibi will devote his time to research in Oxford while participating in the academic life and seminars of the Centre and the University. He will also present his research through the Centre’s Fellows’ Seminar and relevant University departments, including Politics and Middle Eastern Studies. Alotaibi’s research focuses on early Islamic political thought, alongside his doctoral work in political science at the University of Pennsylvania. His research in Oxford will draw on Arabic and Persian manuscript collections held at the Bodleian Library and the Centre’s Kuwait Library. The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies hosts a limited number of fellows and academic visitors from around the world each year. The Kuwait Fellowship pro-



Abdulaziz Alotaibi

gramme is conducted in cooperation with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, as part of Kuwait’s institutional relationship with the Centre dating back to its establishment in 1985. Reconnaissance Research wishes Alotaibi every success in his fellowship and continued academic work at Oxford.

Power disconnected in four bachelor accommodations

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Municipality, in cooperation with other concerned authorities, disconnected electricity from four properties in the Capital Governorate for violating the bachelor housing regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily. Ghanem Al-Shammari, head of the inspection team in the Capital Governorate branch of the Municipality, confirmed that the Municipality continues to take measures against violators and monitor compliance with bachelor housing regulations. He revealed that the team found several homes in private residential areas occupied by bachelors and issued warn-

ings to the owners to rectify the violations, but their lack of response led to the power disconnection decision. He said the inspection campaign also resulted in the issuance of two violation citations and nine warnings to non-compliant sites in Doha and Sulaibikhat, stressing that more measures will be taken if the violation continues. He then commended the Ministry of Interior for securing the sites where the power disconnection operation was carried out, and the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for finalizing the procedures.

Ruling reversed ... 10 years jail, KD 9 mn fine in embezzlement

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Court of Appeals, led by Judge Abdullah Al-Sanea, with Judges Saud Al-Mutairi and Bassam Al-Ghuwainem as members, reversed the acquittal of three defendants in an embezzlement case, reports Al-Seyassah daily. Each defendant was sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined KD9 million and required to pay KD4.5 million, while two of the defendants were dismissed from their jobs. This case involves the funds of a company, in which the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA) owns 39.234 percent shares. The Public Prosecution charged two defendants, who held positions similar to public officials, with misusing their authority in the company. They allegedly harmed the interests of the company for personal benefit, while the other defendant was accused of being an accomplice. In 2017, two of the defendants allegedly entered into a contract to acquire a piece

of land in the United Kingdom. A total of KD4,537,749 was disbursed from the funds of the company even if the other party to the contract did not actually own the property in question. Records indicate that a document was submitted to the Board of Directors of the company, affirming that the land was registered as an asset owned by a subsidiary created in London. However, investigations revealed that another entity owned the property, while the company, which purportedly held the title, was not officially incorporated when the initial sales contract was signed, as it was formed two days later. The documents also unveiled connections between the property-owning company, brokerage firm, and two of the defendants. The prosecution accused one defendant of forging the document presented to the Board of Directors.





albander
البندر
Hotel & Resort

WEEKDAYS (Saturday-Wednesday)	Price
One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast	BD 38.115 / Net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD 85.124 / Net
WEEKENDS (Thursday-Friday)	Price
One night stay in a Queen Bed Cabana for 2 persons with inclusive of Breakfast	BD 46 / Net
One night stay in a Two Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Breakfast	BD 102.148 / Net

Terms & conditions apply

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

Other Voices

No family is immune to this scourge

By Ahmad alsarraf

HEATHER Knight wrote - It was a tense Tuesday morning in San Francisco when Christina Lacourt went to her son’s bedroom to wake him for school. The door was locked, but she forced it open. Inside, she saw her son lying on his bed, his face bluish and veins bulging. A black fluid oozed from his nose and mouth onto the bedsheets. She quickly retrieved two doses of Narcan, which she kept in a kitchen drawer just in case, for the very moment she had always dreaded. However, the drug did not revive him. She wept in anguish and screamed in despair as she called 911. Her normally charming apartment was transformed into a gray, hazy scene filled with paramedics, police officers, and forensic experts. She watched in agonizing pain as her son’s body was carried away in a plastic bag for an autopsy. She was certain her son had died from the narcotic fentanyl, but the autopsy report made no mention of it. Instead, it contained a completely new word - Cyclophane. It was the first time the substance had appeared in a San Francisco coroner’s report. Research revealed that the previously unknown drug that killed her son, as police later confirmed at a press conference, was a synthetic opioid far more lethal than fentanyl, which was still claiming dozens of lives in the city every month. Cyclophane is part of a new class of deadly drugs flooding the illicit drug market and unsettling cities that are only beginning to grapple with the fentanyl crisis. Its latest victim was the beautiful American singer and actress Hayden Pantry, 36. Cyclophane can be manufactured by amateur chemists almost anywhere. Its effects on the human body are notoriously difficult to reverse or counteract. Experts indicate that cyclophane is ten times more potent than fentanyl. Test strips can detect fentanyl but cannot detect cyclophane. An overdose of this new drug may require multiple doses of the overdose-reversal medication Narcan. Most people carry only one or two doses at a time. This drug has appeared in Europe and on the East Coast of the United States over the past two years, and its presence is spreading like an octopus’s tentacles. Undoubtedly, the emergence of this deadly and difficult-to-treat narcotic is a major concern for security authorities in any country, especially those where young people have ample means, such as Kuwait. These drugs are easy to manufacture, smuggle, and distribute, while the enormous profits drive many smugglers to risk their lives to distribute them. Therefore, it is unfair to leave the task of combating these drugs solely to security authorities; we must all share in their concerns. This requires the cooperation of every family, including reporting cases of addiction so that treatment does not arrive too late. The tireless efforts of our anti-drug heroes, who work day and night, deserve our utmost praise. They also need our support and gratitude. We live in a world that grows more dangerous every day. No family is immune to the threat of new and deadly drugs. This scourge can strike even those who believe themselves to be safe or immune.

email: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Mosque beauty and craftsmanship take center stage

Kuwait PM Representative opens exhibition on Islamic architecture

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar opened Wednesday an exhibition at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah on the beauty of mosques.

Minister Al-Omar said during his opening speech that Islamic history has always conjoined the beauty of craftsmanship with mosques through excellent construction and architecture, and that over the ages, mosques have come to be oases of tranquility reflecting the purity of faith.

He added that what makes this exhibition special is that it is began from questions and curiosity of children when they admired the beauty of mosques and asked how these works were made and why so much effort was put into perfecting them.

For her part, exhibition coordinator Eng. Maha Al-Issa said that the goal of the exhibition was to give space for children to ask questions, research, and explore the beauty in mosques.

CEO of Shell Kuwait Anwar Al-Mutlaq said that the concept of excellence represents a deep human value that goes beyond art and architecture, reflecting the pursuit of perfection and giving the best towards serving the community.

In a similar speech, CEO of Kuwait Finance House Group Khaled Al-Shamlan emphasized the importance of Islamic values that KFH is keen to embody in its work, partnerships, and sustainable initiatives.

The exhibition, held under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister, is organized at the Ameri-cani Cultural Centre and will start welcoming visitors from Thursday.



Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Al-Omar



Eng. Maha Al-Issa



Anwar Al-Mutlaq



A section of attendees.



KUNA photos
Minister Omar Al-Omar during a tour of the exhibition.

Kuwait rejects use of territory for attacks

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait reiterated early Thursday that it would not be a party in any international or regional conflict.

This came in the Kuwaiti speech delivered by Second Secretary of Kuwait's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Wafiqah Al-Mulla before the third committee of the UN General Assembly tasked with humanitarian, cultural and social affairs.

Al-Mulla reaffirmed that Kuwait would also not al-



Al-Mulla

low the use of its territory to launch attacks against any state, out of its unwavering commitment to the principles of UN Charter and good-neighborliness.

In addition, Kuwait refrains from interfering in the domestic affairs of countries and respects their sovereignty and territorial integrity, Al-Mulla noted.

Enhancing and preserving human rights could not be achieved away from respecting the sovereignty of countries and their territorial integrity, she said.

Al-Mulla further highlighted the series of Iran's attacks against Kuwait since February 28 that included civilian objects, vital facilities and main infrastructure.

These attacks jeopardized the lives of citizens and residents and flagrantly violated the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and airspace, she elaborated.

She referred to the UN Security Council Resolution 2817 of 2026, expressing Kuwait's categorical rejection of Iran's attempts to justify these assaults, based on the UN Charter provisions, especially Article 51.

She affirmed that claiming self-defense cannot justify the targeting of civilian facilities and vital infrastructure.

The Kuwaiti official reaffirmed that Iran is internationally responsible for its attacks against Kuwait and their repercussions, as well as all material and moral damages caused since February 28.

Concluding her speech, Al-Mulla reiterated Kuwait's firm commitment to boosting and protecting human rights.

Kuwait's industrial sector gains spotlight in Bahrain

MANAMA, Oct 8, (KUNA): Amongst other Gulf pavilions partaking in the "Made in the

Gulf" exhibition in Bahrain, the Kuwaiti pavilion draws much attention thanks to the diversity of its products and the wide range of sectors of participating national factories.

The pavilion, thus, gives a vivid picture of the evolution of Kuwaiti industry, displaying products that reflect a distinct national identity while aspiring to gain access to broader markets.

Products from 14 Kuwaiti factories representing various industrial activities and sectors are put on display at the pavilion, signaling broad local production and diverse industries shaping Kuwait's industrial landscape.



KUNA photos
Kuwait's pavilion showcases products from 14 national factories representing a diverse range of industrial sectors at the "Made in the Gulf" exhibition in Bahrain.

Kuwait eyes

The "Etimad" portal serves to consolidate procurement procedures, expedite financial disbursements, improve oversight, and expand opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Dr. Rana Al-Fares also held talks Wednesday in Riyadh with President of the Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Mazin Al-Kahmous to strengthen bilateral anti-corruption cooperation.

Al-Fares stated that the discussions served to activate the 2022 memorandum of understanding between the two agencies, transitioning institutional agreements into practical exchanges of expertise in oversight, investigation, accountability, asset recovery, and the protection of public funds.

"Combating corruption goes beyond prevention and awareness-raising; it requires an integrated system equipped with the necessary tools for detection, inquiry, and accountability," Al-Fares emphasized, praising the Saudi authority's tangible results in asset recovery and prosecution.

Nazaha Vice Chairman Dr. Majed Al-Daihani noted that the visit aimed to study advanced regional models to adapt high-impact practices to Kuwait's legal and legislative framework.

The delegation led by Al-Fares included senior Nazaha leadership who reviewed Saudi operational mechanisms and explored technical alignment across investigation and financial oversight sectors.

Bar draws

Legal issues must be presented in an impartial and balanced manner, and legal concepts and terminologies should be understandable for the public.

The document emphasized the need to comply with publication regulations, maintain national unity, and safeguard data, privacy and rights of others.

It stressed the significance of preserving the professional identity of a lawyer, differentiate between personal and professional legal opinions, refrain from using cases for self-promotional gain at the expense of professional standards, and uphold respectful disagreement and dialogue.

The guide strengthened the professional responsibility of lawyers in the media and digital domains by requiring the disclosure of the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence tools in content creation,

as well as accountability for reposting and online interactions.

Kuwait's weekend

Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 40 and 42 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves ranging from 1 to 4 feet.

Saturday night will be warm to moderate and partly cloudy, with northwesterly to variable winds that will be light to moderate at speeds of 8 to 28 kilometers per hour. Minimum temperatures will range between 24 and 26 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions will be light to moderate, with waves ranging from 1 to 3 feet.

Region on

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen claimed responsibility for the new attack on King Khalid International Airport, saying the ballistic missile caused damage but giving no evidence. The Saudis had no immediate comment about the claim.

Saudi Civil Defense announced on Thursday that falling debris from an intercepted and destroyed ballistic missile caused material damage to a kindergarten and a medical clinic complex in Riyadh.

The Civil Defense spokesperson said that teams in Riyadh responded to the incident launched by the "terrorist" Houthi militia, adding that standard procedures for such situations were carried out.

Earlier Thursday, the official spokesperson for the Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen Maj. Gen. Turki Al-Malki announced the interception and destruction of two ballistic missiles launched by the Houthi militia toward Riyadh.

The Houthis have repeatedly claimed attacks against Saudi airports, military and oil facilities in recent days. Early Thursday, the rebels warned global airlines "for the last time" about the potential consequences of operating in Saudi airspace, which it called a theater for its military operations.

In their new statement, the Houthis also warned people in Saudi Arabia to stay away from oil facilities that "represent targets for our forces" as the rebels press a blockade they recently imposed against the world's top oil exporter.

King Khalid International Airport "closed again," the Flightradar24 monitor said Thursday afternoon

on X not long after the blasts. "Last landing 80+ minutes ago. Last take off 90+ minutes ago."

Fire and ambulance crews deployed and smoke was visible, the witness said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The witness said outgoing flights were halted and passengers were instructed to leave checked-in luggage behind and evacuate. It was not immediately clear how many flights were disrupted.

On Wednesday, Saudi officials said attacks on the Riyadh and Abha airports claimed by the Houthis had killed three people - the first deaths since Saudi Arabia and allied Yemeni forces launched a major ground and air offensive against the rebels.

The offensive is aimed at retaking territory that the Houthis seized a month ago along Yemen's western Red Sea coast and on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The rebels' presence on the Bab el-Mandeb poses a threat to the crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, where traffic has been curtailed due to Iran's attacks on ships.

The deadly attacks in Saudi Arabia brought condemnation from countries including Britain, India, the United Arab Emirates and others amid fears of an escalation.

Also Wednesday, the spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition said forces destroyed a platform in Yemen's rebel-held capital of Sanaa that had been used to launch attacks on the Saudi capital. The AP could not independently verify these claims.

Turkey and Pakistan are assessing possible air defense, electronic warfare and technical assistance for Saudi Arabia under a trilateral agreement, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said, while stressing that the deal is defensive, not offensive.

"Turkey will not be sending troops into another country's territory to carry out an attack," he said, adding that Ankara was trying to resolve the issue through diplomacy.

Saudi Arabia has sought support from allies, including the United States, in the face of the Houthis' attacks.

Pakistan's Information Ministry on Thursday said relevant authorities would provide details of any military involvement if necessary.

The United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and the United Kingdom have issued strong condemnations following Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia's Abha International Airport and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which resulted in multiple casualties.

Continued from Page 1

Trump interrupted by protesters in Texas

As Dems eye big midterm wins, GOP looks to turn tables in some House districts

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): The midterm elections might look ominous for President Donald Trump, but there are places where his Republican Party could turn the tables on Democrats if it can peel off a few key wins in key congressional races.

National organizations are pumping money behind candidates that Republicans hope can provide bright spots. Here's a look at places where that cash bump - and prime issues like redistricting, immigration and top-of-the-ticket races - might help the party hold their own on Election Night on Nov. 3.

It still won't be enough, counters Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee spokesman Aidan Johnson, who says his party remains "firmly on offense and on track to take back" the House majority.

The race in the state's first district has no incumbent as Democratic Rep. Chris Pappas runs for Senate against John E. Sununu, a former Republican congressman who served a single term as senator from 2003 to 2009.

Stefany Shaheen, a former Portsmouth city councilor and daughter of retiring Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, won a hotly contested Democratic primary. She's facing Anthony DiLorenzo, who was endorsed by Trump and owns several car dealerships.

The seat used to frequently flip between parties, but has remained blue since Pappas first got to Congress in 2019, and the district narrowly supported Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris over Trump in 2024.

Shaheen has focused on the rising cost of health care and opposing Trump's tariffs and trade wars, which she says have hurt New Hampshire consumers.

DiLorenzo has taken a more moderate stance on immigration than Trump, calling for pro-business reforms to the federal system. But he's also echoed the president's saying that Democrats want to push the U.S. toward outright socialism.

Last year, Republican Jay Ruais,



US President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio on Oct 7. (AP)

the mayor of the district's largest city of Manchester, was reelected with around 59% of the vote.

Republicans are also looking for a boost from the Senate race. No Go-

bank at the end of July.

First-term Democratic Rep. Laura Gillen is facing Republican Jeanine Driscoll, a tax receiver in Hempstead in New York's fourth district, which includes Nassau County and runs east of Manhattan, hugging Long Island's south shore.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman is considered an underdog against incumbent Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul in a statewide race in reliably blue New York. But Blakeman is the Nassau County executive, meaning he may see strong turnout on his home turf and potentially affect Driscoll's chances against Gillen.

In 2024, Trump nearly carried the district after losing it by well over 10 points in 2020.

While Gillen has stressed sometimes working with Republicans to address key issues like the rising cost of living, Driscoll has championed Trump's immigration policies while promising to better shield suburban

Long Island from regional and statewide policies she criticizes as government overreach.

Also:

SAN ANTONIO: US President **Donald Trump**, facing protesters and a poor political climate, fought to rally Texas voters behind Senate candidate **Ken Paxton** on Wednesday night in a bid to stave off sweeping Democratic victories in the nation's most populous red state.

But Trump's remarks were not focused solely on Paxton.

Speaking to a packed Freeman Coliseum, Trump also pledged to award retired baseball star **Roger Clemens** the Presidential Medal of Freedom, restated his support for the death penalty for drug dealers and clarified recent comments in which he talked about the possibility of Iran bombing American cities as part of a recurring riff about how high fuel costs are "a small price to pay" for the war.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters extinguish a burning bus after a Russian attack in Kramatorsk, Ukraine on Oct 8. (AP)

Russian strikes on Ukrainian public bus kill 30

Thirty people were killed and at least 18 were injured by Russian strikes in eastern Ukraine that included an attack on a public bus, authorities said Thursday, as an intensive pre-winter wave of attacks continued and power outages worsened in the capital Kyiv.

Vadym Filashkin, head of the regional military administration, said public transport in Kramatorsk and the neighboring city of Sloviansk, in Ukraine's Donetsk region, was halted because of the sharp deterioration in security.

He accused Russia of deliberately targeting civilians, adding: "In such circumstances, we have no right to risk the lives of passengers and drivers. The safety of residents of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk is above all." (AP)

Thousands protest in India as 'Cockroach' movement demands election chief resignation

BENGALURU, India, Oct 8, (Agencies): Thousands of supporters of India's youth "Cockroach" movement and several student groups demonstrated in the southern city of Bengaluru on Thursday, stepping up a nationwide campaign that is demanding the election chief's resignation over a revision of voter lists that has removed over 130 million people from the rolls.

The demonstration in Bengaluru came a day after opposition leader Rahul Gandhi was briefly detained by police at a protest in New Delhi. Dramatic images of police dragging Gandhi into a vehicle spread widely on social media, adding momentum to the protests calling for the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Gandhi's Congress party has called for more protests in New Delhi later Thursday.

The nationwide voter list review, known as the Special Intensive Revision, has been carried out in most of India's states and federally administered territories. More than 130 million names have been removed so far,



India's opposition Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, (top left), and his sister, fellow lawmaker Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, (center), wave to party workers from a bus as they leave for a march demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi, India on Oct 8. (AP)

a number larger than the populations of countries like Japan and Mexico. Millions of people have appealed the deletions.

The opposition says the removals

Election Commission and the government reject the allegations, saying the revision is aimed at removing duplicate and ineligible entries.

Those whose names have been struck off the list can appeal, but getting back on the rolls can be difficult. Critics say the requirements are confusing and some people may not have required documents such as older government records.

The anger intensified last month following an investigation by the Indian Express newspaper that found two election commissioners had raised concerns about the process.

The campaign has been led in part by the "Cockroach" movement, which began as an online youth campaign in May and has since organized street protests across the country. Its earlier nationwide demonstrations, sit-ins and hunger strikes over exam paper leaks led to the resignation of Modi's education minister in July.

Protesters are demanding Kumar's resignation and an end to the removals, warning that they could disenfranchise millions more voters.

Brazilian students in Rio de Janeiro march against Flavio Bolsonaro

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 8, (AP): Thousands of Brazilian students marched in downtown Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday to protest against the possibility of Flávio Bolsonaro winning the presidency, after the far-right candidate received more votes than incumbent and left-leaning Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in the first round of Brazil's presidential election.

A sea of red-clad demonstrators made their way between two historical squares in Rio's center, chanting and holding signs referencing Brazil's sovereignty and democracy in the South American country, which they said were under threat.

"We're fighting for Brazil, not for Lula," said Talita Amaral, a 19-year-old environmental science student at a nearby university. She was wearing Brazil's yellow and green soccer jersey, often worn by supporters of Bolsonaro, which she said was a gesture aimed at reclaiming the national colors.

"We don't have time to be sad, we need to be doing this, occupying the streets, sending messages in What-



Students march to defend public education and support Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is running for a fourth term, ahead of the presidential runoff election in Rio de Janeiro on Oct 7. (AP)

sApp groups, trying to convince people," Amaral said, as the chant "Olé olé olé ola, Lula Lula" rang out across Cinelândia square.

Neither Flávio Bolsonaro, the son of former President Jair Bolsonaro who is serving a 27-year sentence for attempting a coup, nor Lula received more than the required 50% of the vote needed to become Brazil's leader on Sunday. Therefore, they will face each other in an unpredictable runoff on Oct 25.

Asia

S.Korea to recall its envoy to Ukraine: South Korea said Thursday it will recall its ambassador to Ukraine, stepping up its protest against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent revelation of a supposedly secret transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea.

The South Korean announcement came days after its President Lee Jae Myung threatened to take unspecified punitive steps if Ukraine refuses to apologize over the revelation.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry didn't say when the ambassador, Park Hee-chang, will be brought back home. A ministry statement said that South Korea will continue consultations with Ukraine, adding it hopes the dispute between the two countries would be resolved smoothly. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Police unit to begin patrolling Sydney: Heavily armed police will be deployed across Sydney ahead of a rapid response unit established in the wake of the Bondi Beach terror attack becoming fully operational.

The government of the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) on Thursday said that officers from the state police force's new Armed Response Command (ARC) will begin patrolling Sydney over the coming weeks as the unit's training moves into realistic environments.

The ARC was established as a permanent unit by the state government following the fatal mass shooting of 15 people at a Jewish holiday celebration at Bondi Beach in December last year. (Xinhua)

Africa

Nigeria troops kill over 25 ISWAP terrorists: Nigerian troops killed more than 25 suspected members of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorist group while repelling a coordinated multi-directional attack on special forces in the country's northeastern Borno State, the military said Wednesday.

Mohammed Goni, spokesman for the military-led joint task force for Operation Hadin Kai in northeastern Nigeria, said in a statement that the suspected terrorists attacked troops of the 101 Special Forces Battalion from four directions in the Kukawa area of the state but met stiff resistance Tuesday. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

10 dead in S.Africa minibus taxi crash: At least 10 people were killed on Wednesday evening when a minibus taxi lost control and crashed into a tree in Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal province, local authorities confirmed.

Siboniso Duma, the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Transport and Human Settlements in KwaZulu-Natal, reported that the driver lost control while navigating a bend, causing the vehicle to veer off the road and strike a tree. Duma extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. (Xinhua)

The tragedy marks the second mass-fatality road incident in the province in a week. On Sept. 30, 13 people died when a minibus taxi collided head-on with a truck in Mtubatuba. (Xinhua)

Oil price up 41 cents to \$103.21 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil rose 41 cents to USD 103.21 per barrel (pb) in Wednesday’s trading, compared to USD 102.8 pb in Tuesday’s trading, according to Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

(KPC) on Thursday. In global markets, Brent crude fell 38 cents to USD 100.2 pb, while US West Texas Intermediate fell by USD 1.16 to USD 88.28 pb.

Business

For the second time, Zain Kuwait receives regional recognition at a GCC General Secretariat ceremony

Zain earns GCC recognition for turning community partnerships into sustainable impact

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Zain Kuwait has further strengthened its standing as a regional leader in sustainability and social impact, earning a new GCC recognition for its approach to creating long-term value through enduring community partnerships. The recognition was presented during the ceremony honoring leading projects and individuals in civil service, labor, and social affairs across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

The prestigious regional recognition was presented on the sidelines of the 12th meeting of the GCC Committee of Ministers of Social Affairs and Development, in the presence of H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain; H.E. Jassem Mohamed Albadaivi, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council; H.E. Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs; H.E. Jassem Al-Najem, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Kingdom of Bahrain; Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al-Khashti; and Kuwait Dive Team President Waleed Al-Fadhel, alongside GCC ministers responsible for civil service, labor, social affairs, and social development, as well as senior officials and dignitaries.

Zain received the recognition for its ‘Strategic Partnership for the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Marine Environment with the Kuwait Dive Team’, which was selected among the leading social work projects representing the GCC private sector. The recognition acknowledges the success of one of Kuwait and the region’s longest-running community and environmental partnerships.

The selection highlights the strength of a partnership model that has, over decades, brought together private-sector capabilities and specialized environmental volunteer expertise to protect Kuwait’s marine environment and natural resources. It also demonstrates how structured institutional collaboration can generate sustainable outcomes that extend well beyond the immediate impact of individual initiatives.

The recognition marks the culmination of more than 28 years of collaboration between Zain and the Kuwait Dive Team. Over that period, marine conservation efforts have evolved from individual field initiatives into an integrated institutional model combining specialized volunteer work, community awareness, youth empowerment, and



Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and Jassem Albadaivi present Zain’s recognition to Waleed Al-Khashti.



The recognition marks the culmination of more than 28 years of collaboration between Zain and the Kuwait Dive Team.



Dr. Amthal Al-Huwaila with Ambassador Jassem Al-Najem, Ministry officials, Waleed Al-Khashti, and Waleed Al-Fadhel.

sustained operational and field support.

It also reflects the evolving role of the private sector, which today extends beyond sponsorship and financial support to becoming an active partner in advancing sustainable development. By leveraging institutional expertise, capabilities, and communication platforms, companies can help specialized initiatives grow, expand their reach,

and deliver greater social and environmental impact.

This achievement embodies Zain’s approach to building long-term strategic partnerships centered on sustainability and measurable impact. The company believes that meaningful investment in society comes through initiatives capable of creating lasting change for people, the environ-

ment, and future generations.

The latest recognition also builds on Zain’s track record of GCC-level recognition for its community initiatives. In 2024, the company was honored in Doha for its annual Ramadan campaign, Zain Alshuhoor, which was selected among the leading social work projects representing Kuwait’s private sector during the 13th ceremony honoring leading social work

projects, held on the sidelines of the 10th meeting of the GCC Committee of Ministers of Social Affairs and Development.

Zain views corporate responsibility as an integral part of its institutional approach, investing in sustainable partnerships and initiatives that go beyond short-term impact to create long-term

value for society and the environment, while supporting national priorities in sustainability, natural resource protection, and the empowerment of future generations.

The strategic partnership between Zain and the Kuwait Dive Team spans more than 28 years. During this period, Zain has supported the team’s operations by providing four fully equipped boats, the latest in 2023. The partnership has contributed to hundreds of environmental missions, the removal of thousands of tons of harmful waste, and the protection of tens of thousands of marine organisms.

The team’s year-round operations include installing and maintaining environmentally friendly marine moorings around coral reef areas, monitoring reef health and reporting findings to relevant authorities, cleaning islands and beaches, removing fishing nets, waste, and marine debris, protecting seabeds and navigation channels from pollution, and documenting Kuwait’s marine environment for scientific and educational purposes.

The partnership’s impact extends beyond marine operations. Zain leverages its media and digital channels, together with its network of partners, to promote environmental awareness, highlight the efforts of volunteers, and encourage greater youth participation. Students, young people, and volunteers are also engaged in field initiatives that help instill environmental responsibility, teamwork, and sustainability from an early age.

The project also demonstrates how volunteerism and innovation can work together. Zain has introduced technology-driven solutions into its environmental efforts, including the BeBot beach-cleaning robot, which sifts sand, collects buried waste and seaweed, and levels beach areas. Powered by electricity generated through solar panels, the solution helps improve the efficiency of beach-cleaning operations while reducing their environmental footprint.

These efforts form part of Zain’s broader approach to linking corporate growth with long-term positive impact on society and the environment. Environmental protection, youth empowerment, support for local partnerships, and reducing the company’s carbon footprint remain key priorities, in line with Zain’s ambition to achieve net zero by 2050 and its corporate purpose, “Better Lives. Lasting Connections.”

General index slips 0.40%

Boursa Kuwait closes lower

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait ended Thursday’s session in negative territory, with the general index falling 34.79 points, or 0.40 percent, to 8,632.71 points. Total turnover reached 282.8 million shares across 21,111 cash transactions, valued at KD 84.3 million (about USD 259.6 million).

The main market index led the decline, dropping 58.50 points, or 0.66 percent, to 8,860.03 points. Trading on the main market totaled 136.14 million shares in 11,063 deals, worth KD 25.7 million (around USD 79.15

million).

The premier market index also eased, down 31.55 points, or 0.35 percent, to 9,032.36 points. Volume on the premier market stood at 146.7 million shares executed in 10,048 transactions, valued at KD 58.6 million (approximately USD 180.4 million).

In contrast, the Main 50 Index advanced 27.52 points, or 0.27 percent, to close at 10,084.29 points. Turnover in the Main 50 reached 117.8 million shares across 8,935 deals, totaling KD 22.3 million (about USD 68.6 million).

WTO raises merchandise trade growth forecast to 3.9% as AI boom offsets hit from Middle East

GENEVA, Oct 8, (AP): The World Trade Organization is sharply increasing its forecast for merchandise trade growth worldwide this year, more than doubling its prediction to 3.9% as booming AI investments offset a hit from war in the Middle East.

The Geneva-based trade body says global trade chugged along at a hearty pace, as supply chains adapted and AI-related spending poured into to provide “a powerful boost to goods trade.”

The revised forecast marks a big jump from an initial WTO forecast in this spring for 1.9% growth for merchandise trade growth - the figure excludes services trade. The trade body forecast

growth next year of 4.1% - up from 2.9% predicted in March.

“The revision reflects evidence that global supply chains adapted to disruptions in energy and fertilizer markets, while strong investment in AI-related infrastructure boosted trade in AI-enabling goods,” WTO said. Trade of oil and gas and fertilizer through the Persian Gulf was shaken after the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran began in February.

WTO said merchandise trade grew 3.5% in the first half of the year, powered by the artificial intelligence market.

“Demand for AI-enabling goods such as semiconductors and servers accounted for 47% of

global merchandise trade growth in the first half of 2026, and trade in these products rose by 67% year-on-year, accelerating from the already rapid expansion seen in 2024 and 2025,” WTO said.

Liquefied natural gas exports from the Middle East fell by 47% in the first half of the year, while crude oil exports dropped by nearly a quarter, WTO said. But shipments from other suppliers helped limit the decline to roughly 1% for LNG and about 6% for crude.

WTO said it expects global GDP to grow 2.6% this year and 2.9% in 2027, even though it predicted that the Middle East conflict will continue to weigh on trade through higher energy prices and transport route disruptions.

Trade jumps to \$279 mln in 2024

KCCI, Slovak delegation discuss boosting trade & investment ties

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Wednesday discussed ways to strengthen economic and investment relations between Kuwait and the Slovak Republic.

This is part of the meeting between the business communities of both nations, with the high-level Slovak economic delegation led by Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blanár in attendance.

The delegation comprised 12 members representing different Slovak companies and economic sectors.

Feras Al-Ouda, Assistant Director General of KCCI, affirmed that the meeting is vital to advancing economic relations between the two countries and identifying new opportunities to boost trade and investment.

Al-Ouda stated that the meeting is as an opportunity to connect the business communities of Kuwait and Slovakia and explore new avenues for cooperation.

He said the total volume of trade exchange between the two countries rose from \$97 million in 2015 to \$279 million in 2024—an increase of 188 percent, serving as a solid foundation for expanding trade and enabling companies from both nations to enter new sectors.

Meanwhile, Blanár indicated that this marks Slovakia’s first official visit to Kuwait in 15 years. He described the visit as a reflection of the desire to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries and open new horizons for partnership and investment.

He revealed that Slovakia, a European Union member, offers promising economic and investment opportunities, while confirming the vast scope

for cooperation in different sectors like energy, data centers, strategic industries and logistics, infrastructure, technology projects, innovation, water management, advanced technologies, medical tourism, and select defense industries.

He affirmed his country’s readiness to contribute to infrastructure development in Kuwait and support the New Kuwait 2035 goals, including the energy sector, while highlighting the importance of economic and investment agreements in eliminating investment barriers and providing greater certainty for companies.

During the meeting, Robert Simončič, Deputy Director General of the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SARIO), presented the key strengths of the Slovak economy and the opportunities for investors.

He explained that Slovakia’s location in the heart of Europe makes it a vital hub connecting three major European transport corridors, while it boasts of a stable investment environment and an advanced industrial infrastructure.

He focused on the strengths of his country in automotive manufacturing, high-tech production, robotics and automation, information and communication technology (ICT), artificial intelligence, data centers and low-carbon energy.

He added that 86 percent of the energy production of the country comes from low-carbon sources, and that Slovakia produced around 1.07 million vehicles in 2025.

The meeting also featured presentations by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), and the participating Slovak companies, which showcased their products, services and investment opportunities, followed by an open discussion and the question and answer session among the business representatives of both countries.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) Kuwait has ushered in a new leadership team for the 2026–2028 term, with a renewed focus on expanding business engagement, strengthening institutional partnerships and contributing to closer India–Kuwait economic relations.

The new leadership took charge following IBPC’s Annual General Meeting and elections held on October 6, 2026, at the Holiday Inn, Salmiya.

In accordance with IBPC protocol, Gaurav Oberoi, who served as Vice Chairman during the previous term, assumed office as Chairman, while Sunit Arora, previously Joint Secretary, took over as Secretary.

In the elections conducted for the remaining office-bearer positions, Suresh K.P. was elected Vice Chairman, Krishen Suryakanth as Joint Secretary, and Ramadoss Karthik as Treasurer for the 2026–2028 term.

Addressing members after assuming office, Chairman Gaurav Oberoi outlined the new team’s vision to further strengthen IBPC as an effective platform connecting businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals in India and Kuwait. He emphasized closer engagement with the Embassy of India in Kuwait, Kuwaiti institutions, Indian industry bodies and international business councils.

“Our focus will be on creating meaningful opportunities for our members, strengthening institutional partnerships and contributing to the growing economic relationship between India and Kuwait,” Oberoi said.

Newly elected Vice Chairman Suresh K.P. thanked members for the confidence placed in him through the election and emphasized the importance of unity following the democratic process.

“The trust placed in us by our members brings greater responsibility and accountability. The election is now behind us, and we are one IBPC, one team, working towards a shared purpose,” he said.

Outgoing Chairman Dr. Kaizar T. Shakir, in his farewell address, thanked members for their support and reflected on the Council’s progress during his tenure. He highlighted the collective efforts that expanded IBPC’s business, professional and institutional engagement and encouraged the next generation of entrepreneurs and professionals to play a



Group photo taken during the meeting.

greater role in the Council.

Former IBPC Chairmen Dhiraj Oberoi, Tony Jashanmal, S.K. Wadhawan and Shivvy Bhasin also addressed the gathering, recalling the Council’s journey and its contribution over the years. They encouraged greater participation of young entrepreneurs and professionals in IBPC’s future leadership, while emphasizing the Council’s continuing role in strengthening India–Kuwait relations. They also called for more business networking initiatives that would enable members to connect, exchange opportunities and build stronger business partnerships.

During the AGM, outgoing Secretary Suresh K.P. presented a report highlighting the Council’s major programmes, business delegations, partnerships and community initiatives during the previous term. Treasurer Krishen Suryakanth presented the audited financial statements, prepared by CA Deepak Bindal, which were unanimously approved by the members.

The new leadership plans to build further on IBPC’s relationships with leading Indian institutions, including Invest India, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, CII, NASSCOM, TPCI and FIEO, while expanding engagement with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce

and Industry, Kuwaiti business leaders and international business councils in Kuwait.

The Council will also strengthen its connections with Indian business councils across the GCC, creating wider avenues for cross-border networking, entrepreneurship, investment and professional collaboration.

The AGM concluded with the new leadership reaffirming its commitment to build on the strong foundation established by successive IBPC leadership teams and to take the Council forward with greater member participation and engagement. Secretary Sunit Arora was the MC for the entire program and delivered the vote of thanks, thanking all members for their support in conducting the election smoothly.

About IBPC Kuwait

The Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) Kuwait is a non-profit organization working under the patronage of the Embassy of India in Kuwait. It serves as a platform for promoting trade, investment, business and professional relations between India and Kuwait through networking programmes, business delegations, institutional partnerships and professional engagement.

New recognition from Private Banker International, organized by MEED

Kuwait Finance House wins ‘World’s Best Private Bank for Islamic Services’ award

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has won the “World’s Best Private Bank for Islamic Services” award for 2026 from the Private Banker International Global Wealth Awards organized by MEED. Both Private Banker International and MEED are under the same parent company GlobalData.

The recognition reinforces KFH’s leading position in private banking and wealth management and reflects its success in providing Sharia-compliant banking and investment solutions that meet the highest international standards. It also highlights the Bank’s ability to serve the needs of high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth clients through its international network.

KFH received the award following a rigorous evaluation by an independent judging panel. The criteria focused primarily on the successful delivery of a comprehensive range of Sharia-compliant banking and investment solutions; the Bank’s extensive presence across Middle Eastern, Asian and European markets; and its relationship-driven approach, built on long-term client partnerships and supported by specialized banking expertise, innovative digital solutions and a distinctive banking experience tailored to clients’ diverse aspirations and needs.



Hamad Alghannam

KFH General Manager Private Banking, Wealth Management and Individual Financing Kuwait, Hamad Mohammed Alghannam, said the award reflects KFH’s strong global standing and the success of its strategy to be a premier provider of Sharia-compliant private banking and wealth management services. He noted that the Bank remains committed to continuously enhancing its services and investment solutions to help preserve and grow clients’ wealth while supporting them in achieving their long-term financial goals.

“Keeping pace with economic and investment developments and delivering greater value to clients, KFH provides a comprehensive suite of private banking and wealth management services. These include regional and global investment portfolio management, international equity funds and real estate, Ijara and trade finance solutions, treasury and investment services, as well as a wide range of investment opportunities and solutions across local and global markets,” Alghannam added. He emphasized that the achieve-

ment will further drive KFH to innovate and develop financial and investment solutions that respond to customers’ aspirations and capitalize on promising opportunities in regional and global markets. He noted that the award adds to KFH’s track record of international recognition, reflecting its leadership in Islamic banking and its excellence in delivering investment and banking services to the highest standards of professionalism and quality. This is further supported by the Bank’s advanced technology infrastructure and extensive industry expertise.



Best Private Bank for Islamic Services

Evaluation and Criteria

The Private Banker International Global Wealth Awards are assessed by an independent panel of senior industry experts. All entries are scored independently by each panel member. Scores are aggregated and discussed in a final panel moderation session. Where entries are particularly close, a second review is conducted and winners are confirmed by the panel chair.

For the Best Private Bank for Islamic Services category globally, the evaluation criteria focus on an institution’s ability to provide an integrated and reliable wealth manage-

ment ecosystem that complies with the principles of Islamic Sharia. The assessment covers investment and financing solutions, the quality of client services, the breadth of Islamic products, the effectiveness of the Sharia governance framework, the qualifications of the Sharia board, the effectiveness of fatwa issuance and Sharia supervision procedures, compliance with relevant regulatory requirements, and the institution’s success in serving a clearly defined and growing client base seeking Sharia-compliant financial solutions.

Private Banker International Awards

Now in their 36th year, the Private Banker International Awards are among the leading global accolades in the wealth management and private banking sector. The awards bring together private banks, independent wealth managers, family offices and asset management firms from around the world to recognize institutions and individuals that set benchmarks for excellence in client service, investment performance and strategic innovation.

Private Banker International is a specialized media platform and brand focused on wealth management and private banking. It operates under GlobalData, a global parent company.

Economists fear rush for dyed diesel

Diesel tax break unlikely to ease record fuel costs

SIOUX FALLS, Oct 8, (AP): Farmers, truckers and economists say a move to cut taxes on diesel will provide little relief from record-high fuel prices that have soared since the U.S. attacked Iran months ago.

Industry groups say they appreciate President Donald Trump’s executive order expanding the use of a diesel now reserved for off-road work, but farmers already have access to the fuel and many have already wrapped up harvest. Truckers will struggle to navigate differing state rules.

“In the context of diesel prices that are over two dollars more than they were last year, it just doesn’t come close to closing that wound,” said Matt Perdue, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union.

With less than a month to go before the November election, diesel prices continue to hit record highs as some farmers transport their crops for processing and others rush to complete their fall harvest. Many have been feeling the squeeze as costs for inputs like diesel, fertilizer and seed have soared thanks to refinery constraints and supply disruptions amid the Iran war.

Diesel averaged \$6.30 per gallon across the country on Wednesday, more than 70% higher than one year ago, according to motor club AAA. The executive order defers the \$0.24 federal tax per gallon of regular diesel, used for road projects, until the end of the year. Most states also levy their own tax on diesel.

“Dyed” diesel is the same as regular diesel, except for its red dye to help law enforcement enforce penalties for on-road use. It’s already allowed for off-road purposes like farming equipment, such as tractors and combines, as well as construction and heating uses.

Savings can compound if states take similar actions; many have eased restrictions or waived taxes on dyed diesel, including South Dakota and Iowa. Perdue said North Dakota has waived the tax on regular diesel. But where the state decision is focused on farmers, he believes the federal decision would largely benefit those on other levels of the supply chain.

Farmers who will see the most benefit are those who haul their own product, like livestock or fresh produce, on public roads. Those who have already wrapped up harvesting won’t see savings.

“Most of our diesel use is behind us,” said Perdue, who grows spring wheat, durum and canola on his family farm.

Both trucking companies and independent truckers may not see much relief either. The effect is likely to be negligible for big trucking companies because the order is on a federal level and states make their own rules, Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, wrote in a social media post.

“The largest diesel users are the least likely to use dyed diesel,” he wrote. “A national carrier crossing five or six states in a day faces enormous risk with a patchwork of rules, legal in one state, and subject to fines in the next.”

Many states exempt road diesel from sales tax but apply sales tax to dyed diesel instead, he said.

Easing limits on red-dyed diesel will likely have a minimal effect for small truckers, who pay for fuel up front, said Todd Spencer, president and CEO of trade group the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association. He estimates every \$1 increase per gallon in fuel costs independent truckers about \$400 more per week.

The savings will be small, but it could still increase competition for dyed diesel, said David Ortega, food economics and policy professor at Michigan State University.

“I think there’s a real chance this could backfire and make the situation worse for farmers,” he said. “Basically anybody that’s running a truck on the highway on regular diesel can now be using this off-highway diesel. Even someone that owns a diesel pickup truck potentially has access to this other type of diesel.”

Perdue in North Dakota said he expects a “rush for dyed diesel, and we’ll see how the supply responds.”

But not all dyed diesel pump stations are set up for larger trucks like semis, said Paul Mitchell, a professor of agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

“It’s going to come down to infrastructure ability to get your vehicles to a place that you can use and fill them up with,” he said.

Henry Hanscom, American Trucking Associations chief advocacy and public affairs officer, pointed out that the executive order directs temporary penalty relief and potential tax deferral for using red-dyed diesel, not outright tax forgiveness. He said the ATA would review the Internal Revenue Service’s implementing guidance of the policy when it is available.

Last month, Trump had threatened a diesel export ban, though he later said it is off the table. On Friday, G7 countries agreed to release 100 million barrels of oil and fuel products.

“One of the problems we have right now in the world is there’s not enough diesel fuel,” said Gregg Ibbendahl, farm management specialist at Kansas State University.

But underlying causes like geopolitical issues won’t be solved overnight.

“The problem we’ve accumulated right now with the Strait of Hormuz and the Russia-Ukraine war, those are going to be longer term things to get fixed,” he said. “Getting that world supply back up again is going to be, I think, at least a year, even in the best cases.”

325 mln barrels released so far under March 2026 collective action

IEA prioritizes diesel stocks amid market tightness

PARIS, Oct 8, (KUNA): The International Energy Agency (IEA) member governments have agreed to accelerate the release of approximately 100 million barrels of oil stocks from the March 2026 Collective Action.

IEA members also decided to prioritize the release of diesel stocks to address current market tightness, while reaffirming that the agency holds roughly 1.1 billion barrels in emergency reserves and is ready to release more if necessary, according to an IEA release.

The statement by IEA said, “At today’s meeting, IEA Member governments expressed support for accelerating the oil stock releases announced in the Collective Action of

March 2026 with a view to completing them as soon as possible.

IEA Members also supported the prioritization of the release of diesel stocks, to the extent possible, given the current tightness in diesel markets.”

The statement added, “Participants in the meeting expressed strong appreciation for the IEA’s response to the energy impacts of the Strait of Hormuz crisis.”

They emphasized their commitment to delivering on the March 2026 Collective Action and the importance of the IEA Secretariat’s role in continuing to monitor progress towards the completion of the action and providing up-to-date market analysis.

They also welcomed the recent statement by G7 Leaders on global energy security and market stability, including its emphasis on the importance of free flow of energy trade.

It went on saying, “To date, approximately 325 million barrels of oil have been released under the March 2026 Collective Action, with some countries having released greater volumes than they initially pledged.

The full release of all the stocks that had been pledged but have not yet been released from the March 2026 Collective Action would bring approximately 100 million barrels to the market.”

The statement added, “IEA Mem-

ber governments still have significant levels of publicly held emergency oil stocks - equivalent to around 1.1 billion barrels, including over 200 million barrels of diesel.

The IEA stands ready to release more of these stocks to the market if and when required.

The IEA Secretariat will continue to work closely with Member governments to monitor the ongoing implementation of the March 2026 Collective Action.”

The statement concluded, “IEA Member governments agreed to continue to assess and review the situation at the next scheduled meeting of the IEA Governing Board, which will take place next week.”

\$1 bln-a-day trade deficit fuels job-loss fears

EU leaders push tougher China trade policy



The European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Seftovic speaks during an interview in Asuncion, Paraguay, Jan. 17, 2026. (AP Photos/Jorge Saenz, File)

Strategy and Planning in February called for swift action, like 30% tariffs on many of China’s exports, and a devaluation of the euro against the Chinese currency. Sales of German autos are plummeting in China, but China is also poised to gobble up market share in Europe by undercutting European automakers on price thanks to heavy state subsidies. There have already been mass layoffs at major manufacturers like Volkswagen.

A letter by France and Germany, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press, called for a sweeping rethink of the EU’s China policy. Among other actions, it proposed making it easier for the European Commission to use the bloc’s so-called “trade bazooka,” the Anti-Coercion Instrument. This is a never-used-before raft of measures for blocking or restricting trade and investment from coun-

tries found to be putting undue pressure on EU member nations or corporations.

Yet not all EU nations agree on such tough measures. Spain, the eurozone’s fourth-largest economy, has been less adversarial toward China in recent years. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has visited Beijing four times in three years. Far-right and left-wing lawmakers from Ireland to Bulgaria formed an unusual coalition on Wednesday to vote against resolution calling for tougher China policies.

The European Policy Centre in Brussels said in June that European battery producers, solar panels, steel, electric vehicles, chemicals and machinery are already hemorrhaging jobs and capacity and called for a trade investigative body modelled on Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called the

phenomenon another “China shock” for Europe, similar to what happened in the U.S. in the early 2000s when hundreds of thousands of factory jobs in the American heartland were wiped out.

The EU’s ailing economy requires both a domestic overhaul and a more aggressive foreign trade policy, especially with China, said Tim Rühl, a China analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies, the bloc’s internal think tank.

Rühl also said that European businesses and political leadership bear some blame.

“It’s clear that just protecting yourself from China is not the future,” Rühl said. “But to have a chance of making yourself ready for future technologies and to remain competitive in the coming 15-20 years, you have to protect yourself.”

It is impossible to disengage completely with China as the EU did with Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, Rühl said, but there is robust momentum now to reset trade relations with Beijing.

“Where do we make ourselves independent or at least more diverse? And where do we still work with the Chinese?” Rühl asked.

On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio during his Greece visit called for Europe to strengthen its alliance with the U.S. as he urged Europe to “awaken from its long slumber.”

Rubio said that Europe and the U.S. are at “a crossroads” where actions taken now “will determine whether the West maintains its place at the head of the world or resigns itself to a future of atrophy and servitude and decline. We will either choose to act now or lose the choice to act at all.”

Health, living-standard deficits drive over 80% of Myanmar poverty

UN: 68% of Myanmar’s population in or at risk of poverty

BANGKOK, Oct 8, (AP): More than two in three people living in Myanmar are either in poverty or at risk of falling into it, as armed conflict, limited access to basic services and economic instability deepen deprivation across the country, a United Nations report published on Thursday said.

Almost 18 million people, or 32.6% of the population, are poor, while another 19.5 million are vulnerable to poverty, according to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP). That brings the total number of people in or at risk of poverty to over 37 million people, or 68% of the population.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, triggering widespread opposition. After security forces suppressed peaceful protests with lethal force, many opponents of military rule took up arms, plunging large parts of the country into conflict.

Kanni Wignaraja, U.N. assistant secretary-general and UNDP regional director for Asia and the Pacific, said: “We are seeing a depth of poverty in Myanmar that is eroding human development itself. This is a no-win war. Everyone is losing. The core muscle of the country is being systematically eroded.”

The UNDP report was based on a nationwide telephone survey of 7,463 households. It used an adapted Multidimensional Poverty Index that captures deprivation beyond income, including overlapping gaps in health, education and living standards.

Deficits in health and living standards account for more than 80% of measured poverty, the report said, reflecting difficulties accessing health care, adequate housing, clean water, sanitation and other essential services, particularly in conflict zones.

Poverty is especially widespread and severe in

states facing heightened insecurity and restricted access, particularly Rakhine in the west and Kayah in the east, it said.

Low levels of education, insecure employment and low incomes compound pressures from conflict, displacement, disrupted markets and fragmented services, driving deprivation across Myanmar, the report found.

Repeated economic and natural hazard shocks further deepen poverty, with El Niño expected to intensify those pressures. The naturally occurring climatic pattern can disrupt rainfall and raise global temperatures.

The UNDP also warned of a growing loss of human capital, saying at least 1 million young people may have left Myanmar since 2021 due to a lack of opportunities and growing uncertainty that limits the future prospects for education, jobs and mobility.



A diesel fuel tank is seen on a corn and soybean farm, Aug. 26, 2026, in Northfield, Minn. (AP Photo/Ellen Schmidt, File)

Psychological, social thriller to spotlight Gulf youth, family, digital life

TOD by beIN, GHMZA Group ink deal for new Gulf drama series

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: TOD by beIN, the leading sports and entertainment streaming platform from beIN MEDIA GROUP, has signed an agreement with GHMZA Group to develop and produce its latest TOD STUDIOS Original, a new Gulf drama series that further strengthens the Group's investment in original Arabic storytelling and locally relevant entertainment.

The series will be filmed and produced entirely in Kuwait, bringing together the creative capabilities of

TOD STUDIOS and GHMZA Group to develop a contemporary production rooted in Gulf culture, identity and experiences.

As part of the collaboration, TOD STUDIOS will work closely with GHMZA Group across the creative development of the project, including the concept, dramatic treatment and screenplay. The development process will bring together writers and specialists from a range of creative and cultural disciplines to shape an authentic



TOD by beIN partners with GHMZA Group.

and distinctive story world.

The psychological and social thriller will explore themes relevant to younger audiences, including their evolving relationship with family, society and the digital world, while presenting Gulf stories through a modern narrative and visual approach.

The project reflects TOD by beIN's continued focus on expanding its Arabic entertainment proposition alongside its premium sports offering, while supporting regional talent and creating content

designed to resonate with audiences across MENA.

For GHMZA Group, the collaboration supports its strategy to expand the development and production of Gulf drama and build long-term partnerships with leading regional and international media platforms, strengthening the presence of Gulf and Arab productions on the wider entertainment landscape.

Further details on the cast, creative team, production schedule and release plans will be announced at a later stage.

Er. Gowri Shankar leads training session

ITEF organizes 'AI for Professionals' training

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: International Tamil Engineers Forum (ITEF) (Registered as Section 8 in The Companies Act, 2013, Government of India) (ITEF-Kuwait Chapter Registered with Embassy of India to Kuwait) is a not-for-profit organization with Er. Krishna Jegan as the Chairman, Er. Selvam as the Managing Director and committed to advancing professional development, enabling structured networking platforms, and supporting skill development and workforce mobility pathways for engineers, with long-term objectives focused on structured standards and globally benchmarked professional validation

mechanisms.

ITEF Kuwait Chapter conducted the most wanted training for the professionals "AI for Professionals: Unlock 10x Productivity" on 2nd Oct 2026 at Millenium Hotel, Salmiya. Er. Gowri Shankar Sivabala, Dubai based Entrepreneur & Specialist in the usage of AI tools conducted the training program, which was conducted in the most professional way. Every participant came with their own laptop and multiple AI tools along with different case studies were not only demonstrated but also the participants were trained to operate AI tools individually.

The feedback from the participants was excellent and the event was conducted from 2.30 to 8.00 PM.

Trainer Er. Gowri Shankar Sivabala was felicitated with memento by the ITEF Chairman and thanked the trainer for conducting an excellent training program.

ITEF chairman shared the details of the ITEF International Conference, which is scheduled on 29th & 30th November 2026 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, Kuwait with the theme: "Connecting the 3i's: Innovation; Investment & Impact" and invited all to participate in the Conference.



Photo during the session.



Photos during the event.

Indian Dentists' Alliance hosts Dent Connect 2026

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK) successfully organised Dent Connect – "Bridging Minds for Better Dentistry," a scientific dental study club held at Kuwait Dental Association Hall, Kuwait on September 25, 2026.

The event brought together dental professionals for an evening of learning, clinical knowledge exchange and professional networking.

Dr. Joel D'Silva and Dr. Jaya Daniel guided the proceedings and kept the event engaging and well-coordinated throughout the evening. The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Vidya Thomas, Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, who emphasised the vision behind DentConnect- to provide a platform where dental professionals can connect and learn from each other.

The scientific programme commenced with an insightful exploration of the growing role of technology in dentistry by Dr. AlaaAlsaif, periodontist with the Ministry of Health, highlighted the emerging applications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in periodontal diagnosis and its evolving role in modern dental practice.

Dr Mariam Abdullah, a paediatric dentist with the Ministry of Health addressed the importance of preparedness and effective management of emergencies that may arise in dental practice.

Dr. Vaishnavi Swaminathan, an endodontist at Ebtisama

Dental Centre, Salmiya, shared valuable insights into contemporary endodontic practice, focusing on advances and approaches that contribute to achieving more predictable clinical outcomes.

Dr. T. Mohamed Ibrahim, the periodontist at the Dental Shop clinic in Salmiya, focussed on post-extraction considerations and their significance in implant treatment planning.

The final scientific session, was jointly presented by Dr. Pramod Menon and Dr. Jagan Kumar Baskaradoss. Dr. Pramod is an endodontist working in Scotland while Dr. Jagan Kumar Baskaradoss is an Associate Professor in the Discipline of Dental Public Health, Department of Developmental and Preventive Sciences, College of Dentistry at Kuwait University. The session provided valuable insights into international dental licensure and postgraduate opportunities for dentists looking to pursue professional and academic pathways abroad.

The event concluded with an address by Dr. Shalin Anna Simon, President of IDAK, expressing appreciation to the speakers, delegates, organising team and all those who contributed to the success of the programme.

With its theme "Bridging Minds for Better Dentistry," Dent Connect 2026 highlighted the commitment of the Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait to fostering scientific learning, professional interaction and continuing education within the dental community.

'A language is more than words; it is a bridge to our culture, identity & heritage'

Hindi Diwas 2026: A celebration of language, culture & creativity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Indian School of Excellence (ISEK), Kuwait, celebrated Hindi Diwas 2026 with great enthusiasm and cultural fervor in the month of September, involving students from Classes 1 to 10.

The three-day programme featured a series of engaging competitions that encouraged students to showcase their creativity, linguistic skills and cultural talent. Events included BhojanMahotsav, KavitaGayan, Hindi Geet, Mono Act, Katha-Kathan and Ashu Bhashan, providing

students with diverse opportunities to express themselves in Hindi.

The celebrations culminated in a Special Hindi Assembly on 17 September, featuring a vibrant blend of Hindi songs, storytelling, a patriotic skit, group dance, Hasya Natika, solo song, drama and a colourful fashion show. The performances showcased the beauty, richness and cultural significance of the Hindi language.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sherly Dennis, Director, ISEK, ap-

preciated the students for their creativity, enthusiasm and active participation. She encouraged them to take pride in Hindi as a language and cherish its rich cultural heritage.

The programme offered students a meaningful platform to celebrate Hindi as a language of communication, creativity and cultural identity, while fostering confidence, teamwork and a deeper connection with India's rich linguistic heritage.



Photos during the event.

A quick getaway packed with adventure at Yas Island Abu Dhabi

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Managing Editor, Arab Times

ABU DHABI, Oct 8: Five days can feel very short until you spend them moving from a Ferrari racetrack to a waterpark, from the streets of Gotham City to an underwater world, and finally into an ever changing universe where art seems to come alive around you.

From Sept 28 to Oct 2, I experienced Abu Dhabi on a five day tour that took me through some of the emirate's most exciting attractions. It was fast, colorful and, at times, wonderfully overwhelming.

There were roller coasters that tested my courage, waterslides that made me question that courage, familiar characters that transported me back to childhood, marine life that demanded a quieter kind of attention, and immersive art that blurred the line between imagination and reality.

My base was Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island, conveniently located near the island's major attractions. But the hotel was only the starting point. Most of my days were spent exploring.

And that is perhaps the best way to experience Yas Island: come prepared to keep moving.

Where the adventure begins

Yas Island has an unusual ability to make you feel as though you have traveled much farther than you actually have.

Theme parks, restaurants, entertainment venues and hotels are all close, yet each attraction feels like another destination. One day you can be chasing speed, the next racing down a waterslide, then walking through Metropolis before finding yourself watching marine life glide through an enormous aquarium.

For families across the GCC, it means a memorable holiday does not necessarily require a long journey. A school break or long weekend can be enough.

With the Kids Go Free offer running until Dec 31, 2026, children aged 11 and under can stay, play and dine for free at participating venues, including complimentary hotel stays when sharing a room with their parents, free meals on the same meal plan and unlimited access to Yas Island's award winning theme parks.

But the real attraction is what happens once you step inside.

The need for speed

My introduction to Yas Island's adrenaline side came at Ferrari World Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

Ferrari World is built around the legendary racing marque, but the experience goes well beyond admiring beautiful cars.

On Flying Aces, riders reach speeds of up to 120 km/h while soaring through the world's highest non inverted loop. Mission Ferrari combines technology, storytelling and high speed thrills in what is billed as the world's most immersive mega coaster.

At the world's first Ferrari themed

Esports Arena, racing simulators and gaming technology put visitors behind the wheel without requiring an actual racetrack.

And then came food.

At Gran Tour Emilia, the Ferrari connection extends to the table through a culinary journey inspired by Emilia Romagna, the region that gave birth to the iconic marque. Mamma Rossella serves pizzas and pastas, while Rossella Dolci offers coffee, gelato and Italian pastries.

Even a theme park can tell a story about food, culture and heritage.

From horsepower to waterpower

At Yas Waterworld Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, the question was no longer how fast you could go, but how much water you were prepared to get into.

The park holds the Guinness World Record for the most waterslides in a waterpark and now features more than 70 rides, slides and attractions.

Among them is the UAE's tallest waterslide, sending riders plunging from more than 40 metres, alongside high speed racing experiences and interactive attractions for families.

At Dana's Diner, Emirati and Mediterranean flavors include mezze, Machboos and traditional Luqamat. Dockside Dining offers pizzas and fresh pasta, while Skinny's Frozen Treats provides frozen lemonade, fresh juices and artisanal ice cream.

After a few hours in the Abu Dhabi sun, that last option feels like much more than dessert.

Childhood, only bigger

At Warner Bros. World™ Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, childhood memories suddenly become real.

Batman, Superman, Scooby Doo and The Flintstones occupy different corners of the indoor theme park, with immersive lands, live entertainment and attractions built around familiar stories.

The newest attraction, Kryptonite Collider, takes visitors into a globally exclusive DC Super Hero story involving Lex Luthor and his latest experiment to unlock superhuman abilities in ordinary people.

Motion, visuals, sound and lighting create the sensation that you are no longer watching the story. You are inside it.

Even dining becomes part of the experience.

The Starlight evokes Hollywood's Golden Age, while Bronto Burgers and Ribs brings the world of The Flintstones to the table. In Gotham City, Hall of Doom turns an abandoned subway station into the setting for Southeast Asian cuisine.

On Yas Island, even lunch needs a plot.

A quieter kind of wonder

After so much noise and movement, I welcomed a completely different experience at teamLab Phenomena Abu Dhabi on Saadiyat Island.

There were no roller coasters or



Yas Island aerial shot



Ferrari World Yas Island, Abu Dhabi - aerial



Warner Bros. World™ Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

waterslides. Instead, there was light, movement, technology and an extraordinary sense that the environment itself was responding to me.

The immersive installations change with movement and interaction. Light shifts, forms appear and disappear, and the visitor becomes part of what is happening.

That was what stayed with me most.

I was not simply looking at the art. I was helping create the experience.

Housed in a 17,000 square metre space in Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Cultural District, teamLab Phenomena provided a fascinating counterpoint to the thrills of Yas Island.

Here, technology was not making things move faster or higher. It was making me look differently.

Beneath the surface

Back on Yas Island, the journey continued at SeaWorld® Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.

The world's largest indoor marine life theme park takes visitors through eight themed realms exploring the

interconnected story of life on Earth and our oceans.

There are more than 100 animal experiences and presentations, close up encounters, rides and entertainment.

But amid all the spectacle, there were moments when I simply stopped and watched.

At Fathom 11, sharks and rays become part of the dining experience through dramatic floor to ceiling windows. At Splash Burger, diners can enjoy burgers while watching dolphins move through their habitat. For a taste closer to home, Matbakh Umami serves shawarma, kebabs and kunafa overlooking the Ocean realm.

With 17 international dining outlets, there is something for almost every appetite.

Defying gravity

At CLYMB™ Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, gravity once again became optional.

The attraction houses the world's widest flight chamber for indoor skydiving, alongside a state of the art climbing wall suitable for beginners

and experienced climbers.

You might arrive thinking, I will just watch.

Then someone convinces you to try.

And suddenly you are flying.

Five days later

On Sept 28, I arrived expecting to experience a destination.

By Oct 2, I left feeling that I had moved through several different worlds.

I had raced with Ferrari, plunged down waterslides, walked among superheroes, watched marine life, entered a universe of immersive art and tested the limits of gravity.

But the memories I took away were not only about the attractions.

They were about the laughter after a ride, the anticipation before a slide, the unexpected pause in front of an aquarium, the taste of a good meal after hours of walking and the feeling of discovering something com-

pletely new.

Sometimes, the best part of a getaway is not the distance you travel, but how far it takes you away from your everyday life.

For GCC families, Yas Island offers precisely that kind of escape.

It is close enough to be convenient, yet expansive enough to feel like another world.

You can come for the adrenaline and discover the food. Come for the children and rediscover your own sense of fun. Come for a weekend and still leave with a list of things you did not get to see.

As for me, five days were enough to experience a lot, but certainly not enough to experience everything.

And perhaps that is Yas Island's greatest trick.

Just when you think the adventure is over, it gives you another reason to come back.



CLYMB™ Yas Island, Abu Dhabi - climbing



SeaWorld® Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

Yes, Yas!



The GCC team of journalists at teamLab Phenomena.

Academy honors her genre-defying poetry and prose

Canadian poet & essayist Anne Carson wins Nobel Prize in literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8, (AP): Canadian poet, essayist and translator Anne Carson won the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for playful, genre-blending works that fuse the classical and the modern.

Ingrid Carlberg, permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said the author was in Iceland “listening to the wind” when the academy reached her to notify her of the win.

“She was very taken by surprise,” Carlberg said.

Toronto-born Carson, 76, draws on themes and stories from ancient Greek and Roman literature for works that often blend elements of poetry, essay and fiction.

Her books include “Eros the Bittersweet,” a look at the pleasure and pain of desire in ancient Greek literature, verse novel “Autobiography of Red,” “Men in the Off Hours,” a collection of poetry and prose that won Canada’s Griffin Prize for poetry in 2001 and “Norma Jeane Baker of Troy,” which compares Marilyn Monroe and Helen of Troy.

Carson also has translated works of classical Greek literature that, the Swedish Academy said, “may be regarded as independent works in their

own right.” They include “If Not, Winter,” based on poem fragments by Sappho, Sophocles’ tragic plays “Electra” and “Antigone” and Euripides’s “Bakkhai.”

“Almost all her literary production has centered upon the intersection between the philologist’s obsession with words and the poet’s desire for new meaning,” said Anders Olsson, chair of the literature committee.

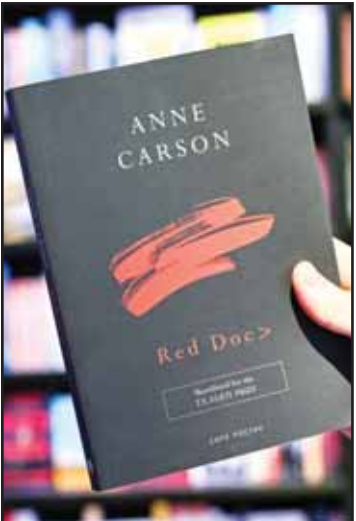
Olsson added that Carson’s juxtaposition of influences ranging from the ancient Greeks to John Keats, Virginia Woolf and Emily Bronte “leads to playful and ironic works that move not only between classical and modern poetry but also between different genres and artforms.”

Carson has taught classics at several North American universities and has lived in Iceland, where she and her husband, Robert Currie, were granted citizenship in 2022.

She also has drawn on her own life for works such as “Nox,” which was published in 2010 and dealt with the decades-long absence and then death of her brother Michael. Olsson called it “a creation as sculptural as it is literary, an epitaph in the form of a box containing an accordion-



Left: Anne Carson attends the dedication ceremony for The Shed, a performing arts center at Hudson Yards, April 1, 2019 in New York. Anne Carson, Canadian poet and essayist, has won the 2026 Nobel Prize in literature. Right: After the announcement of the Canadian writer Anne Carson as the winner of the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature, a man’s hand holds her book “Red Doc,” in Berlin, Thursday Oct. 8, 2026. (AP)



The Associated Press’ efforts to reach Carson and her literary agent, Nicole Aragi, were not immediately successful.

Last year, Hungarian writer László Krasznahorkai, whose surreal and anarchic novels combine a bleak world view with mordant humor, won the Nobel Prize in literature for work the judges said upholds the power of art in the midst of “apocalyptic terror.”

Three science awards were announced earlier this week. The Nobel for medicine went to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works. The physics award recognized a scientist’s efforts to demystify a rare group of neutrinos. The chemistry prize recognized two scientists for untangling mysterious mirror images in molecules, a discovery that has been used to develop countless drugs.

This week ends with Friday’s peace prize. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced Monday.

The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about \$1.2 million) per prize.

fold-out of pictures, letters and other written texts dedicated to her dead brother.” It also includes Carson’s translation of an elegy by the Roman poet Catullus for his own brother.

In 2024, Carson wrote in the Lon-

don Review of Books about being diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. She said “a symptom particularly mortifying to me was that my handwriting disintegrated.

“Hard to describe or explain the

shame of bad handwriting,” she said. “Bad handwriting is ugly. Also it is inauthentic. In the sense it is not you.”

The prize was announced by the Swedish Academy in Stockholm.

Obituary



Indian actor and filmmaker Nana Patekar listens to a question from a journalist during the trailer launch of his film in Mumbai, India, Sept. 12, 2023. (AP)

Modi mourns actor death

Indian actor & filmmaker Nana Patekar dies at 75

NEW DELHI, Oct 8, (AP): Nana Patekar, an acclaimed Indian actor and filmmaker, died Thursday at his home in the western state of Goa. He was 75.

Patekar died of a suspected cardiac arrest, the Press Trust of India news agency reported, citing a doctor at the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Born in 1951 in India’s western state of Maharashtra, Patekar built a career spanning nearly five decades in Hindi- and Marathi-language cinema. He was known for intense performances and roles that often portrayed complex or unconventional characters.

Patekar made his film debut in the 1978 Hindi film “Gaman,” and later earned acclaim for “Parinda” and “Krantiveer.” Patekar became popular in mainstream Bollywood films, while also working in India’s “parallel cinema” movement, known for its focus on realism and social issues. He gained wider international recognition with filmmaker Mira Nair’s Oscar-nominated “Salaam Bombay!”

He won three National Film Awards, India’s highest film honors, and received the Padma Shri, one of the country’s highest civilian honors.

In 2018, during India’s #MeToo movement, a Bollywood actress accused Patekar of sexual harassment on a film set. Patekar denied the allegation. The case was among several that drew attention as women publicly spoke about sexual misconduct in India’s film industry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned Patekar’s death, praising his “intensity, individuality and unmistakable presence” as an actor.

“He brought remarkable versatility and creativity to every role and gave us characters that will be remembered for generations,” Modi wrote on X.

Patekar is survived by his wife and son.

Film

Film reframes the famous 1953 ascent

Tenzing Norgay finally gets spotlight on Everest

TORONTO, Oct 8, (AP): The first image ever taken of a human being standing atop Mount Everest was of Tenzing Norgay.

When he and Edmund Hillary reached the summit of the world’s highest mountain on May 29, 1953, one of the first things Hillary did was take out his camera and aim it at his fellow climber, the Sherpa Norgay, as he waved an ice ax tied with flags for Britain, India, Nepal and the United Nations.

Since that moment, camera lenses have seldom been pointed at Norgay, or the many Sherpa who have followed in his history-making footsteps. But the new Apple Studios film “Tenzing,” directed by Jennifer Peedom, puts Norgay back in the center of the frame, telling the life story of the Nepalese-Indian Sherpa mountaineer.

“Tenzing’s story is the ultimate underdog heroic story but had been pushed to the margins,” Peedom says. “Everest occupied such a large part of our imaginations. It’s become this icon of human achievement, yet the story of one of the first men to climb to the summit was largely unknown.”

“Tenzing,” which opens Friday in theaters before streaming Oct. 16 on Apple TV, chronicles Norgay’s path leading up to Everest and the daring ascent that he and Hillary (played by Tom Hiddleston) made in 1953. Both were outsiders - Norgay was born in Tibet before moving to the Khumbu region of Nepal - in a British expedition led by Col. John Hunt (Willem Dafoe).

The film is a rousing mountain adventure and biopic but one made with uncommon authenticity. Tenzing’s son Norbu Tenzing is an executive producer. Cultural consultants Dr. Lhakpa Norbu Sherpa and Dr. Nima Namgyal Sherpa were leaned on. Most of the Sherpas portrayed in the film are played by real mountaineering Tibetan people.

And Norgay, a role shared across time frames, is principally played by



This image released by Apple TV shows, from left, Tenzin Dalha, Willem Dafoe, Genden Phuntsok, Harry Greenwood, Tom Hiddleston and Pasang Arya Sherpa in a scene from “Tenzing.” (Kirsty Griffin/Apple TV via AP)

Genden Phuntsok, a Chinese actor of Tibetan descent. Phuntsok had appeared in two acclaimed films by the Tibetan filmmaker Pema Tsenden. But “Tenzing” is his first Hollywood film. To prepare for the role, he lived for 10 days with Phurba Tashi Sherpa, the subject of Peedom’s 2015 documentary “Sherpa.”

“From the top of the hill outside his village, you can see the top of Everest,” Phuntsok says. “All the people in the village were really kind to me. For them, Tenzing Norgay is their hero.”

Hiddleston plays Hillary, the New Zealand climber, with the kind of dashing charisma that many Hollywood productions would have put front and center. Instead, “Tenzing,”

about an international expedition, itself became an operation of multiculturalism. At the center is the friendship between Norgay and Hillary, a relationship forged on the southeast ridge of Everest and that continued after their ascent.

For Phuntsok and Hiddleston, making “Tenzing” was likewise a partnership.

“Genden and I saw Everest with our own eyes for the first time at the same time,” Hiddleston says. “Jennifer’s insistence and inspiration was for us to trek as far as we could toward base camp when we started.”

For Peedom, the terrain was familiar. The Australian filmmaker has spent much of her career as a

documentarian shedding light on the Sherpa, including “Sherpa,” about the avalanche in the Khumbu Icefall that killed 16 Nepali mountain workers. To her, it was surprising that more documentarians hadn’t focused on Sherpa stories before her.

“Being a young camera operator, I’d notice the extent to which the Sherpa were written out of the story or would end up on the cutting room floor,” Peedom says.

“Tenzing” crucially reorients the ascent of Everest as less a conquering of nature than a spiritual quest. The historic Tibetan name for the mountain is Chomolungma, and, for Norgay, climbing it was a religious experience. For Phuntsok, it was similar.

What to know about the London Film Festival 2026

LONDON, Oct 8, (AP): Hot on the heels of Cannes and Venice, it’s London’s turn to shine and roll out the red carpet for this year’s crop of buzzy films and international stars.

The 70th London Film Festival, which opens Wednesday, will feature a mix of award hopefuls and world premieres over 12 days of screenings and events, with actors including Adam Driver, Scarlett Johansson, Cynthia Erivo, Robert Pattinson, Jenna Ortega and Sebastian Stan expected on red carpets in coming days.

Theater is in the spotlight as Simon Stone’s “Elsinore,” a biographical drama on actor Ian Charleson’s final performance, starring Olivia

Colman and Andrew Scott, opens the festival.

Scott said it was “incredibly cool” to have the film open the festival on London’s Southbank, “because where the screening takes place tonight is literally 30 seconds away from the National Theater where the movie is set. So that is very, very special and all the gang will be there.”

Meanwhile, Jesse Eisenberg’s musical comedy “The Debut” closes proceedings on Oct. 18. The film stars Julianne Moore as a housewife whose casting in a community theater production turns her into a method actor.

Two animated films are debuting at the festival.

Stop-motion animated fantasy film “Wildwood” from Laika, about two teenagers who get lost in a magical forest, will have its world premiere. The feature, starring Peyton Elizabeth Lee, Carey Mulligan, Awkwafina and Jacob Tremblay, is one of the most anticipated titles to be shown.

Another animation, Brad Bird’s neo noir animation “Ray Gunn,” which follows the adventures of a small-time detective voiced by Sam Rockwell and a pop singer played by Scarlett Johansson, will also have its debut premiere at the festival.

Other highlights include Venice Film Festival hit “Wild Horse Nine,” for which John Malkovich got the Vol-

pi Cup for best actor for playing a dying CIA operative. Malkovich and co-star Sam Rockwell hope to continue the buzz for the dark political comedy in London Friday.

Luca Guadagnino’s “Artificial” turns to Silicon Valley, with Andrew Garfield portraying OpenAI co-founder Sam Altman during the company’s rise and turmoil after he was kicked out of the company.

Danny Boyle’s “Ink” is a prominent British entry starring Guy Pearce as Rupert Murdoch. Elsewhere, Taika Waititi’s adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro’s “Klara and the Sun” features Jenna Ortega as an artificial companion seeking a home.

Rain gardens help manage heavy rain while beautifying your yard

LOS ANGELES, Oct 8, (AP): When a nor’easter recently hit the Eastern Seaboard, it transformed my driveway into a stretch of whitewater rapids and nearly obliterated my perennials, their shapes irretrievably distorted by high winds and heavy rain. Unfortunately, it’s not the first time.

And it won’t be the last: Scientists predict an increase in extreme weather events, including storms and floods, fed in part by human-caused climate change.

I swept, then hosed, the debris off the blacktop, and used twine to wrangle my mums and catmints back into shape, at least until cold weather does them in. But my experiences and scientists’ predictions have got me planning a rain garden.

Simply put, a rain garden is a depressed bed planted with native perennials and shrubs selected for their high-water tolerance. It’s strategically

situated in a spot where water - from downspouts, driveways, compacted soil and other sources of runoff - flows downward toward it. That runoff waters the plants and filters pollutants as the soil absorbs it. And it means the excess water, as well as the road sediment, debris, pet waste pathogens, fertilizers and chemicals it picks up along the way, is kept out of storm drains, watersheds and wetlands.

Rain gardens can also stop water from entering your basement or affecting your foundation.

In dry, drought-stricken regions, too, many gardeners are turning to rain gardens and other methods of collecting rainwater.

You can make a rain garden as big or small as you like, but keep it at least 10 feet (3 meters) from your house, garage or other structures. Don’t plant it over a septic tank or underground utilities, or near a well that provides drink-



A bioretention garden built to collect rain runoff appears at a home in the Warrendale neighborhood of Detroit on May 16, 2016. (AP)

ing water. And avoid sloped areas and those that are soggy to begin with.

Dig the bed in your preferred size and shape (kidney, crescent, round and teardrop are popular). You can either gradually grade the soil toward the center so it is 6 inches (15 centimeters) lower than the perimeter, or dig everything but the perimeter 6 inches (15 centimeters) deep so a berm that high surrounds the sunken bed.

Direct water toward the bed by installing a gutter extension, creating a downhill slope, digging a trench or connecting a PVC pipe to a distant gutter and running it underground to the rain garden. Slow the flow of water by lining your trench or slope with rocks or small stones.

Some gardeners prefer to keep the center free of plants and cover the soil there with stones, as well.

Choose native plants best suited to high-water or, if planting the center,

even swampy conditions. Natives are naturally adapted to your region’s environment, so they’ll be easier to grow, require less maintenance and will also provide a habitat for bees, birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Consider planting flowering perennials alongside sedges and grasses, and incorporating shrubs and small trees, if space allows. Including some evergreens will further help avoid erosion.

The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Plant Finder is a good resource that lets you narrow searches by horticultural zone, sun exposure and other parameters.

Put plants with the highest water needs at and around the center of your rain garden, where water will collect and pool for a bit before seeping into the soil. Plant those with moderate water needs along the elevated perimeter of the bed, which will be somewhat drier.

Weaker wind shear during El Niño plays a role in formation of Isaias in US Gulf Coast

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): The super El Niño has been a non-stop machine cranking out tropical storms that have seemingly rolled through the Pacific region like rush-hour traffic. Now, it's the U.S. Gulf Coast's turn.

One of the strongest El Niño years on record meant a quiet first four months of the Atlantic hurricane season, but that's no longer the case. Tropical Storm Isaias, which formed Wednesday, is expected to gain hurricane strength by Thursday before moving onshore. If that happens, it would tie a 121-year-old record for the latest-forming initial hurricane of the Atlantic season. That mark was set on Oct. 8, 1905, according to the National Weather Service.

Isaias is the ninth named storm of the season. None of the previous ones reached hurricane strength. A normal hurricane season has 14

named storms, seven of them becoming hurricanes and three of them reaching major hurricane level, which is more than 110 mph (177 kph).

"The season has been completely dead - and we're still going to have an impactful storm hitting the northern Gulf," Colorado State University hurricane expert Phil Klotzbach said Wednesday. "How impactful it is remains to be seen."

El Niño involves a natural, temporary warming of parts of the equatorial Pacific, setting off a chain of unusual weather around much of the world. While it's one of many factors in play in the formation of Isaias, the current El Niño "still is certainly driving the bus," Klotzbach said.

Water temperatures in the Gulf right now are "super hot" and are considered "rocket fuel for hurri-

canes," he said. Another contributor is the ongoing natural seasonal weather pattern that moves around the globe every 30 or so days called the Madden-Julian Oscillation.

Still, overall Atlantic hurricane activity, using a measurement that deals with the number of storms, their strength and how long they last, is on track to be the quietest since modern data started around 1950, thanks to El Niño, which could become the strongest one ever recorded, Klotzbach said.

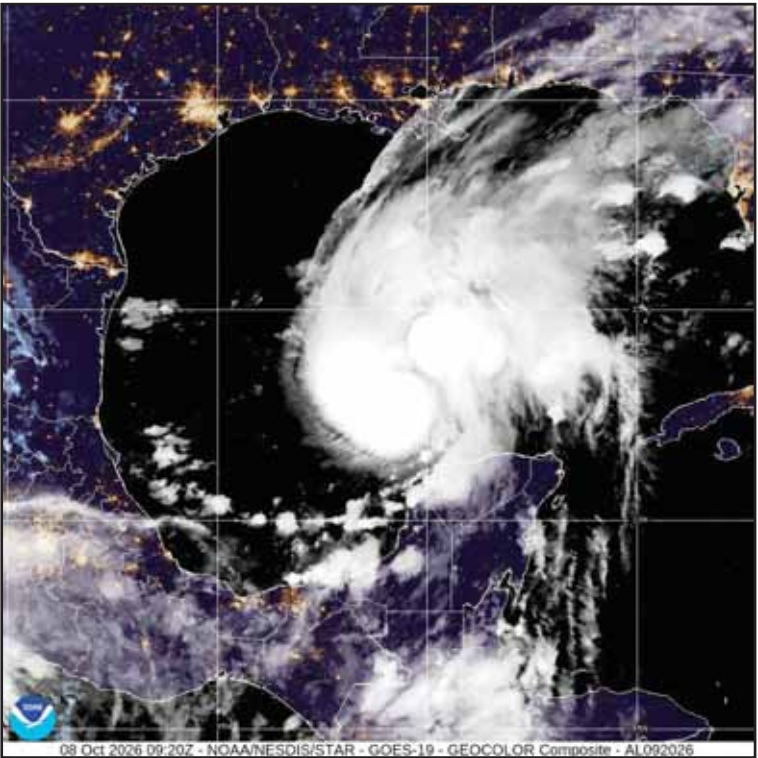
During El Niño, low-level surface winds blowing from east to west across the Pacific are weakened or sometimes reversed. It causes a shift in the jet stream and drives record global heat, severe droughts, wildfires and shrinking water supplies. El Niño also typically curtails hurricane activity in the Atlantic basin. When tropical systems form in the

Pacific Ocean during El Niños, that increases wind shear in the Caribbean, making it difficult for storms to form there.

But now, the wind shear in the Gulf has weakened a bit compared with other tropical regions, so the Gulf is "a little more primed for development," said Lindsey Long, a meteorologist with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

"It's actually not that surprising that we're starting to see some development in the Gulf at this time of year," Long said. "It only takes one storm for a lot of possible destruction. So you don't want to put your guard down."

Notable hurricanes that have hit the eastern United States during an El Niño include Lili in 2002, Ivan in 2004 and Idalia in 2023.



This satellite image from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Hurricane Isaias in the Gulf of Mexico on Oct 8. (AP)

South Sudan steps up outbreak alert after Kenya case

Ebola creates new hot spots in Congo as responders describe ‘chaotic’ response

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (Agencies): The Ebola outbreak in Congo is creating new hot spots where there's little to no support for patients, responders and officials say, as health workers admit there could still be a long way to go in fighting the disease that has killed over 4,000 people.

More than 70% of new cases are still coming from outside of known contacts and at least 60% of deaths are outside of treatment centers, Africa CDC Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya told The Associated Press. "There are so many other people who are becoming sick, who are not tested, treated, or listed," said Kaseya on Tuesday.

The conflict-battered, remote North Kivu province, which has emerged as the new epicenter, now accounts for around 40% of all newly confirmed cases in Congo, compared with 24% at the end of August. But the response on the ground is "chaotic," said Stephanie Hoffmann, a project coordinator with Doctors Without Borders (MSF). "There is a lack of coordination and organization, but there's certainly a lack of actors present here," Hoffmann told the AP.

Congo's deadliest Ebola outbreak - caused by the Bundibugyo virus, which has no approved vaccine or treatment - was declared in May under some of the most challenging conditions imaginable fueled by mass population movements, rebel

violence, mistrust and poor welfare of front line workers.

Congo has recorded more than 8,500 cases in the outbreak, according to government data, making it the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak on record and the country's deadliest. On Tuesday, Kenya reported its first Ebola case, a man who arrived from Congo and died while receiving treatment.

The biggest challenge to date is contact tracing, Dr. Kayesa said. Only 23% of expected contacts of Ebola patients have so far been traced. The disease is spreading in a region of Congo with intense population movements due to economic activities, conflict displacement and mining, and where there's deep mistrust with the government and misinformation about the virus.

"I'm unable to tell you when we can stop this outbreak unless we implement the village-centered approach," the Africa CDC chief said, calling for direct involvement of villages and local leaders in contact tracing, burials of deceased patients and isolation of cases.

Many Ebola treatment centers in North Kivu are struggling with shortages of health workers and supplies, contributing to more deaths among patients, the World Health Organization has said.

North Kivu's case fatality rate of 58% is the highest among Congo's seven affected provinces. The dis-



A healthcare worker speaks to a child at a treatment center for Ebola patients in Beni, North Kivu province, eastern Congo on Oct 7. (AP)

ease has spread to half of its 34 health zones. In nine of those 17 affected zones, more than half of patients with confirmed infections have died, according to Health Ministry data.

Desperate for care, patients in some parts of North Kivu have turned to regular health facilities, MSF said.

"Local healthcare workers are the ones feeling this the most because they have to make the decision between sending their community members home to potentially die by themselves or putting themselves at

risk to help treat them in their health center," said Hoffmann, coordinator of MSF's Ebola treatment center in Butembo, North Kivu.

Nearly five months after the outbreak was declared, it has become harder to track in parts of North Kivu, where residents still have "a hard time believing the disease exists," said Michel Ngimba of the National Institute of Biomedical Research in Butembo.

He described cases in which families were reluctant to report a death or allow a sample to be taken from

someone who died with Ebola symptoms. In other cases, families "want to arrange the funeral quickly," Ngimba said, potentially creating new chains of transmission because the bodies of people who die from Ebola are highly contagious.

"The situation has become more difficult to monitor (and) surveillance has to deal with situations that are highly fluid and sometimes difficult to document," he said.

Meanwhile, South Sudan has stepped up nationwide preparedness and surveillance against Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus after neighboring Kenya confirmed an imported case, the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

No cases have been detected in the country and the health system has been placed on high alert, according to the ministry.

The ministry said this heightened posture is a proactive response to increased regional mobility and vital trade corridors linking South Sudan with affected areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as key transit routes through Kenya and Uganda.

"The geographical expansion of the outbreak to Kenya further increases the risk of cross-border spread and underscores the urgent need for heightened vigilance at points of entry," Caretaker Minister for Health Dak Duop Bichiok told a press conference in Juba, the capital.

The ministry said South Sudan has reactivated its Ebola preparedness and response system, with screening being conducted at points of entry, along the border in 15 high-risk counties and at Juba International Airport.

Ader Machar Aciek, acting executive director of the National Public Health Institute, announced that a dedicated national task force has been established and is convening regular sessions to coordinate ongoing preparedness operations.

Aciek noted that South Sudan has established eight specialized infectious disease units dedicated to isolation and clinical case management should any cases be confirmed.

Moses Ongom, World Health Organization (WHO) Officer in Charge in South Sudan, said that national response preparedness has climbed significantly, rising from 29 percent in May and 45 percent in June to 65 percent currently.

Ongom emphasized that infectious disease control units and response capabilities have been reinforced in priority zones, while urging local communities to remain vigilant and immediately report suspected cases.

Tolbert Geeweleh Nyenswah, country director for the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) in South Sudan, said the country has active systems for surveillance, detection, rapid response and laboratory testing.



This undated photo released in 2019 by the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute of Siberia and Far East, shows the institute workers in a lab. (AP)

WHO wants more details from Russia on suspected pneumonic plague case

GENEVA, Oct 8, (AP): A top official with the World Health Organization said Wednesday it doesn't know how a lab worker in Siberia died, and she urged Russia to provide more information about a case that prompted global concerns about suspected pneumonic plague.

Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO director of Epidemic and Pandemic Management, said the UN health agency doesn't know what the "causative agent" was behind the woman's Oct 2 death, which unconfirmed reports in Russia blamed on pneumonic plague - a less common but severe form of plague that can spread from person to person.

In its tersely worded statements, Russia's public health watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor, does not link the case to pneumonic plague, saying only that the lab worker had contracted pneumonia of "unknown" origin and that "extensive" testing found no evidence her illness was caused by any of the pathogens she worked with at the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute of Siberia and the Far East.

"We don't understand how she was infected," Van Kerkhove said. "We need information in a timely way. We need regular information. We need answers to the follow-up of

the questions that we have asked."

"We have posed these questions to our colleagues in the Russian Federation. In fairness, they have responded. We've gone back with more questions," she said.

The comments suggested the UN health agency has more questions than answers about the situation at the lab, which focuses on plague and was founded about a century ago to study the disease in Siberia, where it occurs naturally in wild animals.

Russian authorities have kept a tight lid on information about the case, which has been surrounded by secrecy.

While it has raised global concerns, Russian state TV and other national state-controlled media have largely steered clear of the subject. Some news outlets withdrew earlier reports about the case.

Rospotrebnadzor said Sunday the lab worker was diagnosed with "pneumonia of unknown etiology," meaning its origin was not known.

A state TV station in Irkutsk reported she died Oct. 2 in a hospital in Shelekhov, a town just outside Irkutsk. Officials have quarantined that hospital and were monitoring the worker's contacts.

Russia has said the pneumonia ini-

tially presented as a "typical" acute respiratory viral infection, the WHO has said, acknowledging that pneumonia is commonplace.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Russian authorities had indicated that no case of plague had recently been reported in the Irkutsk region, and that they had placed about 200 contacts in quarantine.

U.S. President Donald Trump said he would discuss the issue during a call with Russian President Vladimir Putin because Wednesday is the Kremlin leader's 74th birthday.

"They're sharing it a little bit with our people. We expect them to share it a lot with our people," Trump said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said earlier Wednesday that a Putin-Trump call hasn't been set yet but could be organized quickly.

Asked if the incident was a sign that plague might be developed as a bioweapon, Trump said, "We don't think so. We're going to find out soon enough, but we don't think so."

When asked if the situation was similar to dealing with China on COVID-19 in his first term, Trump suggested Russia was staying relatively quiet, just as China did before the virus turned into a pandemic.

Does your sleep tracker get it right? A Pittsburgh neuroscientist weighs in

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

□ □ □

J. David Creswell
Carnegie Mellon University

On a typical night, I go to bed wearing a tracking watch on one wrist and another type of tracker on the other wrist. Then I compare their sleep findings while I drink my morning coffee.

I direct the Center for Modern Digital Health at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where my team and I study how to use wearables to improve health and performance. My lab's research has relied on consumer devices for years. I wear them for both science and pleasure, and I also wonder how much of what they tell me is true.

Apple's newest watch, announced Sept. 9, 2026, greets its wearers each morning with a single "readiness" number, built partly from how it thinks they slept. Apple says the redesigned sensors deliver the most accurate heart-rate tracking of any wearable, but independent labs have not yet confirmed that.

Given the growing popularity of sleep trackers, I think it's worth asking whether a sensor on your wrist or finger can really tell you how your brain was sleeping last night. Here's what recent studies show when consumer wearables are tested against the gold standard, polysomnography.

Polysomnography, which combines EEG, or electroencephalogram, with other sensors, records brain waves, eye movements and muscle tone while a person sleeps.

On the simplest question - asleep or awake - today's devices come close. A 2025 meta-analysis of 24 studies and nearly 800 participants found that wearables typically overestimate total sleep time by about 17 minutes compared with polysomnography. In an eight-hour night, that's an error of under 4%, roughly two taps of the snooze button.

That gap comes from a blind spot every wearable shares: quiet wakefulness. When you lie awake motionless in the dark, your tracker often mistakes it for sleep. If you sleep well, that rarely matters, because you don't spend much time lying awake. But if you have insomnia, those long, still stretches add up, and your wearable is probably overestimating how much sleep you're getting.

I will start with the obvious: That wearable on your arm or finger does not measure your brain. It measures your heart rate, the beat-to-beat variability of that heart rate, your movement and your skin temperature. The bet the wearable companies are making is that the different sleep stages we go through at night leave trace fingerprints on all of these - REM sleep, for instance, has a distinctive cardiovascular profile - and the wearable's algorithm reads those sleep fingerprints and makes an educated guess about which stage you are in.

How good is that guess? A 2025 study of six wrist devices worn by 62 adults found only modest agreement with polysomnography on sleep stages, along with significant gaps on time awake after falling asleep and on sleep efficiency. The authors concluded the better-performing watches could track "prolonged and significant changes in sleep architecture."

Translation: Your deep-sleep number is a noisy nightly estimate, best used to identify significant changes in your

sleep over time.

One of my lab's findings comes from using these devices for what they're good at. In a 2023 study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, we used Fitbits to track the sleep of more than 600 first-year students at three universities, including Carnegie Mellon University. We found that a student sleeping six or fewer hours a night early in the semester had a lower end of term grade-point average relative to their previous semester - an effect that held even after we accounted for academic load and daytime naps.

Nightly sleep duration is the number these devices track well, and it's the one my students can actually do something about, mostly by getting to bed earlier.

In a 2023 randomized trial, 113 adults with insomnia symptoms spent five weeks in one of two groups. One group got feedback on their sleep as measured by a wearable sensor, along with guidance on how to interpret it. The other got standard sleep-hygiene education: general advice on habits such as keeping a regular bedtime, cutting back on caffeine and screens, and keeping the bedroom dark and quiet.

The feedback group ended up reporting milder insomnia symptoms than the sleep-hygiene group, but the measured amount of sleep they were getting was unchanged. They weren't sleeping longer, falling asleep faster or waking less. The researchers expected the data to correct a common pattern in insomnia: People often report sleeping less than the sensors record. The feedback didn't shrink that gap any more than the sleep-hygiene sessions did. What changed was how troubled people felt about their sleep: The feedback group ended up less troubled by it, even though the sleep itself stayed the same.

That distinction between measured sleep and felt sleep is one that sleep scientists here in Pittsburgh have shaped for decades. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh developed the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index in 1989, a questionnaire that asks people to rate how they slept rather than measuring it with wearables. It remains one of the most widely used sleep measures in the world.

The trial's results suggest that for many people, a wearable's biggest effect is on the score that the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index measures: subjective feelings of one's sleep quality.

A 2026 trial of 229 older adults in Japan points the same way. Everyone got regular reports from a sleep monitor placed under their bedding. Participants who got the reports alone saw no improvement in their insomnia scores, but those who also got monthly phone guidance on sleep habits and daytime activity did, at least over the first three months. As in the first study, what improved was how people rated their sleep.

A wearable can tell you how much you slept; it can't make you sleep more. That part is up to you, or to someone who helps you.

And for some people, the tracking itself becomes the problem. Sleep clinicians have a name for patients who lie awake worrying about their sleep score: orthosomnia, a term coined in 2017 and still very much in use. If checking your score reliably wrecks your morning, the device isn't working for you.

I read the sleep stages and readiness scores the way I read a weather forecast: a useful trend but a poor guide to any single night. And I keep in mind that by the time a study comes out, the device it tested has often been replaced. (AP)

Nortje makes long-awaited test return

Rabada ruled out as South Africa opts for two spinners against Australia

DURBAN, South Africa, Oct 8, (AP): Fast bowler Kagiso Rabada was officially out and world champion South Africa confirmed it was fielding two spinners against Australia in the first cricket test at Kingsmead on Friday.

Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer have been paired at a venue which has favored spin in recent years. They last played together in South Africa's last test last November, a 408-run win in Guwahati that clinched a first series win in India in 25 years.

Rabada was given as long as possible to recover from a hamstring injury. He has not played an official match since May in the Indian Premier League.

Captain Temba Bavuma would not say on Thursday whether his best seamer would be available for the last two tests.

"We did go the conservative route and give him a couple of extra days to get as close as he can be to 100% fitness," Bavuma said. "As soon as he gets that green

light we expect him to be within that starting lineup."

In Rabada's absence, Anrich Nortje will play his first test since March 2023. He and Marco Jansen lead the pace attack with allrounder Wiaan Mulder the third seamer.

Nortje has limited his cricket diet to mainly Twenty20s in recent years but he said he's been training for a while with a red ball under the eye of national bowling coach Piet Botha to increase his workload.

"He's X-factor," Bavuma said. "There's not many guys around who are bowling 150-plus (mph)."

South Africa will field nine of the XI that beat Australia when they last met in the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June last year. Australia lead the current WTC cycle. South Africa is second.

Australia captain Pat Cummins declined to say whether they will go with



South Africa's players watch an LBW appeal review on a big electronic screen during the third one day international cricket match between South Africa and Australia, in Potchefstroom, South Africa. (AP)

two spinners as well. Coach Andrew McDonald has said they would need a "compelling" reason to do so.

Australia looks set to play the same bowlers - Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon - from the infamous Sandpapergate scandal in 2018 when it last played a test in the republic. Cameron Bancroft was caught on TV applying sandpaper to the ball and he, captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner served long suspensions.

"As a group we've moved on," Cummins said on Thursday. "(I am) very happy with the last eight or nine years, how we've been as a group and evolved."

South Africa: Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, David Bedingham, Temba Bavuma (captain), Tristan Stubbs, Wiaan Mulder, Kyle Verreynne, Marco Jansen, Simon Harmer, Keshav Maharaj, Anrich Nortje.



Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain steers his car during the formation lap prior to the delayed start of the Bahrain Grand Prix in Sepang, Malaysia. (AP)

F1 body defends code

FIA to strengthen F1 software testing after Malaysia GP bug

SINGAPORE, Oct 8, (AP): The FIA has defended its handling of the Formula 1 car software bug which delayed the start of the Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia last weekend and pledged it will "strengthen" how the code is tested in future.

Several drivers, including seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, were left stuck on track when their cars lost power and had to be restarted on formation laps before Sunday's race.

The on-board software failed to cope with drivers taking a more cautious approach ahead of the first wet race for the 2026 cars, which have a near 50-50 split between engine and electrical power.

The FIA, the governing body for F1, on Thursday said its investigation found that cars "experienced a loss of power beyond the original intent and that could not be recovered."

After the cars were stuck on track, the start was suspended as the FIA rushed out a software update. The race eventually started almost an hour later, with no obvious software-related incidents, though the track had dried much more by then.

The FIA says that update will be used again if it rains at this week's

Singapore Grand Prix - the forecast says that's likely - with more changes at the following race on Oct. 25.

"As a result, the configuration established for the Sepang event will be reinstated for the Singapore Grand Prix should similar weather conditions be expected," the FIA said. "Additionally, a further update to the wet weather software will be released for the United States Grand Prix."

The FIA added that it, the teams and engine manufacturers "will continue to strengthen power unit software testing and verification capabilities, enhancing the overall validation process through independent assessment and collaborative feedback."

Drivers were scathing of the software bugs last week in Malaysia. Hamilton likened driving the sluggish cars to gimmicky pre-race exhibitions the drivers have done previously and four-time champion Max Verstappen called for a "lesson learned."

The FIA said it had conducted testing on the software which failed last week, but that took place in two practice sessions which were largely dry ahead of races in Belgium and the Netherlands.

All Blacks turn to McKenzie & Barrett amid injury crisis

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Oct 8, (AP): Damian McKenzie will start at flyhalf with veteran Beauden Barrett at fullback as a spate of injuries has shaped the New Zealand All Blacks lineup to face Australia on Saturday in the first rugby test of Bledisloe Cup series.

Ruben Love already had been ruled out for the season with an ankle injury when Richie Mo'unga injured a calf muscle at training on Tuesday, leaving McKenzie and Barrett - both preferred as fullbacks - to share the playmaker roles in the wake of New Zealand's 3-1 series loss to World Cup champion South Africa.

"Damian's trained a lot (at flyhalf) for us. Beauden's predominantly trained at 15 when we're in Africa," head coach Dave Rennie said. "I

think both those players are interchangeable. They both spend a lot of time in the backfield. The way we play, having a 15 who is a real playmaker suits."

"We could have played them the other way around but they'll both end up in playmaker roles and they'll both end up in the backfield."

With Caleb Clarke unavailable with a shoulder injury and Fehi Fineaganofo sidelined with concussion, Will Jordan and Leroy Carter will start on the wings. Jordie Barrett and Quinn Tupaea will combine in midfield in the absence of Billy Proctor and Anton Lienert-Brown, who also have injuries.

The backrow is unchanged by injuries to captain Ardie Savea, who is out of action for several months after shoulder surgery, and Luke Jacobson, who has an elbow injury. Tupou Vaa'i returns from lock to the blindside flank, while Peter Lakai moves to the openside and Wallace Sititi to No. 8.

The All Blacks have been disadvantaged all season by the lack of a specialist No. 7.

Former captain Scott Barrett will make his first test appearance of the season, returning at lock, as the three Barrett brothers start together for the first time this year. Hooker Codie Taylor retains the captaincy.

The All Blacks already appeared hard-pressed to defend their 40-year unbeaten record against Australia at Eden Park before injuries to Mo'unga, Fineaganofo, Love, Patrick Tuipulotu, Savea, Jacobson, Lienert-Brown, Proctor, Clarke and prop Ollie Norris made their task much harder.



South Africa's Cameron Hanekom breaks the tackle of Jordie Barrett to score a try during their rugby international in Baltimore, USA. (AP)

Burton clutch 3 lifts Valkyries over Aces for semifinals lead

Dream beats Liberty in OT

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 8, (AP): Veronica Burton hit a deep 3-pointer that put Golden State ahead with 41 seconds left and converted two free throws in the closing seconds, Tiffany Hayes had 21 points, and the Valkyries held off the Las Vegas Aces 83-81 for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five WNBA semifinal series.

"I think I held my breath the whole time the ball was in the air," Hayes said about watching Burton's clutch shot.

In a wild finish, Jackie Young missed the second of two free throws with six seconds left to give Las Vegas one last chance, then Chelsea Gray grabbed the rebound and drove under the basket for a layup attempt. Kiah Stokes blocked the shot and Burton corralled the ball.

Gabby Williams had 20 points and five rebounds and Kayla Thornton scored 16 points as the Valkyries moved one win away from reaching the WNBA Finals in just their second season. Golden State became the first expansion team in league history to make the playoffs in its inaugural season last year.

Hayes missed that postseason run because of a left knee injury, and now she's shining against her former team.

"It felt amazing to be able to go out there and get a win with the team that I'm with now," she said.

A shot-clock violation gave Golden State the ball back with 1:01 to play and Burton delivered with her lone basket of the night.

"That Burton 3 was massive," Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "We battled back and gave ourselves a shot after a really abysmal first half."

The series now shifts to Las Vegas for Game 3 on Friday with the defending champions trying to stave off elimination. Hammon said before Wednesday's game how important it would be to go home with a split - but the Valkyries have been too good in front of their rocking home crowd and now Hammon's team is on the brink of the season ending without a repeat title.

"I can't convince them that this is not a must-win, because if we lose we go home, and we stay home," she said. "The goal is to get one quarter at a time



New York guard Pauline Astier (18) drives to the basket against Atlanta forward Naz Hillmon (00) during the first half in Game 2 of the WNBA basketball semifinals in Atlanta. (AP)

and we've got to string it together. We know we're capable of stringing three in a row."

A'ja Wilson had 24 points on 9-for-16 shooting and seven rebounds for Las Vegas, which trailed 66-55 going into the final 10 minutes and made it interesting down the stretch.

Gray's jumper with 4:46 to go pulled the Aces to 73-68 then Dana Evans' 3-pointer made it 74-71 before Gray hit a tying 3 with 2:10 left.

Burton, who sat down with 7:29 left in the third quarter of a 71-60 Game 1 win Sunday and didn't return, was thrilled to have the ball in her hands this time.

Dream 101, Liberty 98

In Atlanta, Angel Reese scored 23 points, Naz Hillmon made the go-ahead layup with 20.8 seconds left in overtime and the Atlanta Dream beat the New York Liberty to take a 2-0 lead in the WNBA semifinals.

Reese scored six of her team's 13 points in overtime. She made two free throws with 4.3 seconds left after Sabrina Ionescu overthrew a pass as Atlanta moved within one win of its first WNBA Finals appearance since 2013.

"I think we did a great job making sure that we were all on the connected

stream," Reese said. "We really stayed together and played together, and that's how we won."

Jordin Canada also scored 23 points and had eight assists for the Dream, who won Game 1 92-82.

Breanna Stewart scored 35 points, including 25 in the first half. She missed a desperation attempt on the final play after the Liberty didn't use their reset to advance the ball, with Stewart saying after the game that officials told them they didn't have one left.

New York hosts Game 3 on Friday.

With the Liberty trailing 86-80 with under two minutes remaining in regulation, Ionescu cut the deficit in half with a deep 3-pointer. An Atlanta shot clock violation with 31 seconds remaining opened the door for the Liberty to get closer, and Stewart hit a quick layup in traffic to make it 86-85.

After New York fouled to extend the game, Reese knocked down both free throws to give the Dream an 88-85 advantage with 14.5 seconds left. Marine Fauthoux knocked down the game-tying 3-pointer with 10.3 seconds to go, boiling the game down to one final Atlanta possession. Rhyné

Howard's midrange floater rimmed out just before the buzzer, sending the game to overtime.

"We just had a message that we thought we could be the best team over the last five minutes, let's start off by executing the first couple plays," Dream coach Karl Smesko said. "Everybody was locked in on what those plays were, and they went out there and executed them."

Atlanta scored the first five points of overtime before New York responded with the next eight, giving the Liberty a 96-93 lead. Canada and Reese scored the next two baskets to flip the advantage again, only for Stewart to respond with one in a pulsating back-and-forth extra period.

Hillmon's layup gave Atlanta the lead for good. The Dream forced a jump ball on New York's first attempt at its final possession, only for the Liberty to win the tip and get another opportunity before Ionescu's wayward pass.

The Dream won without leading scorer Allisha Gray, who missed the game with a left hand injury. Izzy Borsale helped soak up her minutes, and the rookie scored 11 points of the bench.

Merger hopes live despite EuroLeague rejection

NBA, FIBA push ahead with Europe league

MIES, Switzerland, Oct 8, (AP): The NBA and FIBA indicated Thursday that they still hope to merge with the EuroLeague, which rejected an initial offer to join forces this week.

In a joint statement, the NBA and FIBA - who plan to launch a new league in Europe as early as next year - said a "partnership between the EuroLeague, FIBA and the NBA to unify the European basketball ecosystem would unlock the game's enormous potential across Europe for the benefit of clubs, players and, most importantly, fans."

The NBA and FIBA added they "remain committed" to the new league, which has been planned to launch in the fall of 2027.

It seems likely that merger talks will continue, with Barcelona - a EuroLeague member - saying this week that the door remains open even though the first proposal was rejected. "Should that (merger) proposal be amended in the future, the clubs and the EuroLeague will reconsider it," the club said.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has said multiple times, and as recently as last month, that he believes

the new league would benefit from "joining forces with the EuroLeague."

"It doesn't have to happen, but I think we all would be better off as a unified front in Europe," Silver said at last month's Board of Governors meeting.

The NBA and FIBA formally announced their plans for an NBA Europe venture in March 2025. The new league would have some permanent franchises, with chances for others to qualify based on performance.

Many of the NBA's top current stars hail from Europe, including San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama (France), Denver's Nikola Jokic (Serbia), the Los Angeles Lakers' Luka Doncic (Slovenia) and Miami's Giannis Antetokounmpo (Greece).

"For us, in terms of NBA Europe, we truly see it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Silver said last month. "Historic from our standpoint in terms of what this could mean, not just for basketball but the European sport landscape. And we want to get it right."

The 20-team EuroLeague is com-



Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic smiles while walking on the floor during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco. (AP)

prised of 13 shareholder clubs immune from relegation. The rest either qualify through their domestic leagues or through invitation. The NBA, in partnership with FIBA, has said it envisions a 16-team league.

□ □ □

New Trail Blazers owner Tom Dundon told season ticket holders

that he intends to bring a championship to Portland.

Dundon, who took over as the team's new owner at the end of last season, has come under fire for some of his initial moves, including sweeping layoffs within the organization and the wrangling over renovation of the team's arena.

In an email sent Tuesday evening, Dundon thanked the fans for their commitment to the team.

"I'm still getting to know Portland and this fanbase. But one thing is already clear: you show up, you care and you expect more than mediocrity. I respect that," wrote Dundon, who also owns a stake of the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes. "I saw the same commitment in Raleigh, where fans just watched their team hoist the Stanley Cup."

"I don't believe in making promises I can't back up. My track record speaks for itself, and my intention here is clear: bring a championship to Portland."

He also touched on the negotiations over the Moda Center. The team's new ownership group is asking for \$585 million in public funds to renovate the arena.

Anfield cauldron awaits Man City players on Premier League return

Arsenal at home to Leeds

LONDON, Oct 8, (AP): Erling Haaland and Manchester City’s other star players have watched from a distance as the club dealt with the fallout from being found guilty of large-scale financial wrongdoing in the biggest scandal in Premier League history.

Now they have to face the music.

City’s first game back after an international window dominated by the explosive verdict in its long-running case with the Premier League comes on Sunday.

And it just had to be at Anfield.

A trip to Liverpool has long been considered the toughest, most fearsome away game of the season by City. It just got even tougher, with Haaland, Rayan Cherki and the rest likely entering a cauldron of hate and anger this weekend.

Liverpool might consider itself the team which suffered most from the slew of financial misdemeanors carried out by City, according to the findings of an independent investigatory panel, between 2009-18 - the period when City’s Abu Dhabi ownership was assembling a squad that would later dominate English soccer. Those findings are the subject of an appeal by City, which continues to assert its innocence.

Under former coach Jürgen Klopp, Liverpool won the Premier League in 2020 but the team also finished second to Pep Guardiola’s City by one point in the 2018-19 and 2021-22 seasons following memorable title races that raised the bar in terms of points earned and the standard of football played.

What helped City to reach that level was nearly a decade of rule-breaking, the independent panel has found.

So, expect Liverpool fans to be seething inside and outside of Anfield. They’ll believe they are owed some titles.

Aside from Phil Foden, who is suspended for the match, no current member of City’s squad even played for the club from 2009-18. Enzo Maresca took over as City manager only in June.

Still, they will be the ones bearing the brunt of the widespread discontent from fan bases up and down the country in the coming months.

What will be intriguing is who from City’s ownership or board attends the Liverpool game. How much will the matter weigh on the players under the most intense pressure? And what will be the reaction of City’s match-going supporters, with the future of their club so uncertain - the potential sanctions include a huge points deduction, even expulsion from the Premier League - and the violations of its ownership clear for all to see in the commission’s verdict?

City leads the league on a maximum 15 points from five games - all of which were played when the club was being accused of those financial breaches.

Now the guilty verdict has arrived, it’s time to see the impact on the team - and the reaction of its rivals.

The first game back after an extended three-week break for internationals is Arsenal, the defending champion, at home to Leeds on Saturday lunchtime.

Manchester United hosts Tottenham - in last place on two points - in one of five other games on Saturday.

The international window was marked by a raft of injuries to high-profile Premier League players. Now to see how serious they are.

Alexander Isak and Cody Gakpo returned to Liverpool for assessment of



In this file photo, Arsenal’s Max Dowman, centre, scores their side’s third goal during the League Cup third round soccer match between Ipswich Town and Arsenal in Ipswich, England. (AP)

injuries picked up playing for Sweden and the Netherlands, respectively, and are currently doubts for the Liverpool-City game. So might be Haaland, who asked to be substituted midway through the second half of Norway’s final Nations League game, but that might have been because of fatigue.

Kai Havertz, who has been the starting striker for Arsenal this season, was injured in the first of four games played by Germany - though that was two

weeks ago now.

Certain to be missing is Bournemouth midfielder Alex Scott, who is out for up to eight weeks with a thigh injury sustained on England duty. Scott is a key player in a Bournemouth team without a win so far and heading into its first ever European campaign next week.

Sunderland striker Brian Brobbey also is facing a spell on the sidelines after sustaining a hamstring injury playing for the Netherlands.

Tsitsipas advances to Shanghai Masters second round; Hurkacz lines up Djokovic

Andreeva holds off Alexandrova to reach China Open semis, next faces Bartunkova

BEIJING, Oct 8, (AP): French Open champion Mirra Andreeva reached the semifinals of the China Open after battling past Ekaterina Alexandrova 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) on Thursday.

Andreeva had lost her previous two matches against Alexandrova, who rallied back from 4-1 down in the second set and 5-3 down with Andreeva serving for the match.

“I felt like she was playing better and I didn’t take my chances. I could have played more aggressive but what a match this was,” Andreeva said. “She played unbelievable today, and I’m very happy to get my very first win against her.”

The fourth-seeded Andreeva is aiming for a fourth singles title this year and next faces Nikola Pietrangola. She earlier reached her first WTA 1000 semifinal after beating fellow Czech Karolina Muchova 6-3, 6-0.

Bartunkova stamped her authority on the quarterfinal by racing to 5-0 against her seventh-seeded opponent. It was the 20-year-old Bartunkova’s third career win against a top 10-ranked opponent.

Two-time major finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas beat qualifier Kimmer Coppejans 6-3, 7-5 in the Shanghai Masters first round on Thursday, continuing his slow climb back up the ATP rankings.



Mirra Andreeva, of Russia, returns a ball to Ekaterina Alexandrova, of Russia during the quarterfinals of the women’s singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing. (AP)

Tsitsipas reached a career-high No. 3 ranking in 2021. He lost in qualifying at last week’s Japan Open. At his previous tournament, the U.S. Open, he lost in the fourth round to eventual finalist Ben Shelton.

After slipping to No. 87 mid-year, Tsitsipas has worked his way up to 43. He next faces 18th-seeded Luciano Darderi.

Big-serving Polish player Hubert Hurkacz had 19 aces in a 6-3, 7-6 (4) win against James Duckworth and next plays No. 10 seed Djokovic, who won the China Open on Tuesday for a 102nd career title.

Bernard Tomic, a former world No. 16 whose ranking dropped to as low as 825 four years ago, qualified for an ATP 1000 main draw for the first time in seven years. He lost his first-round match to Matteo Arnaldi 6-3, 6-1.

The top seeds including Djokovic, U.S. Open champion Alexander Zverev and third-ranked Carlos Alcaraz received first-round byes and were not scheduled to play until the weekend or later.

Novak Djokovic plans to reach out to Jannik Sinner after an injury ended the top-ranked player’s season, saying Thursday he knows how difficult it is to come back after a lengthy layoff.

Sinner announced on Tuesday that he will miss the rest of the year due to knee inflammation. The five-time major winner has not played since July when he beat Alexander Zverev in the Wimbledon final. He then withdrew from the U.S. Open because of a right knee injury.

“I haven’t been in touch with Jannik since he got injured, I just saw the news two days ago. So I’ll reach out to him to see how he’s doing,” Djokovic said Thursday at the Shanghai Masters. “As someone that has been through some major injuries in my career.”

For so long an ever-present on the ATP men’s tour, Djokovic made the decision in late July 2017 to sit out the rest of that year after struggling with acute pain in his right elbow.

The 39-year-old Djokovic said the process extended beyond the physical healing.

“Then it’s mental, you know. You’re on the court and you’re thinking ‘Am I really completely healed and free to make this run?’” said Djokovic, who recently won the China Open for his 102nd career title. “I mean for him if it’s a knee. Obviously it’s affecting everything, it’s affecting every single movement.”

Injuries, fatigue loom as La Liga returns after international break

MADRID, Oct. 8, (Xinhua): La Liga returns Friday after a lengthy international break, with several clubs facing injury concerns and potential fatigue among players who have been away on international duty for nearly three weeks.

The round opens with Malaga hosting Espanyol as the home side searches for its first win since returning to the top flight. Espanyol could welcome forward Javi Puado back to the bench following a serious knee injury.

Barcelona faces fitness concerns over Raphinha and Eric Garcia ahead of its home match against Getafe after both withdrew early from international duty with Brazil and Spain, respectively.

Goalkeeper Joan Garcia is nearing a return from the knee injury that ruled him out of Spain’s squad, while coach Hansi Flick must decide whether to start Lamine Yamal after the winger featured in all four of Spain’s matches during the break.

Real Madrid could be without Kylian Mbappe for its home match against Villarreal after the France forward withdrew from international duty following a recurrence of a knee injury.

Villarreal won its final two matches before the break, with its players showing signs of adapting to coach Inigo Perez’s high-intensity approach.

Second-place Atletico Madrid visits

Alaves, coached by former Atletico boss Quique Sanchez Flores. Alex Grimaldo and Pablo Barrios are injury doubts for Atletico, while Alaves will look to forward Lucas Boye to trouble the visitors.

Saturday also marks Rayo Vallecano’s return to its Vallecas Stadium following renovations that forced the Madrid club to play its opening home matches in Leganes. Rayo hosts Athletic Club, which will be without winger Nico Williams after he sustained a muscle injury while on international duty with Spain.

On Sunday, relegation-threatened Elche hosts Celta Vigo, while Real Sociedad welcomes Deportivo La Coruna, which is winless in three matches after an impressive start to life back in the top flight.

Third-place Real Betis begins a demanding month of domestic and Champions League fixtures with a home match against Osasuna.

Sunday’s action concludes at El Sardinero, where Javier Aguirre makes his debut as Valencia coach against Racing Santander.

Aguirre has had nearly three weeks to work with his new squad but faces injury concerns over Arnaut Danjuma, Umar Sadiq, Luis Rioja and Diego Lopez as he looks to organize a more compact side.

The round concludes Monday with Levante hosting Sevilla.

‘FIFA needs new leadership’

UEFA seeks ‘unifying figure’ to challenge Infantino

BERLIN, Oct 8, (AP): European soccer body UEFA has detailed the kind of president it wants to replace Gianni Infantino running FIFA - “a respected and unifying figure, deeply rooted in football.”

A candidate that “represents FIFA globally and provides leadership without exercising management functions,” UEFA said on Thursday after a meeting of its 55 member federations that shaped a strategy to find an opponent for Infantino before a Nov. 18 deadline.

Exactly who that candidate could be was not discussed on Thursday, though it will not be UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin and potentially also not be European in the search for global votes among 211 FIFA member federations.

Ceferin did use the meeting to confirm he will stand for re-election for a fourth and final term next April 22 in Astana, Kazakhstan. Like Ceferin, Infantino also was elected in 2016 and seeks a fourth term through 2031.

Slovenian lawyer Ceferin has led global efforts by soccer officials since July to oust Infantino from his increasingly executive-style presidency before or at the FIFA election next March 18 in Rabat, Morocco.

Infantino’s secretive and quickly defeated plan to sell stakes in the World Cup and other tournaments to private investors pushed UEFA’s long-held unease with FIFA projects and governance toward running a rival against him.

“FIFA also needs new leadership: a respect-

ed and unifying figure, deeply rooted in football, with the vision and experience to lead, the ability to command confidence across regions and an unequivocal commitment to development, reform, integrity and independence,” UEFA said in a statement after the day-long meeting in Berlin.

UEFA repeated an earlier promise that all of FIFA’s members should get a one-off \$10 million dividend from the governing body’s reserves.

FIFA’s cash reserves stand at close to \$6 billion after a lucrative men’s World Cup held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Addressing doubts about the integrity of some World Cup decisions by FIFA, the UEFA slate of future changes urged that “appointments and work of FIFA’s oversight bodies are protected from presidential or executive interference.”

FIFA’s handling of World Cup red card or player eligibility cases for Cristiano Ronaldo, United States forward Folarin Balogun and Congo goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi has provoked global concern.

Concerns about Infantino intervening in field-of-play issues date to FIFA inserting Lionel Messi’s team Inter Miami into the 2025 Club World Cup when it was not the Major League Soccer champion, and after no clear consultation or process to make the decision.

UEFA said its reforms slate for FIFA was backed by all of its members except Azerbai-

jan, which has pledged its vote to Infantino. One of Infantino’s key aides in his globetrotting election campaign is from Azerbaijan.

In a pointed suggestion, UEFA’s list of possible reforms included: “No FIFA resources may be used for personal or electoral interests.”

While UEFA was deciding its strategy against Infantino, its former long-time employee was in Cape Verde getting a standing ovation at a meeting of the 54 FIFA member federations from Africa.

The applause was urged by FIFA vice president Patrice Motsepe to members of the Confederation of African Football he leads.

Infantino had minutes earlier reminded his voters of investments FIFA made for African soccer since he was elected in February 2016.

“With the FIFA Forward program we have invested, in 10 years, 1 billion U.S. dollars in Africa, 500 million in the last four years. One hundred and 24 different projects and many other actions,” Infantino said. “We need to continue, of course together, on this path.”

One person who said this week he does want to run against Infantino is former Switzerland and Tottenham defender Ramon Vega.

It would be Vega’s second attempt to challenge Infantino after he failed to get the required five voting federations to support an application in 2019. It is unclear if Vega meets the eligibility test of having had a recognized role in soccer for at least two of the past five years.

ARAB TIMES

Kuwait’s No.1 English Newspaper

For Subscriptions and Complaints

Please Call

51508991

51526559

NEWS



Chicago Bulls forward Caleb Wilson (8) drives to the basket against Phoenix Suns guard Pat Spencer (61) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago. Bulls won 124-117. (AP)

Sports

Zain Premier League resumes

Kuwait Club and Nasr eye top spot

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Zain Premier League returns to action tonight following a break of more than 30 days for the Gulf Cup 27, which concluded in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, last Tuesday.

The fourth round gets underway with two matches. Nasr hosts Kuwait Club at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium at 5:50 p.m., before Kazma welcomes Al-Arabi at 8:05 p.m.

The round continues on Saturday, with Tadamon hosting Qadsia at 5:50 p.m. and Salmiya taking on Shabab at Thamer Stadium at 8:05 p.m.

Sunday's fixtures will see Sahel face Fahaheel at Shabab Stadium, while Sulaibikhat hosts Jahra at Naif Al-Dabbous Stadium.

Kazma and Kuwait Club currently share the lead with seven points, followed by Qadsia, Nasr and Salmiya on six. Shabab and Sahel have four points each, Fahaheel and Jahra three, while Al-Arabi and Sulaibikhat have two. Tadamon remain bottom without a point.

Kuwait Club is targeting a third win of the campaign and a return to outright top spot, but faces a determined Nasr side that won its opening two games before falling

to Qadsia in the third round.

Kazma's clash with Al-Arabi is arguably the round's standout fixture, with the teams entering the match in contrasting form.

Kazma has made a strong start, recording two wins and a draw from its first three games. Al-Arabi, meanwhile, has struggled, drawing 1-1 with Kuwait Club and 3-3 with Sulaibikhat before suffering a 2-1 defeat to Jahra.

The "Green" used the league break to regroup, holding a training camp in the UAE and reshaping its foreign contingent. The club signed Algerian Badr Eddine Souyad and Dutch player Walid Ould Cheikh, replacing Senegalese Joher Rasul and Brazilian Leonardo Sheldon.

Al-Arabi will hope the changes can help it regain its form when it faces Kazma tonight.

Qadsia will seek to build on its positive start by claiming a third victory, with the team also preparing to host its AFC Challenge League group stage from Oct. 17.

Tadamon, meanwhile, will be aiming to open its points account after losing their first three matches.

Salmiya will look to maintain its challenge near the top of the table with another victory, but Shabab will provide a tough test after producing encouraging performances in the opening rounds.



Players vie for the ball during a league match.

Senegal & Morocco to get AFCON title verdict from CAS within days



Senegal's Sadio Mane holds the trophy aloft as he celebrates with teammates after winning the Africa Cup of Nations final soccer match between Senegal and Morocco in Rabat, Morocco. (AP)

'Procedural calendar has been established with the agreement of parties'

ZURICH, Oct 8, (AP): Senegal and Morocco played a chaotic Africa Cup of Nations final in January and they contested the title again Thursday - this time at the Court of Arbitration for Sport which expects a verdict within days.

A turbulent match, provoking violent clashes between Senegal fans and Moroccan police, and a hugely controversial fallout is being re-litigated at sport's highest court in Switzerland nearly nine months after the referee's final whistle blew in Rabat.

The authority of that referee, Jean-Jacques Ndala of Congo, could be decisive in Senegal's appeal to regain the trophy that was stripped from players who earned it on the field of play with a 1-0 win over Morocco after extra time.

The result was overturned in March to a 3-0 win for Morocco by a Confederation of African Football (CAF) appeals panel because Senegal's team walked off to protest a penalty being awarded, causing a 15-minute delay in play.

Lawyers and officials for the Senegalese and Moroccan soccer federations did not talk with media heading into a one-day appeal hearing scheduled with three judges behind closed doors Thursday at CAS headquarters in Lausanne.

The court's director general, Matthieu Reeb, told reporters the judges aim to give their decision "a few days later" to finally crown the champion of African men's soccer.

"I know it's a long wait for the fans, a few months after the final," Reeb said. "The procedural calendar has been established with the agreement of the parties."

The next AFCON kicks off in June, co-hosted by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Leaders of the Senegalese and Moroccan federations had been expected to skip the hearing

that clashes with a three-day CAF soccer summit in Cape Verde being attended by FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

Soccer's rule book, The Laws of the Game, is clear about the referee's decision-making power.

"The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final," Law 5.2 states.

Senegal beat host Morocco in a final eventually completed to referee Ndala's satisfaction, despite the chaos.

The referee restarted play once Senegal's players returned to the field after protesting a penalty kick awarded to Morocco deep in stoppage time.

Before the referee could decide to abandon the game, which would have gifted the title to Morocco, Senegal star forward Sadio Mané helped to persuade his team to finish the game as tensions rose in the stadium.

The game restarted with the spot kick that could have won Morocco a first AFCON title



Abdoulaye Sow, Secretary general of the Senegalese Football Federation, leaves the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport), after the hearing for the appeal by the Senegalese Football Federation against the Confederation of African Football and the Royal Moroccan Football Federation, in Lausanne, Switzerland. (AP)

since 1976.

What Brahim Díaz did next entered soccer history. The Real Madrid forward placed a delicate slow chip shot, designed to deceive the goalkeeper who typically dives to one side and watches the ball slowly arc into the middle of the goal.

Senegal goalkeeper Édouard Mendy stood up straight and easily caught the ball. In the stadium VIP section, footage showed a visibly shocked Moroccan Prince Moulay Rachid sitting with FIFA's Infantino.

The game went into extra time, and four minutes later Senegal midfielder Pape Gueye surged forward to fire a rising shot into the Morocco net. It was the only goal.

More than \$1 million in total fines for the two federations, plus players and Senegal coach Pape Thiaw, were imposed 11 days after the game by Cairo-based CAF disciplinary judges.

The judges dismissed a request by Morocco to have the result annulled and be declared the winner because of the Senegal walk-off.

There were appeals to CAF and, two months after the final, Senegal was ruled to have forfeited the game.

CAF appeal judges cited AFCON tournament rules that if a team "refuses to play or leaves the ground before the regular end of the match without the authorization of the referee, it shall be considered loser and shall be eliminated for good from the current competition."

Senegal's government promised to help "pursue all appropriate legal avenues" to regain the title and called for an investigation "into suspected corruption" within African soccer.

The case fueled the sense that 2030 World Cup co-host Morocco has extensive influence within CAF and FIFA.

In May, Morocco King Mohammed VI pardoned 18 Senegalese soccer fans who were jailed for disorder in the Rabat stadium.

Kuwait faces Oman in must-win clash at Volleyball Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Jordan, Oct 8: Kuwait takes on Oman at 4 p.m. today in a crucial third-round match of the preliminary stage of the 24th Arab Volleyball Championship, being held at the Arena Hall in Amman, Jordan.

The Blues are still searching for their first win after suffering back-to-back defeats. Kuwait lost 3-1 to Algeria in the second round, while Oman edged Saudi Arabia 3-2.

Kuwait opened its campaign with a 3-0 defeat to Bahrain and has yet to register a victory. The team will now look to put its difficult start behind it and revive its hopes of advancing in the tournament.

Today's clash is effectively a must-win for Kuwait. Another defeat would end its hopes of challenging for the Arab title and leave it competing only for a better final position. The Blues have two more preliminary-round matches after today, against Saudi Arabia on Sunday and hosts Jordan the following Tuesday.

Kuwait completed its preparations with a training camp in Cairo from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4 before travelling



Kuwait players defend during the opening match against Bahrain.

to Amman for the championship. The tournament forms part of the national team's preparations for its upcoming commitments.

Meanwhile, in the third round of the West Asia Beach Volleyball Championship in Doha, Kuwait's women's team split their two matches against hosts Qatar, winning one 2-0 and losing the other by the same score. In the men's competition, Kuwait suffered a 2-0 defeat to Qatar.

Kuwait junior boxers eye honors

Boxing Championship set for Saturday

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The inaugural Junior Boxing Championship of the 2026-27 season will begin tomorrow, Saturday, at the Kuwait Boxing Federation Hall in Sabah Al-Salem, with competition running through Oct. 14 and several local clubs taking part.

The tournament is the second domestic event on the federation's calendar this season, following last month's inaugural Youth Championship. It forms part of the federation's efforts to strengthen local competition, encourage wider participation and expand the talent pool.

Kuwait Boxing Federation Treasurer Ahmed Al-Zaben said the board is committed to developing the sport by staging regular domestic tournaments and ensuring broad participation from member clubs.

He said a stronger and more competitive domestic scene would help raise the technical level of boxers and provide an opportunity to identify promising talent.

Al-Zaben added that the quality



Kuwait Boxing Federation Treasurer Ahmed Al-Zaben.

and frequency of domestic competitions would also benefit Kuwait's national teams by improving their preparation for international events. He credited the success of the tournaments to the continued cooperation and coordination between the federation and its member clubs.

Best of the Rest

Spain stays atop FIFA rankings: Spain retained top spot in the latest FIFA men's world rankings released Wednesday, with Argentina, France and England completing an unchanged top four.

Portugal climbed two places to fifth, overtaking Brazil and Morocco, while Belgium, the Netherlands and Mexico also remained in the top 10.

A total of 338 international matches have been played since the 2026 FIFA World Cup concluded on July 19, including UEFA and CONCACAF Nations League fixtures and qualifiers for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Spain, Portugal and Switzerland each opened their UEFA Nations League campaigns with four consecutive wins. Switzerland rose two places to 12th, overtaking Germany and Croatia. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Pedro Rodriguez retires from soccer: Former FC Barcelona and Spain forward Pedro Rodriguez announced his retirement from professional soccer.

The 39-year-old from the Canary Islands, who played more than 900 club matches for Barcelona, Chelsea, Roma and Lazio and made 65 appearances for Spain, made the announcement in an online video filmed at Barcelona's Camp Nou, where he broke into the first team in the 2008-09 season.

"I feel the time is right. The time to take the next step and begin a new chapter in my life," said Pedro, who scored 99 goals in 321 appearances for Barcelona before joining Chelsea in 2015. (AP)